

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Monday ordered state bodies and nongovernmental organizations to provide more aid to people affected by severe flooding in several cities and villages in southern and southeastern Iran. "Torrential rain in Sistan and Baluchestan Province and some other places in southeast of the country, which has led to problematic flooding for people and in some cases caused destruction and damage, requires that in addition to the praiseworthy services that have been so far rendered, state-run bodies and nongovernmental organizations should do more to help the dear people of that region and prevent further losses," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a message.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- President Hassan Rouhani on Monday signed an amended law that expands Iran's designation of American terrorist organizations to include the Pentagon and all its subsidiaries. Iran's parliament passed the initial version of the law back in April, which designated the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) a terrorist organization after the US blacklisted the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). Last week, the Iranian parliament expanded it to include the Pentagon, in response to U.S. assassination of IRGC Quds Force commander General Qassem Soleimani and his companions in Baghdad. Rouhani signed the amended version, (Continued on Page 7)

**Viewpoint**

**Power & Precision of Iran's Missile Defence System Aborts U.S. Ambitions**

**Iran Unveil Homemade ALS Medicine**



**Iran Crowned Karate 1-Series A Santiago Champion**



**President Assad's Aide: Trump Blindly Following Zionist Regime's Schemes**



**Police Release Video of Macaire Among Rioters**

## British Ambassador Caught Red-Handed

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The diplomatic confrontation between Britain and Iran continued Monday as Iranian police released a video of the UK ambassador in Tehran shortly before his arrest and the Foreign Office summoned Iran's ambassador to protest.

The short video shows Rob Macaire on the campus of the Amirkabir University where a group of people were chanting slogans against the Iranian authorities, allegedly in protest at the accidental downing of a Ukrainian airliner.

Iranian police said the video bolstered their case that Macaire had been inciting the rioters against the Islamic Republic.

The British government had said that the ambassador had been attending a vigil for the 176 people killed on Flight PS572. Iranian security forces followed Macaire to a barber shop nearby and arrested him before releasing him several hours later.

Hamid Baeidinejad, Iran's ambassador, has been called in for a meeting at the Foreign Office in London for ministers to convey their "strong objections" to the incident, Downing Street said.

On Monday, the Iranian media was abuzz with reports of British Ambassador Rob Macaire monitoring the protest from a safe distance. Macaire was briefly arrested by security forces over his presence at the site of a protest.

Government spokesman Rabiei said Britain's ambassador to Iran had acted in a way that was "completely unprofessional and unacceptable".

On Sunday, hundreds of angry protesters gathered outside the UK embassy to chant "Death to England" and demand the mission's closure. Several Iranian politicians have called for Macaire to be expelled from the country.

Macaire was last week called in by the Iranian Foreign Ministry for an official dressing down over the way in which senior British politicians including Boris Johnson and UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab had appeared to welcome the U.S. assassination of General Soleimani.

The protest attended by Macaire featured the tearing up of

the pictures of top Iranian commander Gen. Qassem Soleimani who was assassinated by the U.S. in Iraq.

The assassination triggered a wave of anger among the Iranians who took to the streets in tens of millions to call for revenge and honor the charismatic commander.

The insults against Gen. Soleimani shocked many Iranians and raised question marks about the instantaneous protest which came while the nation was mourning its national hero and celebrating Iran's retaliation.

Many believe the downing of the jet is being used as a pretext to overshadow the epochal display of unity across Iran during Gen. Soleimani's funeral and the country's unprecedented blow to the American prestige through precision-guided missile at on U.S. bases.

Maple Leaf Foods Inc Chief Executive Officer Michael McCain on Sunday criticized the U.S. government for escalating tensions in the Middle East, after an Iranian missile accidentally shot down a Ukrainian airliner killing 176 people onboard, including an employee's family.

"A MLF colleague of mine lost his wife and family this week to a needless, irresponsible series of events in Iran. U.S. government leaders unconstrained by checks/balances, concocted an ill-conceived plan to divert focus from political woes," McCain said in a tweet posted on the company's Twitter account.

Iran admitted on Saturday that it accidentally shot down the plane. Iran said its air defenses were fired in error while on alert after Iranian missile strikes on U.S. targets in Iraq.

Iran's government on Monday denied a "cover-up" after it took 48 hours for the armed forces to admit the Ukrainian airliner was shot down by mistake last week.

"In these sorrowful days, many criticisms were directed at relevant officials and authorities... some officials were even accused of lying and a cover-up but, in all honesty, that was not the case," Government spokesman Ali Rabiei said.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called the shooting down of the plane a "disastrous mistake".

## Pentagon Chief, Other Officials Admit: Trump Made Up 'Imminent' Iranian Threat



Pictures show the site of Iranian bombing of a military base housing American soldiers in Ain al-Asad air base in Iraq, with U.S. troops clearing the debris on Jan. 13, 2020.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Pentagon chief Mark Esper explicitly said Sunday that he had seen no hard evidence that four American embassies had been under possible threat when President Donald Trump authorized the targeting of Iran's top commander.

As the administration struggled with its justification for the drone strike that martyred Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad, Esper and other officials tried to refocus attention on riots by several hundred people in Iran.

U.S. national security adviser Robert O'Brien suggested the

United States sees the small riots as an opportunity to further intensify pressure on Iran.

Trump is under great pressure as he faces an expected impeachment trial in the Senate. Many in Congress also are upset over his handling of Iran, complaining that the administration did not consult them in advance of the Jan. 3 assassination, nor adequately brief members afterward. Trump complicated the debate by asserting on Fox News that he had to strike quickly because intelligence showed Iran could have attacked four American embassies.

But Esper, when asked whether there was a specific piece of evidence, replied: "I didn't see one with regard to four embassies." And in response to a question about whether Trump was "embellishing" the threat, Esper said, "I don't believe so."

After the U.S. assassinated Gen. Soleimani in Baghdad, tens of millions of Iranians took to the streets to vent their anger at Washington and call for revenge. The assassination of Gen. Soleimani along with Iraq's top anti-terror commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis also intensified efforts by Iraqi

politicians to expel American and other foreign forces.

Esper still justified the U.S. assassination as an act of self-defense, claiming the Pentagon foresees no more Iranian military attacks in retaliation for that. Even so, the head of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah said Sunday that Iran's missile attacks on two bases in Iraq housing U.S. forces last week were only the start of the retaliation.

Hassan Nasrallah described Iran's military response as a "slap" at the U.S. He called it the "first step down a long path" that will ensure U.S. troops withdraw from the region.

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he was concerned that "Iran has lots of ways that they can take action against us, both overt and covert, and I don't think they're done trying to seek revenge."

Esper spoke hopefully of getting the NATO alliance more involved in Iraq. He said this could allow him to reduce the number of American troops in Iraq, currently numbering more than 5,200, but he did not say any reduction was in the works yet.

Esper was pressed to comment on Trump's statement in a Fox News interview that the president believed Gen. Soleimani had been plotting to attack four U.S. embassies. While seeking to defend Trump's remarks as representing the U.S. president's personal belief, (Continued on Page 7)

## U.S. President Shedding 'Crocodile Tears' for Iranians

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's government spokesman dismissed on Monday tweets by U.S. President Donald Trump voicing support for protesters, saying the Iranian people would remember he assassinated a top general and was the reason many were facing economic challenges.

Trump, who praised the "great Iranian people" in tweets in Farsi and English, was shedding "crocodile tears" when voicing concern for Iranians, Ali Rabiei said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi also called Trump's bluff on expressing support for Iranian protesters just after he threatened to attack their cultural heritage, asking the U.S. president not to defile the Persian language.

"Hands and tongues smeared with threatening, sanctioning and terrorizing the #Iranian nation, are not entitled to dishonor the ancient #Persian\_language,"

Mousavi tweeted.

Trump's tweet came after dozens of people protested outside a university in downtown Tehran to denounce officials' belated confirmation of a Ukrainian passenger plane unintentionally downed outside the Iranian capital.

"To the brave, long-suffering people of Iran: I've stood with you since the beginning of my Presidency, and my Administration will continue to stand with you. We are following your protests closely, and are inspired by your courage," wrote Trump.

The U.S. president had uncharacteristically remained silent as several million Iranians took to streets for days to honor General Qassem Soleimani who was assassinated on Trump's order in Baghdad.

"By the way, are you actually 'standing by' millions of Iranians whose hero you just assassinated (Continued on Page 7)

## China Defends Iran Trade After U.S. Sanctions

BEIJING (Dispatches) -- China on Monday called for the U.S. to "immediately halt" sanctions on Chinese companies for maintaining business ties with Iran amid heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday imposed new sanctions on Iran. The latest round of sanctions is set to hit much of Iran's economy as well as Chinese companies that have conducted business with Iran.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang on Monday said Beijing opposed what it saw as unilateral sanctions and called for Washington to stop punishing Chinese companies through those sanctions.

"We think that sanctions or threats of sanctions will not solve the issues at hand," Geng said during a regular press briefing in Beijing.

Geng's remarks came after U.S. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin told Fox News on Sunday that "China is subject to sanctions just like everybody else".

"We actually sanctioned some of their shipping companies that were involved in the oil, and we will continue to pursue sanctions activities against China and anybody else around the world that continues to do business with them," Mnuchin said during the interview.

But Geng said China's trade with Iran was legitimate and should be "respected".

"The friendly cooperation between China and Iran has long been within the framework of international law. Such cooperation has been legitimate and law-abiding, it doesn't harm the interests of third parties, and should be respected and protected," Geng said.

"The Chinese side urges the U.S. (Continued on Page 7)