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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Araqchi: EU Has Failed on Pledges to Iran



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi addresses a conference on regional developments and Iran's foreign policy in Tehran, Nov. 19, 2018.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Monday whether unable or unwilling, the European Union has failed to create the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), the mechanism aimed at facilitating trade with Iran under U.S. sanctions.

Addressing a conference on regional developments and Iran's foreign policy here, Araqchi pointed to U.S. moves against the Islamic Republic and said Washington's pressures aim to prevent the formation of the SPV and cut off ties between Iran and the EU.

The U.S. government has threatened that it would impose sanctions on countries involved

in the SPV, the Iranian diplomat added.

"We are faced with a situation in which Europe has not been able or unwilling to establish a mechanism to meet Iran's demands," Araqchi noted.

The European Union has vowed to counter U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed sanctions on Iran, including by means of a new law to shield European companies from punitive measures.

Following the U.S. exit, Iran and the remaining parties launched talks to save the accord.

Araqchi said earlier this month that the Europeans have been slower than Iran expected to save the 2015 nuclear deal after

the U.S. exited the multilateral agreement.

"It is a reality that the Europeans have moved slower than we expected. The good political stance they adopted is another reality. They have not prepared practical mechanisms yet and have not fulfilled our expectations yet," he told the Young Journalists Club in an interview.

The European Union said this month it has "has accelerated" work on the so-called special purpose vehicle (SPV) to help bypass new American sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

The bloc says it is seeking to use the SPV to help maintain the economic benefits promised in the 2015 nuclear deal to Iran.

IRIMC: U.S. Sanctions Choking Off Medicine Imports

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- The Islamic Republic of Iran Medical Council (IRIMC) said on Monday that illegal U.S. sanctions on Iran have negative impacts on the country's health sector, calling for an immediate and humanitarian solution to the issue.

The sanctions have seriously affected Iran's access to health and medical services, medicine and medical essentials, IRIMC president Iradj Fazel and chairperson of the Supreme Council Muhammad Reza Zafarqandi said in a letter to UN chief António Guterres.

They added that unilateral U.S. sanctions, which took effect in May after Washington's withdrawal from a multilateral nuclear agreement had harmful impacts on Iran's health services.

All countries are duty-bound to respect and protect every individual's right to have access to medical services and to prevent any restriction in this regard, the senior Iranian medical officials said.

They called on the UN chief to adopt necessary strategies to solve the issue and prevent any deterioration

of the situation in the future.

Earlier this month, the Trump administration announced the "toughest" sanctions ever against Iran's banking and energy sectors with the aim of cutting off the country's oil sales and crucial exports.

A first round of the sanctions took effect in August, targeting Iran's access to the U.S. dollar, metals trading, coal, industrial software, and auto sector.

In a letter to the UN chief on November 10, President of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran Alireza Marandi said the United States had endangered the lives of many Iranian patients by imposing "unjust" food and medicine sanctions against Tehran.

"Despite the illegality of sanctioning food and medicine, the U.S. government is preventing access to these vital resources and has therefore put in danger the lives of many patients from small children to the elderly who are in urgent need of medicine and medical equipment," Marandi said.

UN Envoy Discusses Yemen Situation in Tehran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Senior advisor to Iran's foreign minister in political affairs Hussein Jaber Ansari and UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Partnerships in the Middle East and Central Asia Rashid Khalikov have discussed the Yemen crisis in Tehran.

Their talks focused on humanitarian cooperation between Iran and the United Nations, especially on helping crisis-hit countries in the West Asia.

The two sides also discussed the tragic humanitarian situation in Yemen, and a forthcoming international summit on delivering aid to the impoverished

country which is the target of Saudi airstrikes and embargoes for years.

Riyadh and its allies launched a brutal war against Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh, and defeat Houthis.

After 3.5 years of deadly attacks, Saudi Arabia and its allies in the invasion have not achieved any of their objectives.

Yemen's Houthi fighters announced on Monday they would cease drone and rocket attacks on Saudi Arabia, following an appeal by the United Nations.

If upheld, the move would constitute a concrete step towards de-escalating a conflict that has driven as many as 18 million Yemenis to the brink of famine.

It comes as the United Kingdom prepares to table a draft resolution at the UN demanding a ceasefire and roadmap to peace.

"After our contacts with the UN envoy and his request to stop drone and missile strikes ... We announce our initiative ... to halt missile and drone strikes on the countries of aggression," Muhammad Ali al-Houthi said in a statement.

The Holy Qur'an

Or think ye that ye shall be abandoned, as though Allah did not know those among you who strive with might and main, and take none for friends and protectors except Allah, His Messenger, and the Believers? But Allah is well-acquainted with (all) that ye do.

The Holy Qur'an (9:16)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:50
Evening (Maghreb)	17:14
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:17
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:45

Navy Commander: U.S. Vessels Under Constant Iranian Watch

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Iranian Navy commander said on Monday the presence of U.S. vessels in the Persian Gulf is constantly monitored by Iranian forces, and all their conversations are tapped.

Rear Admiral Hussein Khanzadi said American warships are closely observed from the ground and air, adding that the areas monitored by the Iranian Armed Forces are very important.

Khanzadi also noted that foreign powers have created insecurity in the region to have an excuse for their presence.

U.S. troops are deployed throughout the Persian Gulf region, with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Turkey involved in some aspects of the American military buildup.

The U.S. 5th Fleet is currently deployed in the Persian Gulf with carriers, ships, strike aircraft, sailors and marines and has been involved in periodic confrontations with Iranian forces.

According to the U.S. navy, from January 2016 to August 2017 there was an average of 2.5 interactions per month between U.S. troops and Iranian maritime forces.

Iranian military commanders have said U.S. forces typically observe the recommendations of Iran's patrol boats and play

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Would Buhari Release Sheikh Zakzaky on Prophet's Birthday?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

At a time when the Muslim World, including Nigeria, is celebrating the blessed birthday of the Messenger of Mercy, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), would the government of President Mohamadu Buhari follow the precepts of Islam to release from illegal detention the Leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), Sheikh Ibraheem Zakzaky, his ailing wife, and scores of his followers?

We are not sure what the person beliefs of Buhari are, in view of the fact that he ideologically adheres to the Wahhabi cultish regime of Aal-e Saudi, which frowns upon birthday celebrations for the Prophet of Islam, while politically he follows the pro-American Zionist agenda.

It were these factors which made him order to army to attack the revered Sheikh Zakzaky in Zaria on 15 December 2015 and to kill and injure over a thousand Nigerian citizens preparing to celebrate the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) at the Baqiatollah Hussainiya.

The Federal Court of Nigeria has long given orders for the release of the IMN Leader, but the president in a dictatorial manner, or perhaps on orders from Riyadh and Tel Aviv, continues to violate the constitution of the country, by refusing to obey the verdict.

The Shi'a Muslims of Nigeria, who number over ten million, have every right to avail of the country's constitutional liberties, and should not be discriminated against.

They are neither a secret society nor a terrorist outfit like the Saudi-financed Boko Haram. As a matter of fact, according to a Nigerian intellectual, the Shi'as fully believe in "Boko" (western education), that is why they are everywhere – in business, politics, government, media, schools, and even the security services, among others. And that is why they do everything in the open.

They are not a danger to the society or the country, as mischievously claimed. The IMN believes in participatory politics and all other legitimate endeavours legalized by the national constitution, unlike Boko Haram, whose core beliefs are violence, organized terrorism, kidnapping, abusing women, and killing all those who do not believe in their crude ideology, which has nothing to do with Islam.

In view of these facts, the gruesome campaign to demonize the Shi'a Muslims, attack their gatherings, and kill them, on the assumption that they will die out, is a misplaced and misguided option.

The fact that what they are doing tallies with their constitutional rights makes the killing illegal and untenable and disturbingly smacks of a Saudi-Zionist plot.

Another thing those ordering the killing of Shi'a Muslims do not seem to know that such tactics of terror doesn't scare the followers of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt into submission, because martyrdom is glorified in the holy Qur'an and in hadith – a fact acknowledged by Sunni ulema as well.

The reality is that the regime's campaign against the Shi'a Muslims has been criticized by Nigeria's Sunni majority as well, in addition to their support by the Christians and Animists, all of whom believe that Buhari is trying to turn the country into a dictatorship by trying to meddle with the constitutionally guaranteed beliefs of citizens.

Therefore, it is time for Buhari to stop state terrorism, release Sheikh Zakzaky (his wife and followers), pay compensation to the IMN, rebuild the Baqiatollah Hussainiya and guarantee that the army will not interfere in civilians affairs.

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