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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Coup Replaces Coup to Crush Aspirations of Sudanese Muslims

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The events rocking Sudan are certainly no revolution, nor is the fall of General Omar al-Bashir and his 30-year long dictatorial rule a relief for the Muslim masses of that country.

It is a mere ceremonial changing of the guards at the presidential palace in Khartoum, as the replacement is also a military general. In other words, it is a coup to replace the coup of 1989, with the long suppressed aspirations of the Sudanese people taking a back seat yet again.

General Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan Abdur-Rahman, like all other coup leaders anywhere in the world, has formed a so-called transitional council of men-in-uniforms with a vague 'promise' to hand over rule to a civilian government in future – which is unlikely to come.

No one takes him seriously, especially the group that has been leading the protests, the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), which rejecting the coup declaration, has called on people to press on with demonstrations and to stage a sit-in outside military headquarters.

SPA, an umbrella organization of doctors, lawyers and journalists, said in its statement: "The regime has conducted a military coup to reproduce the same faces and entities that our great people have revolted against."

It added that protests would continue until power is handed over to a civilian transitional government.

This means the people should brace for more bullets and greater number of the dead and the wounded, to prove they possess the indomitable spirit of sacrifice to change the status quo.

It will be a gargantuan task for the Sudanese people, and only time will tell how determined the masses are in the face of the current economic crisis.

At the moment, however, the new military leadership, which includes old faces like Defence Minister Awad Mohamed Ahmed Ibn Auf, has won the backing of reactionary Arab regimes of the Persian Gulf with whom General al-Burhan was clandestinely working, even as they pretended to play poker with al-Bashir – a replica of their game-plan to deceive and topple Egypt's only elected president, Mohammad al-Morsi in 2013, while grooming General Abdel-Fattah as-Sisi behind the scenes.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt, have thus hailed the fall of Bashir, the same Bashir, whom they had recently feted in their capitals and greased his palms with a fistful of dollars to cut diplomatic ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and to establish relations with the illegal Zionist regime, in addition to providing them dirt cheap soldiers for their suicidal war in Yemen – all on the false promise that the UN and the US would drop charges against him as a wanted war criminal.

Al-Burhan may or may not hand al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court for war crimes in Darfur a decade ago, but one thing is certain, he will cozy up to the godfather of terrorism, the US, and provide bases to the Americans, so that he could be permitted to rule unhindered for some years at the expense of the Islamic and democratic aspirations of the people of Sudan.

This is all indicative of an intricate plot to spread the tentacles of Israel in Northeast Africa and the Red Sea region to compensate for the setbacks suffered by the unholy American/Zionist/Arab Reactionary trinity in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon at the hands of the Resistance Front inspired by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yemen has become the Vietnam of the Saudis, and there are growing fears in the Arab and Western capitals that the trend of events might positively impact the protesting people of Sudan. Hence the sudden change of mask in Khartoum in order to abort in the embryonic stage a likely Islamic uprising having the potential to reignite the Muslim mass demonstrations against Sisi's Zionist-backed misrule in Cairo, with dangerous consequences for Riyadh, Amman and the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms.

Leader Grants Martyr Title to Flood Rescuers



An aerial view of flooding in Khuzestan province, Iran, April 5, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has granted a number of rescue workers killed in a boat accident in the recent flooding in northeastern Iran the title of martyrs.

Upon a request submitted by the Leader's representative in the province of Golestan, Ayatollah Khamenei granted the six men whose boat capsized in the city of Gomishan the title "martyrs of service."

A number of the martyrs were local Sunni Muslims.

The boat carrying a team of voluntary forces trying to protect Gomishan from the flood waters capsized on March 26, killing six people.

Record spring rainfall in the past weeks caused serious flooding in many areas, mainly the provinces of Golestan, Lorestan, Khuzestan, Fars and Ilam, forcing thousands to leave their homes.

The Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and volunteer Basij have deployed their forces, heavy military machinery, aircraft and boats to help those affected.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) on Sunday once again said U.S. sanctions are preventing foreign aid from reaching the country.

Speaking to ISNA, IRCS head Ali Asghar Peyvandi said that the International Red Cross Society (RCS) has approved 500,000 euros (approximately \$570,000) in aid for the flood-stricken people in Iran, but the IRCS has not received it.

EU's aid money has also not been deposited in the IRCS' bank account, he added.

"We have told the RCS that the sanctions imposed on Tehran should not harm the Iranian people," Peyvandi asserted, adding, "We have urged RCS to pave the way for financial aid to reach

Iran, in any way possible."

The Red Crescent, he said, is reliant on non-financial help, such as a recent rescue package of boats and equipment worth €300,000 (\$340,000) from Germany.

Floods have caused an estimated \$2.5 billion in damage to roads, bridges, homes and agricultural land, state media cited ministers as telling lawmakers on Sunday.

The flooding, which began on March 19, has killed 76 people, forced more than 220,000 people into emergency shelters, and left aid agencies struggling to cope.

"The recent floods are unprecedented... 25 provinces and more than 4,400 villages have been affected," Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli was quoted as saying in parliament by state news agency IRNA.

Fazli said the floods had caused around 350 trillion rials (\$2.5 billion) worth of damage.

French Ambassador Summoned Over Sanctions Remarks

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's foreign ministry has summoned France's ambassador to Tehran over remarks made on Twitter by his colleague in Washington.

Ambassador Philippe Thiebaud was being asked Sunday to explain why the French ambassador to the U.S., Gerard Araud, had tweeted that "sanctions could be reimposed" on Iran once the 2015 nuclear deal expires after 10 years.

Araud said Saturday that because "Russia is providing enriched uranium" to Iran, Tehran shouldn't need to be "massively enriching uranium after the JCPOA," using the acronym for the nuclear deal signed with world powers, including France.

Iran's foreign ministry has called Araud's remarks "unacceptable" and in "open violation" of the nuclear deal.

Under the nuclear deal, Iran capped its uranium enrichment

activities in return to ending sanctions.

On Sunday, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said if Araud's remarks France's position they will be a major violation of the nuclear agreement.

"If tweets by @GerardAraud represent French position, we're facing a major violation of the object and purpose of the JCPOA and UNSCR 2231," Araqchi said on his Twitter account.

"Needs immediate clarification by Paris, or we act accordingly," he added.

Although Europe is insisting on keeping JCPOA alive, it has repeatedly raised tiff over the Islamic Republic's missile program, as well as Tehran's role in the Middle East.

As recently as last January France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Iran needed to address what he alleged as inter-

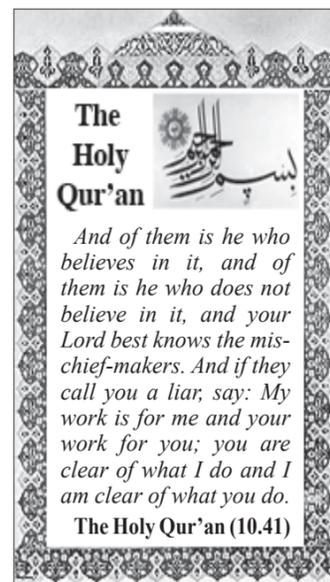
national concerns over its ballistic missile program, or risk new sanctions.

"We are ready, if the talks don't yield results, to apply sanctions firmly, and they know it," Jean-Yves Le Drian told reporters January 25.

Furthermore, Britain, France and Germany accused Iran on April 4 of "developing missile technology in violation of UN resolution," and called for a full UN report in a letter delivered to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

The EU trio also claimed that Iran's launch of a space vehicle and unveiling of two new ballistic missiles in February were part of a "trend of increased activity inconsistent" with UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which was adopted just after the signing of the 2015 nuclear agreement.

Resolution 2231 calls on Iran "not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed



PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:04
Evening (Maghreb)	19:56
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:04
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:32

Minister of Roads and Urban Development Muhammad Eslami said 14,000 kilometers (8,700 miles) of roads had been damaged and more than 700 bridges completely destroyed by landslides and flood water.

The government has said it will pay compensation to all those who have incurred losses, especially farmers.

Morteza Shahidzadeh, head of Iran's sovereign wealth fund, said President Hassan Rouhani had asked permission from Ayatollah Khamenei to withdraw \$2 billion from the fund for reconstruction in flood-hit areas.

Shahidzadeh said Ayatollah Khamenei has in principle agreed to the request.

Karim Zobeidi, an official at the National Iranian Oil Company, was cited as saying on Sunday that it was still too early to estimate the extent of the flood damage to Iran's energy sector.

Mehr news agency also quoted Zobeidi as saying that some oil wells in western Iran had been closed as a precaution to guard against any flooding.

to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons."

Iran denies having any such program and the International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly confirmed the peaceful nature of Tehran's nuclear activities.

An American diplomat claimed on Thursday that the era of the U.S.-Europe dispute over the JCPOA was over.

U.S. Representative to the EU Gordon Sondland also said the EU's Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran was nothing but a paper tiger.

"The SPVs are Europe's attempt to appease Iran by showing that they are still trying their very best to facilitate proper transfers of payments to Iran. We believe that those SPVs are really nothing more than, and I've said it before, a paper tiger," he said.

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Report: 9 Million Iranians Still Illiterate

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Nearly nine million Iranians are suffering from "absolute illiteracy", a news report compiled by parliament's Research Center (MRC) says.

Iran's population has risen to 82 million from less than 40 million four decades ago, but

the country's economy is struggling with unemployment and poverty.

Iran has implemented three strategic plans for eradicating illiteracy in the country. Based on the World Bank statistics, the literacy rate reached 85.5% in Iran in 2016.

UNESCO's statistics show that 2% of under 24-year-old population of Iran are suffering from absolute illiteracy.

In March 2018, head of Iran's Literacy Movement Organization Ali Baqerzadeh told the Iran Students News Agency (ISNA) that the number of abso-

lute illiterate in the country was 8.8 million, and the number of semi-illiterates stood at 11 million.

Sistan and Baluchestan, Kurdistan, West Azarbaijan, Lorestan, and Ardabil provinces respectively have the highest rate of illiteracy in the country.