

# Kayhan

International

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## In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

## The Killing Fields of Afghanistan

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

**The blood of the innocent continues to flow in Afghanistan as terrorists, backed by the US occupation forces, revel in carrying out deadly bomb blasts by doling out a paltry sum to some unsuspecting persons to carry explosive-filled bags which are detonated through remote control once the poor guy is in the midst of a crowd.**

**The cowardly terrorists, aided by the western press, then release statements claiming it was a suicide attack by the self-styled Islamists.**

**The same scenario was repeated on Tuesday in Nangarhar Province, eastern Afghanistan, resulting in the death of over 70 men, women, and children and injury to almost 200 others.**

**According to reports, hundreds of demonstrators blocking the highway between the provincial capital Jalalabad and the Torkham border crossing with Pakistan, were targeted by the Daesh terrorists, who are being stealthily airlifted to Afghanistan from Syria and Iraq by the US.**

**The killing of peaceful protests by the terrorists, came on the heels of the multiple bombings targeting schools in Jalalabad.**

**The protesters had come from Achin district to demand the removal of a local police commander. It is still not clear whether or not that unnamed police officer has any links with Daesh, which is thriving in Nangarhar.**

**Alarms have been raised of more such attacks in view of the parliamentary polls scheduled to be held in October, in preparation of which it is common for political parties and their followers to organize rallies and step up election campaigns.**

**Unfortunately, there seems no end to the sufferings of the Afghan people. As usual, the government of President Ashraf Ghani has condemned the blasts but it seem the security personnel are helpless to prevent such incidents in view of the infiltration of terrorists with help from the US occupation authorities.**

**Former president, Hamed Karzai, has also denounced these attacks of terrorism and charged the Daesh terrorist outfit for carrying out such dastardly killing of the innocent. He also called for probe into the war crimes of the US occupation forces.**

**This means the Americans, despite their denials, are the main culprits for the ruin and destruction of Afghanistan. This is proven by little attention paid to the continued loss of Afghan life by the West, since these blasts by Daesh do not effect the US or NATO occupation troops in Afghanistan.**

**Interestingly, the latest acts of terrorism came after the unannounced visit to Kabul of US Secretary of War, "Mad Dog" James Mattis. Speculations are rife that that senior American officials normally issue instructions for more violence and bloodshed after visiting Afghanistan.**

**Afghans are beginning to ask why the United States, 17 years after occupying their country, has neither managed to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan nor done anything for its development.**

**The question is: Why don't the US occupation forces leave our country? What is their motive in turning Afghanistan into a large killing field, with terrorist outfits given a free rein to indulge in violence and bloodshed?**

## Iran Dismisses 'Astonishing' U.S. Accusations



A masked assailant stands outside the burning headquarters of the Iranian consulate in the southern Iraqi city of Basra in this September 7, 2018 picture.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran described as "astonishing" Wednesday accusations by the White House that Tehran's allies in Iraq were responsible for attacks on U.S. diplomatic missions during deadly unrest last week.

Both the U.S. consulate in Iraq's third city Basra and its embassy in Baghdad were in areas that came under attack.

But the main targets of the unrest in Basra were the offices of political parties and government buildings as well as Iran's consulate, some of which were burnt to the ground.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi blamed the unrest on U.S. support for "groups which have spread and promoted violence and extremism."

"The U.S. government must be held accountable for its years of support for these groups," Qasemi said, according to the ISNA news agency.

He was responding to a statement by the White House on Tuesday, which accused Iran of failing to prevent the violence, particularly the attacks on the U.S. diplomatic missions.

Qasemi described the statement as "astonishing, provocative and irresponsible."

"America should know that by playing such clumsy blame games,

it cannot cover up the consequences of its wrong, fruitless and destabilizing policies in the region," he said.

The rare attack on the U.S. embassy in Baghdad came on Friday when three mortar rounds were fired at the capital's fortified Green Zone, though no casualties or damage was reported.

"A safe and developed Iraq has always been among the priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and conspiracies by third parties cannot prevent the enhancement of these long-standing and solid relations," Qasemi said.

The United States threatened Iran with a response over the unrest in Basra, saying Tehran would be held accountable for any possible harm to Americans stationed there.

Iraqi political leaders, however, have blamed the U.S., Daesh terrorists and remnants of former Ba'ath regime for the recent wave of violence.

"We have complete information and documents that show the U.S. embassy and consulate in the country caused the Basra unrest," Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Hashd al-Sha'abi, said on Sunday.

Muhandis said the riot was actually meant to sow discord among different Iraqi political parties and movements.

Iraq's Alahad television network said it had obtained audio recordings that revealed the Saudi intelligence agency's role in the Basra incidents.

The agency, the report said, had employed people in Iraq to use them in critical times and monitor the situation in the Arab country.

On Tuesday, Iran's ambassador to Iraq opened a new consulate for his country in Basra after its old mission building was torched by masked assailants.

"I'm here to inaugurate the new premises of our Iranian consulate in Basra... because we don't want lose a single day of services for the people of Basra," said Ambassador Iraj Masjedi.

The envoy was speaking at a news conference before the Iranian flag was hoisted outside the building now operating as the Islamic Republic's consulate in the city.

Iran is one of two major powers present in neighboring Iraq. Many pilgrims from Iran are expected to travel to Iraq in around 10 days for the Ashura rituals and in October for the Arbaeen commemorations.

Iran said the responsibility for any negligence over the incident lies with the Iraqi government, which announced an investigation into the security forces responsible for protecting the mission.

## Russia, Iran Stress Need to Cleanse Idlib of Terrorists

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- Iran and Russia have underlined the need to purge terrorists from their last major stronghold in Syria despite threats from the U.S. and its allies to attack the Syrian government if it launches an offensive.

Iran's Ambassador to the UN Gholamali Khoshroo defended the counter-terrorism fight in Idlib Province, saying it is part of the procedure to restore security to the war-torn state.

Iran, Russia and Turkey, the three guarantor states of the Syria peace process, believe that civilians should be taken into account in the Idlib liberation operation, he added.

Khoshroo said dialogue is the only way to resolve the Syria crisis, adding last week's summit in Tehran affirmed the Syrian people's right to determine their own fate.

Mashaie was given one year for propaganda against the state, five years for collusion with intent to commit a crime against national security, and six months for embezzlement.

He further warned against attempts by certain states to stage a false-flag chemical attack in Syria and blame it on the government of President Bashar al-Assad in order to launch attacks on the Arab country.

The latest "fake" news on the possible use of chemicals by the Syrian government is nothing more than a scenario to justify another Western military aggression against the country, the Iranian envoy noted.

Touching on Iran's military advisory mission in Syria, Khoshroo said that the Islamic Republic is fighting terrorism at the request of the Damascus government.

On the contrary, he said, the U.S. military presence in Syria is illegal and violates the UN Charter.

The Security Council met at Russia's request to brief the 15-member body on the outcome of the Tehran summit, which was attended by the Iranian, Russian and Turkish presidents.

## Former Officials Get Jail Terms

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Esfandiar Rahim Mashaie, a former vice president, was sentenced to six and a half years in prison on Wednesday on charges of threatening the "internal and external" security of the country.

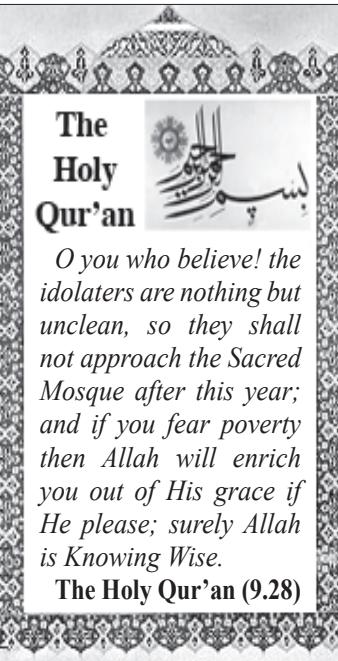
Ali Akbar Javanfekr received a sentence of four years in the

same case. The two men were two top aides to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who served as president from 2005 until 2013.

Mashaie was arrested in March for burning a copy of the chargesheet against former vice-president Hamid Baghaie, who had been sentenced to 15 years for embezzlement.

Sulting judicial officials, said Gholamhussein Esmaili, head of the Tehran prosecutor's office.

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The  
Holy  
Qur'an

O you who believe! the idolaters are nothing but unclean, so they shall not approach the Sacred Mosque after this year; and if you fear poverty then Allah will enrich you out of His grace if He please; surely Allah is Knowing Wise.

The Holy Qur'an (9:28)

## PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr) 13:00

Evening(Maghreb) 19:33

Dawn(Fajr) "Tomorrow" 05:20

Sunrise "Tomorrow" 06:45

## U.S. General Urges Saudi Allies to Unite Against Iran

KUWAIT CITY (Dispatches)

-- U.S. Central Command chief General Joseph Votel urged feuding Persian Gulf Arab states on Wednesday to put aside their differences and unite against Iran's role in the region.

Votel, who heads U.S. forces in the Middle East, called Iran an "enduring" security threat as he attended a military conference in Kuwait on Wednesday which was to be attended by Saudi Arabia and its allies, and their bitter rival Qatar.

Votel said it was "imperative" to "enhance and integrate our capabilities for our mutual national security interests" and "rise above all the other aspects."

In June 2017, Saudi Arabia and its allies cut all ties with Qatar, demanding that their erstwhile ally cut longstanding ties with the Muslim Brotherhood and take a stronger line with Iran.

The rift has proved a strategic headache for Washington as Qatar provides the main headquarters in the region for CENTCOM while rival Bahrain is home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet.

Kuwait, which along with Washington has led mediation efforts in the crisis, has said it is considering U.S. proposals for a regional alliance to counter Iran.

Votel's incendiary remarks coincided with threats by a cabinet minister of the occupying regime of Israel, threatening "military" attack if continues expanding its nuclear program.

Intelligence minister Yisrael Katz was responding to the Iranian nuclear chief's announcement that the Islamic Republic's program stands ready to build advanced centrifuges and further enrich uranium.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Ali Akbar Salehi said Tuesday Iran won't be deterred by United States President Donald Trump's sanctions and withdrawal from the global nuclear deal.

Katz said if Iran presses forth it will face a "direct threat from the United States and its allies."