

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission on Monday finalized a motion to support the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) against a recent decision by the U.S. to label the force as a terrorist organization.

The committee's spokesman Ali Najafi said the remaining parts of a motion to counteract the U.S. move to blacklist the IRGC were discussed and approved during a meeting of the panel.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran's police captured a woman affiliated with the Daesh terrorist group at a border checkpoint with Turkey.

Police at Bazargan border crossing arrested the female member of Daesh as she was trying to enter Iran. The border crossing connects Iran's north-western town of Bazargan to Gurbulak in eastern Turkey.

VOL NO: LV 10860 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, Farvardin 27, 1398, Sha'ban 10, 1440, Price 30,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Vital Railroad Network Taking Shape in West Asia

Prizes Go to Iranian Titles at India's Shahu Film Festival



Iranian Thrower Runner-Up in U.S. Int'l Contests



'Massive Use' of French-Made Weapons in Yemen Exposed



Saudi Arabia Looking for Way Out of Yemen: Study

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia is looking to find a way out of its devastating war in Yemen and the United States, the kingdom's stalwart ally, can play a critical role, the International Crisis Group said.

The group, which researches ways to end conflicts, said the United States should appoint a special envoy and suspend most arms shipments to the Saudis with a promise to resume them once the kingdom ends its four-year war on Yemen.

Saudi Arabia and a number of its regional allies launched a devastating campaign against Yemen on March 26, 2015, with the aim of bringing the government of former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi back to power and crushing Houthis.

Saudi Arabia "needs to stop thinking about how to eke out some notional victory and instead commit itself wholly to finding a political exit, regardless of whether that means empowering the Houthis more than it is comfortable with in the short term," the group said in a study based on interviews with current and former officials in the United States and elsewhere.

"The U.S. should lead the way by finding its own exit," it said.

The report comes after U.S. Congress -- alarmed by persistent civilian casualties and widespread hunger in Yemen, as well as Saudi Arabia's killing of prominent writer Jamal Khashoggi -- voted to cut off American support to the war effort.

President Donald Trump, who has closely allied himself with Saudi Arabia, has threatened to

veto the bill but has not yet done so.

Democratic Senator Chris Murphy, a leading critic of the Yemen war, said that even if Trump goes ahead with his veto, Congress can serve as a "bad cop" to pressure Saudi Arabia to change course.

"This is not a question of whether or not the coalition is going to defeat the Houthis; that question has been answered," Murphy told a briefing on the report.

"The Houthis are going to play a substantial and significant role in the future governance of Yemen, so it is a matter of deciding how the Saudis will live with that in a way that doesn't threaten their long-term security interests."

Trump has sided with the Saudis in part because they say they are trying to prevent a victory by Iran.

But the International Crisis Group said the calculation was reversed, with the Saudis sapped of resources and reputation at no investment by Tehran.

"I think they see that they need to end it (but) they don't know how to end it," Robert Malley, the group's president, said of the Saudis.

The Saudis keep thinking "a little more military power and the Houthis will crack and then we'll be able to end the war and Iran will be on its backfoot," he said.

"But we have four years of evidence to disprove that."

According to a new report by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), a nonprofit conflict-research organization, the Saudi-led war has so far claimed the lives of around 56,000 Yemenis.

Washington Post Reveals:

Trump Deal Offers 'Autonomy', No Palestinian State

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Sources familiar with U.S. President Donald Trump's "deal of the century" have warned that it will be void of any guarantees for a fully sovereign state of Palestine, the Washington Post reported Monday.

The unnamed sources told the paper that the proposal, which is expected to arrive soon, will only offer Palestinians some improvements in living conditions and nothing more.

The White House is poised to drop the much-anticipated package later this spring or by early summer, culminating over two years of efforts by Trump adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner.

With officials on all sides tight-lipped about the terms of the offer, remarks from Kushner and other U.S. officials have suggested that it does away with Palestinian statehood as a prerequisite for any agreement. Instead, Trump's plan to pur-

portedly end the decades-long conflict between Palestinians and Israelis more than anything focuses on the occupying regime's security concerns, the report said.

"We believe we have a plan that is fair, realistic and implementable that will enable people to live better lives," a senior White House official told the Post on Friday.

"We looked at past efforts and solicited ideas from both sides and partners in the region with the recognition that what has been tried in the past has not worked. Thus, we have taken an unconventional approach founded on not hiding from reality, but instead speaking truth," added the official.

According to a new report by U.S. news and information website Axios, King Abdullah II of Jordan said in a closed-door meeting with American lawmakers last month that the

Some Muslim Rulers Are Servants of U.S., Zionists

Ayatollah Khamenei:



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses the closing ceremony of the 36th International Qur'an Competitions in Tehran, April 15, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Monday described some rulers as "servants" of the U.S. and Israeli regimes and said they are acting against Qur'anic instructions.

Addressing the closure of an international Holy Qur'an recitation competition here, Ayatollah Khamenei said many problems facing the Islamic Ummah have their roots in the lack of efforts to follow Qur'anic teachings.

"Many deviations, misunderstandings, feelings of disappointment, betrayals, hostilities, and

submissions to false deities, are caused by staying away from the Qur'an and the spirituality and knowledge gained from it," the Leader said.

"Unfortunately, the rulers of some Islamic countries do not adhere to Qur'anic teachings and instead of being 'harsh against the unbelievers,' they have become servants and followers of America and the Zionists; and instead of being 'merciful to one another,' they pave the way for divisions and wars, like the wars in Yemen and Syria, and the massacre of Muslims," the Leader said.

"Today, many leaders of Arabic countries are of this kind," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

The Leader noted that some of those rulers "colluded with Israelis and stepped on the blood of Palestinians."

Over the past years, leaders of some Arabic countries, namely Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have led overt and covert efforts to normalize ties with the occupying regime of Israel.

Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu has on many occasions hinted at extensive security and political dealings with Arab nations that

largely remain a secret upon the request of their leaders.

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to Saudi Arabia's destructive war on Yemen, which has killed thousands of civilians since its onset in March 2015.

"Today Yemen is being constantly bombarded. Who is doing the bombing? Is he an unbeliever? No! He is a Muslim; at least he appears to be a Muslim," the Leader continued.

Ayatollah Khamenei said unlike some Islamic nations, Iran is putting the Qur'an at the heart of its decision-making, "no matter how angry this makes them (the enemies)."

"Although today the hostilities look more than they were in terms of both volume and intensity, these actions and conspiracies are the last throes of our enemies' enmity with the Islamic Republic."

The Leader further pointed to hostilities toward the Islamic Republic, saying although they seem to be more than before, the conspiracies are "the last breaths" of the enemies.

"The more they (enemies) act against the Iranian nation and get angry with the nation's adherence to Qur'anic teachings, the stronger and more powerful the nation will become," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

Okay for Tapping Special Fund for Flood Relief

Earlier Monday, the Leader approved drawing up to \$2 billion from the country's sovereign (Continued on Page 7)

After Trump's Video:

U.S. Muslim Congresswoman Threatened With Death

WASHINGTON (Guardian) -- The Muslim American congresswoman Ilhan Omar has said she has received an increased number of death threats after Donald Trump repeatedly tweeted video footage of September 11 and accused Omar of downplaying the terror attacks.

Omar issued a statement on Sunday night saying: "Since the president's tweet Friday evening, I have experienced an increase in direct threats on my life -- many directly referencing or replying to the president's video."

Omar said the Capitol police, the FBI, the House sergeant at arms and the speaker of the House were all aware of the threats and she thanked them for their assistance.

"Violent rhetoric and all forms of hate speech have no place in our society, much less from our country's Commander in Chief," she wrote. "We are all Americans. This is endangering lives. It has to

stop."

The White House escalated its assault on Omar on Sunday, as the White House press secretary, Sarah Sanders, insisted that Omar, 37, a Somali American who as one of the first Muslim women in Congress is the first to wear a hijab in the House chamber, was in the wrong.

"I find her comments to be absolutely disgraceful and unbefitting of a member of Congress," Sanders said, "and I think that it's a good thing the president is calling her out."

Sanders dismissed concern among Democrats that Trump was inciting violence against Omar, who has received death threats before, and other Muslim Americans.

"The president is wishing no ill will and certainly not violence toward anyone," said Sanders. "But the president is absolutely and should be calling out the congresswoman."

Omar has come in for a drubbing from the right over a snippet from a speech last month to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), in which she discussed the problem of Islamophobia and described "the discomfort of being a second-class citizen".

"CAIR was founded after 9/11," Omar said, "because they recognized that some people did something and that all of us were starting to lose access to our civil liberties."

In response, Trump tweeted, retweeted then pinned atop his Twitter account a video splicing footage of Omar's remark with video of the 9/11 attacks, including planes striking the World Trade Center and the Twin Towers falling.

Supported by a wave of Democrats saying Trump was willfully misrepresenting comments by Omar in what amounted to dangerous (Continued on Page 7)