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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

U.S. Turning Mideast Into Tinderbox: Iran FM



U.S. President Donald Trump shows a chart highlighting arms sales to Saudi Arabia during a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman in the Oval Office of the White House, March 20, 2018, in Washington.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said Saturday that the United States is selling weaponry to Middle Eastern countries beyond the region's needs and turning the area into a "tinderbox".

"The level of arms sales by the Americans is unbelievable and much beyond regional needs, and this points to the very dangerous policies followed by the Americans," Zarif said.

The U.S. has sizable arms deals with the occupying regime of Israel and Saudi Arabia, as well as other countries in the region.

Zarif cited a recent report that weapons supplied by the U.S.

and Britain had "fallen into" the hands of militant groups in Yemen, "some with links to Al-Qaeda and Daesh".

Such supplies of arms, he said, have not contributed to peace and security in the region in any manner.

Zarif touched on recent accusations against Iran's missile program by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who claimed that the Islamic Republic had tested a missile "capable of carrying nuclear warheads".

Washington, Zarif said, is trying to portray the realities of the region "upside down" through resorting to "meaningless" accusations and

undermine Tehran's relations with Europe.

He touched on Washington's "desperate" measures amid the country's international isolation, notably U.S. accusations against the chief financial officer of the Chinese telecoms giant Huawei.

Meng Wanzhou, daughter of Huawei's founder, who was arrested in Vancouver on Saturday, faces "fraud charges" in the U.S. and is accused of breaking American sanctions on Iran.

On Friday, the U.S. Navy said a carrier strike group led by the Nimitz-class carrier USS John C. Stennis had arrived in the Middle East, ending an eight month period

The Holy Qur'an

To you they swear by Allah. In order to please you: But it is more fitting that they should please Allah and His Messenger, if they are Believers.

The Holy Qur'an (9:62)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:56
Evening (Maghreb)	17:11
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:33
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:03

during which a U.S. carrier wasn't based in the region.

The carrier group will be based with the 5th Fleet, which is responsible for U.S. naval activity in the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf, and will be stationed in the region for at least two months.

A U.S. Defense Department official confirmed earlier reports that the United States was beefing up its presence in the region as a "message" to Tehran, telling VOA that "just being there is a show of force".

The carrier group's presence is expected to have a similar effect to the U.S. base in at-Tanf, southern Syria, the official added.

The U.S. established an illegal garrison at Tanf in 2016, justifying the deployment as part of its war against Daesh.

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Are We Serious in the Fight Against Terrorism?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The title of the declaration following end of the one-day conference of parliamentary speakers of six countries in Tehran "Synergy for countering terrorism and consolidating regional cooperation", certainly sounds impressive.

So was the speech of President Dr. Hassan Rouhani, who in his inaugural address dealt with issues and actors trying to disturb the peace of the region, and rightly called US policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran as "economic terrorism".

Majlis Speaker Dr. Ali Larijani in his address, while taking over chairmanship of the "2nd Speakers' Conference on the Challenge of Terrorism and Inter-Regional Connectivity" from his Turkish counterpart, Bin-Ali Yildirim, also focused on the organized terrorism of Washington and its stooges in the region and the urgent need to counter these destabilizing activities.

The Speakers of all participant countries – Iran, Turkey, Russia, China, Afghanistan and Pakistan – struck the same chord in their addresses to the conference that the only solution to the American mischief, which threatens to weaken Asian countries, is to find out and cut off the roots of terrorism in order to ensure peace, connectivity and prosperity in the region.

Good and great words indeed. It now remains to be seen what measures member countries will take to implement the main points emphasized by the Tehran Declaration, especially the importance of multilateralism, so as to thwart the unilateral and extraterritorial measures of any hegemonic country that violates international law and contradicts the United Nations Charter by trying to isolate a sovereign independent member of the World Body through sanctions, threats, illegal military presence, and supply of weapons to terrorist outfits and purveyors of state terrorism.

The position of the Islamic Republic in this regard is crystal clear, and so are its practical policies to counter terrorists and terrorism, as is borne out by its advisory role on request in Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere to protect peoples and countries from being taken over by the enemies of humanity.

Russia also played valuable role in Syria through its air power to defeat the designs of the terrorists and their masters, and to a certain extent, so did China, by expressing support for the terrorized countries and peoples, and nullifying the bids of the mischievous powers at the UN Security Council to push through dubious resolutions.

Turkey, it seems, has realized the folly of siding with the godfathers of terrorism against Syria, and the sooner it withdraws its forces from its southern neighbour, the better for regional peace, security and collective development.

As for Pakistan, it is hoped that the new government which of late has issued encouraging statements against American meddling, will realize its potential to stand against Washington's pressures regarding political and commercial ties with its immediate neighbours.

Moreover, Islamabad ought to be extra cautious vis-à-vis American client regimes in the region such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which wholeheartedly serve Zionist interests and try to silence Muslim countries through generous monetary bribes as well as employment opportunities (actually enslavement) for their nationals in exchange of a few petrodollars.

Afghanistan is presently under American occupation, which cannot last long, and in view of the independent nature of its Muslim people, Kabul needs to mend fences with all ethnic and religious groups of the country, in addition to forging strong ties with its neighbours as well as the other Asian countries, in order to defeat terrorism and overcome the drug proliferation menace.

Hopefully, by next year the Speakers' Assembly will be enlarged to include Iraq, Syria, and other independent regional states (for example India), so as to work towards the collective development of the Asian region, with firm conviction to thwart any meddling by the US and all other outside powers, which promote terrorism and terrorist regimes.

Rouhani: Strategic Ties With Russia Expanding

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday underlined "strategic relations" between Tehran and Moscow, saying the two sides should continue their cooperation on Syria until the desired result is achieved.

Rouhani hailed very close cooperation between Iran and Russia during a meeting with speaker of State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin here, saying bilateral relations have expanded in all areas.

Volodin highlighted the importance of relations with Iran, saying they have expanded rapidly over the past few years, thanks to the efforts of the

two countries' leaders.

Iran and Russia have formed a strong alliance around supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's legitimate government which is facing an all-out war by foreign-backed terrorists.

Rouhani also met Turkish and Pakistan parliament speakers and discussed cooperation in fighting terrorism.

The Iranian president told Turkey's Binali Yildirim that whenever the two countries have cooperated, they have made remarkable achievements in fighting terrorists.

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Four People Arrested Over Chabahar Bombing

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian authorities have arrested four suspects in a terrorist car bombing attack this week in southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province, provincial prosecutor Ali Movahedirad said on Saturday.

"Investigations will continue into the role of the suspects in the terrorist operations and the identification of the main agents of the incident," he said.

On Thursday morning, a terrorist car bomber struck a police headquarters in the port city of Chabahar, killing two policemen and wounding 42

people.

The terrorist Ansar al-Furqan group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Iran's Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi said on Saturday the occupying regime of Israel and the United States as well as some regional states support terrorists to carry out attacks against the Islamic Republic.

"The security services of the region are involved in these acts of terror. Also, by employing their policies and strategies, the Zionist regime and the US back these terrorist groups," he said.

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Pakistan, Iran to Reinforce Anti-Terror Cooperation

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran and Pakistan have pledged to reinforce cooperation in fighting terrorism after a terrorist bombing in Chabahar left two Iranian policemen martyred.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani told his Pakistani counterpart Asad Qaiser here that terrorist groups have caused damage to many countries in the region and should therefore be countered with collective action.

The Iranian speaker also called for the expansion of parliamentary, economic, trade, tourism and counter-terrorism ties between Iran and Pakistan.

Qaiser, who travelled to Iran to attend a conference on

terrorism, thanked Iran for hosting the event and voiced regret about the Chabahar terrorist attack.

Pakistan, he said, feels honored to have brotherly relations with Iran as he expressed Islamabad's resolve to upgrade trade ties with Tehran.

Larijani hoped that Iranian forces still being held by Pakistan-based terrorists would be freed as soon as possible in cooperation with the Pakistani government.

In mid-October, 12 Iranian forces were kidnapped by elements of the so-called Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group near the town of Mirjaveh in Sistan and Baluchestan, and then spirited away into Pakistan.

Five of the captives were released

last month but efforts to have the remaining hostages released are making slow headway.

Iranian forces usually engage in clashes with terrorists in border regions, thwarting their attempts to infiltrate the country.

Tehran says it is ready to cooperate with Islamabad to disband terror cells operating on the Pakistani soil.

On Saturday, Larijani chided the UN Security Council for failing to deliver on its responsibility to end conflicts.

"Regional wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and different countries show that this body (the UN Security Council) is not carrying out its tasks properly," he

said.

Larijani also warned of "very dangerous" consequences of Washington's unilateralism, saying U.S. President Donald Trump's behavior has disrupted the human rights system and disappointed many countries.

"Countries like the U.S. and its allies in the region have led to the spread of terrorism," he said, adding those states claim to be fighting terrorism, but they are practically "using terrorism as a tool".

Larijani said cooperation of Iran, Russia and Turkey in resolving the Syria crisis is a "successful" model for restoring regional peace.