**DOMESTIC NEWS** 

# International

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#### In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

### **Israel's Fast Approaching End**

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Would the illegal Zionist entity survive a full-fledged war? This is a million dollar question doing the rounds in not just Tel Aviv in the usurped land of Palestine, but in Washington as well, in view of mounting worries in US official circles that despite its massive arms stockpile, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, Israel might not be able to win any war.

Recently, the Zionist daily 'Haaretz' carried an article titled: "Israeli Army Unprepared for War."

Irrespective of the motives behind it, the article cited leaks from a supposed secret document revealing that the Israeli army is not prepared to engage in new warfare.

The document was said to have been prepared by Major General Yitzhak Brick of the Israeli military. The fresh revelation contradicts previous assertions by Tel Aviv bragging about its supposedly invincible military might.

The questions that arise are: Should such a report by a militarized state with a record of war crimes and terrorism, in addition to a massive military budget involving free flow of state-of-the-art weapons from the US, be believed?

And suppose, if the Zionist entity is really unprepared for war, why would it publicize its weakness?

Could it be a ruse to tempt some of its numerous enemies, such as the Palestinians of Gaza, to launch attacks and then suffer the consequences of brutal retaliation that would be justified at the UN and by its backers in the West?

This leak is definitely not intended for any of the four Arab states -Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon – with which Occupied Palestine shares borders and which were thoroughly defeated in the 1967 war. In the 1973 war, when Egypt and Syria launched an attack in tandem to liberate their 1967 occupied territories, with initial success, massive airlifting of weapons to Israel by the US, resulted in another humiliating defeat for the two countries.

Over the past 45 years, the Zionist entity, which has never ceased terrorizing the lightly armed Palestinians – and to some extent the Lebanese – was not involved in any full-fledged war, since Egypt humiliatingly signed the scandalous Camp David Accord, while Syria, the only potential military rival that was a nightmare for the Israelis, has been systematically destabilized through organized terrorism by the US and the Wahhabi cousins of the Zionists.

So, who are the addressees of the report on Israel's unpreparedness for any war?

The Zionists are wrong if they think Lebanon's legendry anti-ter-

## Kayhan Ex-Member: Saudi Arabia **Gave Gold Bars to MKO**



Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud (L) greets Maryam Rajavi, chief of the MKO terror group during a gathering in Paris in July 2016.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - A former member of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) has shed light on Saudi Arabia's financial support for the terrorist group, including gold bars and other valuables worth hundreds of millions of dollars given by the kingdom to the notorious outfit.

Massoud Khodabandeh, a former high-ranking MKO element, made the revelations in a recent interview with Jordanian news website Al-Bawaba.

He said officials of the Saudi spy agency, formerly led by Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud, gave the MKO three tons of solid gold, at least four suitcases of custom Rolex watches as well as fabric covering the Ka'aba, Islam's holiest shrine.

Khodabandeh personally oversaw the transfer.

Gold and other valuables, he said,

were later sold in black markets in the Jordanian capital, Amman, via Saudi-linked businessmen and the money went to offshore accounts linked to the MKO.

Khodabandeh also said he had himself smuggled three truckloads of gold bars from Saudi Arabia to Baghdad with the help of two Iraqi and two Saudi representatives.

Each truck held about a ton of gold, "making the shipment's contemporary worth almost \$200 million."

"After a few days I arranged for it to go to Amman to be sold," he said. "We knew a few businessmen who could do this for us and move the money to offshore accounts."

The ex-MKO member further revealed that some of the money the terrorist grouplet received from its dealings was allocated to the purchase of military vehicles.

Through the Saudi-linked businessmen in Amman, he said, the MKO "bought large fleets of Toyota semi-military vehicles and many other logistical needs".

In addition to regular payments from former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, the MKO also received allocations from Iraqi oil exports to Britain, Khodabandeh said.

After the fall of Saddam, Prince Turki became the terror outfit's main supporter.

"I would say that after the fall of Saddam, the MKO which was then being run by Massoud (Rajavi) under the patronage of Saddam, changed to the organization run by Maryam (Rajavi) under the patronage of Prince Turki bin Faisal Al Saud," Khodabandeh said.

The MKO is listed as a terrorist organization by much of the international community. Its members fled Iran in 1986 for Iraq, where it enjoyed Saddam's backing.

(Continued on Page 7)



TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has not requested a meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said on Friday, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

A foreign news agency reported that Iran requested such a meeting during the United Nations General Assembly which began this week, citing U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, according to IRNA.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is scheduled to address the General Assembly next week, according to

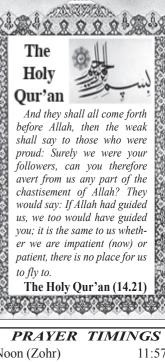
Rouhani will leave Tehran for New York in the coming days to attend the UN General Assembly, but has no plan to attend the UN Security Council meeting.

Haley claimed earlier that Trump may consider accepting an Iranian invitation for a bilateral meeting with President Rouhani.

Iran, however, has declared that there is no point in a meeting between the two presidents.

Last month, Rouhani dismissed Washington's offer of talks, saying the U.S. had burned its bridges for negotiations with Tehran.

Tensions have ramped up between Iran and the Unit-



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### Iran Asks **UN to Condemn Zionist Threats**

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has asked the world body to condemn Israeli threats against Tehran and to bring the occupying regime's nuclear program under its supervision in letters to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the Security Council. Gholamali Khoshrou, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, has asked the United Nations to force the Zionist regime to join the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT) and bring its nuclear program under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"The United Nations' members should not turn a blind eye to these threats and must take firms actions to eliminate all Israeli nuclear weapons," he said in his letters.

Kazem Gharibabadi, the Iranian ambassador and permanent representative to the IAEA, also called on the international community to pressurize the Zionist regime into joining the NPT, saying it is the only way to bring peace to the Middle East.

He made the call in a Thursday address to the 62nd annual session of the IAEA General Conference in Vienna. Gharibabadi also criticized the IAEA for giving in to the Zionist regime's pressures and not bringing Israel's dangerous nuclear activities under scrutiny. Earlier on Thursday, the permanent mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN called on the world body to condemn Israel for threatening Iran with a nuclear attack and bring the regime's atomic weapons program under its supervision.

rorist movement, the Hezbollah, buoyed by its string of victories in Syria against terrorists supported by Israel, the US, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, and Britain, would initiate armed hostilities in a bid to repeat its successes of the 33-day war of 2006 – the only instance when an Arab force, that too a non-state actor, shattered the myth of the military invincibility of Israel – and thus fall into the Zionist trap of vengeance.

Israel is also wide off the track if it believes that such a report would tempt the Islamic Republic to bite the bait by starting a long distance war that would provide Tel Aviv and its Arab and Western accomplices in crimes against humanity, the much needed pretext to launch a combined attack to destroy Iran and the change the system of government. Of course, the Zionist entity fully knows that any armed hostility against either Hezbollah or Islamic Iran means hastening suicide and the fast approaching day of doom – a reality which the Americans and the reactionary Arab regimes may have not yet understand.

Anyway, the recent US bill to deliver \$3.3 billion dollars in military aid to Israel over the next year, combined with even more aid for Israel's missile defense that would give \$38 billion to the Zionist entity over the next ten years - if it lasts - will not be able to avert the inevitable.

No matter what military measures the US takes and whatever reports Israel releases, Palestine is part and parcel of the Islamic World to whose warm embrace it will soon return along with Bayt al-Moqaddas.

The onus is on the UN to find a peaceful and democratic solution to the issue, and if it fails to do so then it is imminent for conscientious Muslim leaders (not puppet regimes) to form a united Islamic Front involving several countries and popular movements to make the decisive move for ultimate victory.

Iranian state media.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has never put forth a request for a meeting with Trump," Qasemi said. He rejected the report as "ridiculous", saying it was part of a media campaign launched by certain circles in a naïve attempt to distort realities on the ground.

"Our memory is filled with such campaigns," Qasemi noted, reiterating that Iran has never called for a meeting with the U.S. president.

Trump is set to chair a UN Security Council meeting next week on Iran and other issues, and has already expressed his willingness to meet his Iranian counterpart in that meeting.

ed States after Trump withdrew from a landmark multilateral nuclear deal in May and reimposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic last month.

On Thursday, Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif slammed Washington's call for a "treaty" with Iran nothing but a mockery of peace.

Zarif took to the Twitter to respond to statements by the U.S. administration's new special representative for Iran, Brian Hook, who said Washington was seeking to negotiate a treaty with Tehran to include its defense program and regional role.

"The new deal that we hope to be able to sign with (Continued on Page 7)

### **Dual Citizenship Not a Crime Per Se: Iran Envoy**

LONDON (Dispatches) --Iran's ambassador to the UK has slammed London for warning Iranians living in Britain against visiting Iran, stating that no one is prosecuted by the Islamic Republic merely for dual citizenship.

"Iranian authorities have repeatedly given assurances that dual citizenship per se is not considered a crime or violation of law, and no one is prosecuted [in Iran] for that reason," Hamid Baeidinejad said in a Thursday tweet.

"Hundreds of Iranian people living in the UK, including those with dual citizenship, travel to Iran every day in full security," he said, adding any move to politicize the visit of Iranian people to their homeland is doomed to failure.

His comments came in reaction to the UK Foreign Office's rare warning to all Iranian-British dual nationals against traveling to Iran unless they have an urgent reason to do so.

"The Iranian government does

not recognize dual nationality. So if a dual national is detained, our ability to provide support is extremely limited," a Foreign Office spokesperson said.

According to Sky News, the travel advice announcement came in a personal intervention by British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

British Junior Foreign Minister Alistair Burt visited Tehran on September 1 to discuss among other things the imprisonment of

Nazanin Zaghari, an Iranian journalist convicted of spying and other subversive actions.

Zaghari was granted a threeday furlough on August 23, after which she returned to prison on August 26.

Intelligence authorities arrested Zaghari at the Imam Khomeini International Airport on April 3, 2016, on her way to London where she has been residing after visiting her parents in Tehran. (Continued on Page 7)