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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Venezuela Stands Firm vis-à-vis U.S. Subversion

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Despite the intensity of U.S. pressures and unabated attempts to sabotage the economy, Venezuela's legal government stands like a solid rock against the traitors that Trump the terrorist is trying to prop up as opposition to President Nicolas Maduro.

On Tuesday when Juan Guaido, the rebellious leader of the National Assembly who likes to call himself the acting president although he wields no executive power, returned to Caracas, after visiting the U.S. and some West European states, he was lucky to be whisked away in an SUV, as people at the airport, vociferously shouted: "Get out dirty traitor".

Even the staff of Venezuela's national airline, Conviasa, strongly protested his arrival, calling him "Fascist Guaido". One airline worker sprayed him with soda to the embarrassment of his few supporters, who escorted him out.

The 36-year old Guaido, who upon orders from Donald Trump declared himself Venezuela's acting president in January 2019, has failed to rally the people to his side in spite of over a year of rowdy scenes on the streets by paid protestors, who flee the moment the security forces appear.

Maduro who is president for the past 7 years following the death of the famed Hugo Chavez in March 2013, won the general elections in late 2018 for his second term as president. Because of his independent policies and refusal to kowtow to the U.S., he has become the target of the devilish designs of Washington.

The U.S., which late last year masterminded the ouster of Evo Morales through a coup in Bolivia, is planning to overthrow the independent and freedom loving elected rulers of Latin American countries.

As in the case of Iraq and Lebanon, where the U.S. is using paid protestors to cause disturbances against the legal governments, it has resorted to this same tactics in most Central and South American countries.

In Venezuela, Washington has failed to make a dent in the resolve of the masses supporting Maduro, who in obvious reference to Guaido's return, called on citizens to focus on "defending Venezuela instead of being distracted by stupidities, by dummies, by traitors to the homeland."

The armed forces are also firmly behind the legal government and are defenders of the legacy of the Late Chavez, who was a thorn in Washington's side, and a firm advocate that Latin America should not allow the U.S. to wield hegemony over its member states.

Oil-rich Venezuela is under the illegal sanctions, or more properly the economic terrorism of the U.S., which means Guaido's embrace of the criminal Trump during his White House meeting with the U.S., has made him deeply unpopular.

The only thing deterring Trump and his team of terrorists from military action against Venezuela and its elected government, is President Maduro's strong ties with Russia's President Vladimir Putin, coupled with the presence of Russian troops.

Moscow is determined that Caracas remains with the free world and will not be subjected to American hegemony, and this is the reason the economic help from Russia has been vital in the smooth functioning of Venezuela, which also has strong friendly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Defense Minister Gen. Hatami: Iran to Press Ahead With Satellite Program



A Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite rocket is seen rising to the sky at its launch site in Iran, July 27, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's government on Wednesday rejected U.S. allegations that the Islamic Republic's satellite program has a military dimension, days after the launch of its latest satellite which fell short of reaching the orbit.

"The subject of satellite launch vehicles and satellites is a civilian matter," Defense Minister General Amir Hatami was quoted as saying by IRNA news agency.

"We could use a satellite for defense purposes, but the satellite launcher is a completely non-defense subject and it's the definite and absolute right of the Iranian

nation.

"There is no prohibition in the world" against this satellite program, he said.

Iran attempted on Sunday to launch a satellite dubbed the Zafar -- Farsi for "Victory" -- but it failed to reach orbit.

Washington on Tuesday accused Tehran of using satellites as a cover to develop its missile program.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the technology involved to launch satellites was "virtually identical" to the know-how for long-range ballistic missiles.

But Hatami said Iran was only doing the same as "all other countries" with satellite programs.

Iran would press ahead with its satellite program and planned to launch a new version of the Zafar by early next year, he added.

"The Zafar 2, given its weight, will be launched with the Simorgh launcher," Hatami said, referring to the rocket used in Sunday's launch.

"We will still do research on the launcher and the satellites and will certainly continue this research until we are stable in this domain and until we are able to do it sustainably."

Hook Met MKO Terrorists After Assassination: Report

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The Trump administration's top official overseeing Iran policy met with a representative of the terrorist Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) weeks after a U.S. strike martyred Iran's top military leader.

Brian Hook, a senior adviser to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the U.S. Special Representative for Iran, met on January 31 with Robert G. Joseph, a former senior State official who now represents the MKO, according to a foreign agent filing that Joseph submitted to the Justice Department this week.

The MKO, which is detested by Iranians over its history of assassinations and bombings in Iran and betrayal of the country during the Iraqi war, was on the U.S. government's official list of foreign terrorist organizations until 2012.

Joseph's meeting with Hook came just a few weeks after a U.S. airstrike martyred Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top military commander.

Gen. Soleimani was "directly responsible for killing some of my MKO people," Rudy Giuliani, a long-time ally of the terrorist group, told The Daily Beast in January. "We don't like him very much."

The meeting with Hook was one of three of U.S. government contacts reported in Joseph's semi-annual filing under the Foreign Agent Registration Act, but

the only one that took place after the assassination.

Joseph's FARA filing does not include any details on what was discussed at each of those meetings. In general, he told the Justice Department, he worked to provide advice to MKO terrorists on a range of issues, including: how best to counter "false narratives" about the MKO; how to improve the reach and effectiveness of the MKO work against Iran, regional role and its nuclear program; and "how to advance the cause of building a free and democratic Iran".

Joseph also provided advice to strengthen the protection and security of MKO terrorists from the former U.S. military camp in Baghdad, who are now residing outside Tirana, Albania, according to his Justice Department filing.

The MKO is headquartered in Paris and staffed by the brutal group's members.

The MKO has long worked to ingratiate itself with key U.S. policymakers, chiefly foreign policy hawks who seek to oust the Islamic Republic. It has forged ties with a number of officials who have served in or advised the Trump administration, including Giuliani and former National Security Advisor John Bolton.

Pompeo himself spoke at an event that included MKO terrorists last year.

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Salehi Tells IAEA Head: Iran Will Not Bow to Pressure

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi says Tehran is open to talks on the country's nuclear program but will not bow to pressure for its decisions.

Iran's "relations with the IAEA are very good and based on mutual understanding, and as an international authority, this organization and its decisions should not be influenced by political inclinations," Salehi told new director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael

Grossi here.

Iran, Salehi said, welcomes negotiation and logic but will not make any decisions under pressure.

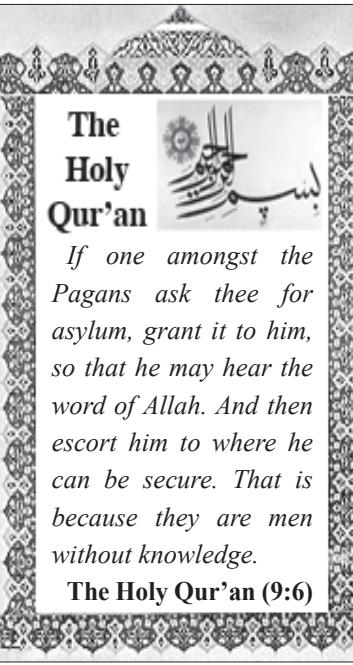
Grossi praised Iran's cooperation with the international organization in various areas and demanded that the Islamic Republic continue constructive cooperation with the IAEA as in the past.

Last May, Iran began to gradually reduce its commitments to both retaliate for Washington's departure the Europeans' failure to respect their obligations to

wards Tehran.

Iran took a fifth step in reducing its commitments last month, and said it would no longer observe any operational limitations on its nuclear industry, whether concerning the capacity and level of uranium enrichment, the volume of stockpiled uranium or research and development.

Salehi met head of French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission François Jacq on Wednesday to discuss the fate of the Joint Comprehensive (Continued on Page 7)



| PRAYER TIMINGS | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Noon (Zohr) | 12:19 |
| Evening(Maghreb) | 18:02 |
| Dawn(Fajr) "Tomorrow" | 05:30 |
| Sunrise "Tomorrow" | 06:53 |

U.S. Official: Guards Got Overzealous With Iranians

SEATTLE (Dispatches) — U.S. Customs and Border Protection Acting Commissioner Mark Morgan said Tuesday that border officials in Washington state "got a little overzealous" when they detained Iranian travelers at the U.S.-Canada border last month.

As many as 200 people of Iranian descent were held up for as long as 12 hours as they crossed the border from Canada into Washington state the weekend of Jan. 5-6, following a U.S. drone strike that martyred a top Iranian general.

The federal agency said at the time it had not targeted Iranians based on their country of origin or issued any such directive to its officers.

But an immigration attorney in Blaine, Washington, obtained a copy of a directive apparently issued by the agency's Seattle field office that said agents should "conduct vetting" on Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian nationals born between 1961 and 2001. It also said anyone else who had traveled to Iran or Lebanon should be screened.

Without mentioning anyone by name, Morgan told a news conference in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday that officials in the region imposed additional security screening on people from Iran following the drone strike.

"In that one instance, leadership just got a little overzealous, and we corrected that right away," he said.

Border agents typically have discretion to refer a traveler for additional inspection, such as when their paperwork is not in order or if something raises the agent's suspicion.

But immigrant rights groups and lawmakers, including U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a Seattle Democrat, said singling out Iranian Americans absent such factors was wrong and violated their right to equal protection under the law.