

# Kayhan International

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## In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

### Liberation of Idlib on the Horizon

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The Syrian army's steady advance inside the terrorist-controlled Idlib Province has bewildered the U.S., which suddenly claims that its troops – uninvited and thus illegal occupiers of parts of Syria's soil – have started operations against the Daesh terrorists.

As the Syrian army approached the outskirts of Ma'arat an-Nu'man, a strategic city some 33 km south of the provincial capital Idlib on a highway that connects Damascus to Aleppo, it seems Washington has begun to drop crates of arms to the terrorists, as it used to do in Iraq during the years 2015-2017 to try to beef up the macabrely murderous Takfiris on the pretext of flying sorties against them, but actually to prevent the heroic Hashd ash-Sha'bi (Popular Mobilization Units – PMU) from eliminating this joint Riyadh-Washington-Tel Aviv creation.

The dreams of a Takfiristan stretching from the Levant to the headwaters of the Persian Gulf having long been evaporated – thanks to the brilliant planning of General Qassem Soleimani, whom the criminal U.S. president, Donald Trump so unmanly martyred on January 3 in Baghdad, along with Iraqi military tactician Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis – the Americans who have no right to be Syria are trying to play spoil sport by stirring up acts of violence and kidnappings in Daraa on the border with Jordan, stealing Syria's oil in the Euphrates basin, and scheming ways to resurrect Daesh in Idlib on the pretext of fighting it.

These attempts, however, are nothing but desperate measure to be in the news in Syria at a time when the U.S. has no other choice but to retreat in a humiliating manner from Iraq, following the massive million-man-march last Friday in Baghdad for end of American presence that was preceded by the parliamentary decision for closure of the Ain al-Asad and other bases.

The government of President Bashar al-Assad is determined to wrest control of terrorist-held Idlib, and will definitely expand its operation for liberation of the last remaining parts of its soil along with tens of thousands of Syrian people being held hostage by the terrorists for the past several years.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) quoted a Syrian military source as saying: "The army's response will not be limited to the origins of attacks by armed terrorist organizations and will include devastating field operations that will not cease until the remnants of armed terrorism is uprooted."

Accordingly, the Syrian Army's 25th Special Mission Forces Division has freed the towns of Tal Manis and Ma'ar Shamshah, which are the last points before Ma'arat an-Nu'man, whose liberation will definitely break the back of the terrorists and their supporters.

That is the reason, the terrorists are trying to drive unarmed and defenceless men, women, and children towards the borders of Turkey to fuel the propaganda machines of the West that a humanitarian crisis is beginning to unfold because of Damascus' resorting to military operations.

The government, people, and the armed forces of Syria, have every right to plan military measures against foreign-funded forces occupying a large chunk of Syrian territory with the active backing of the free world.

Once Idlib is liberated, the uninvited foreign occupation forces, whether of Turkey or of the U.S., Britain, and France, will find it increasingly unlawful to stay in Syria.

This explains for Washington's nervousness and threats, but Insha Allah (God Willing) all devilish designs of the Americans and the Zionists will come to naught no matter measures these satanic powers take.

# Oman FM in Tehran to Discuss Maritime Security



Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah holds talks with Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif, center right, in Tehran on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah met Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif here Sunday to discuss maritime security in the Strait of Hormuz, Oman's foreign ministry tweeted.

The two ministers stressed the importance of boosting cooperation to guarantee maritime and energy security for all regional

countries, Press TV reported.

Alawi met his Iranian counterpart in Tehran where he had a stopover en route to Muscat after attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The top Iranian and Omani diplomats also discussed bilateral and regional issues, particularly cooperation in the Strait of Hormuz.

They also highlighted determi-

nation of their respective governments to continue cooperation and deliberations with the goal of guaranteeing security of navigation and energy transfer for all countries, asking regional states to play a positive role in this regard.

Tehran and Muscat maintains cordial relations and this is the fourth meeting between the Iranian and Omani foreign ministers over the past month.

## Students Recount Mistreatment at U.S. Airports

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- A growing number of Iranian students are being detained, interrogated and deported by U.S. authorities upon arrival at American airports.

The New York Times has published interviews with some of them, many of whom had secured admission to some of the world's most prestigious universities.

According to the paper, at least 16 Iranian students have been turned back since August, despite having valid visas which they had obtained after a notoriously grueling, months-long vetting process.

When the students reached American airports, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers disagreed and sent them home, some with a five-year ban on re-applying to return to the United States, it said.

Most say they were not told why they were deemed "inadmissible" — a broad label that customs officers have wide discretion to apply.

"What the students do know is that, at a time of rising diplomatic tensions between the United States and Iran, their plans for the future seem to have evaporated," the paper said.

Amin, 34, entering a Ph.D program at the University of Florida, was turned away January 1 at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta.

But at the airport, officers wanted to know why a former school email address and an old research paper he had written were not disclosed on his visa application.

A flight back to Iran was not available for a couple of

days, so Amin said he was placed in a chilly holding cell for six hours, then transported in cuffs and chains to an immigration detention facility in Georgia. The officers there ordered him to strip naked in front of them.

"The moment I entered the cell, I lost my spirit," he said.

Hamid, 22, entering a combined master's and Ph.D program in engineering at University of Notre Dame, was sent back January 11 from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

Hamid, who had been accepted for a fully-funded graduate program, waited eight months for his visa. Then when he arrived in Chicago, he was placed in a holding cell for 19 hours.

Officers asked him for his opinion on political events in Iran and whether he thought Iran was doing "the right thing."

Hamid said he and two other detained travelers were given foam mattresses and thin blankets, and he hardly slept.

"After 24 hours, I was transferred to the boarding gate in the company of two armed officers, as if I was some kind of terrorist. It was both humiliating and dehumanizing," he said.

Reihana Emami, 35, planned to attend Harvard Divinity School. She was turned away September 18 at Logan airport.

(Continued on Page 7)

## How Assassination of Gen. Soleimani Backfired on U.S.

By: Iqbal Jassat\*

Despite conflicting official statements by the Trump administration about the reason behind its decision to target Iran's most celebrated military official, the U.S. is adamant that its assassination of Qassem Soleimani and refusal to leave Iraq is about "protecting Americans".

From versions advanced publicly by former CIA chief Pompeo now serving as Trump's trigger-happy secretary of state, during his TV-road show, the world was told that Qassem Soleimani was assassinated because he posed an "imminent" threat.

This "official" narrative was spun to convince Trump's domestic audience that though the Democrats had ganged up against him, he remained concerned about America's safety and thus eliminated "bad" persons.

The targeted assassination of Qassem Soleimani and a senior Iraqi military leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis has raised serious questions about Trump's real motivation. Notwithstanding the so-called justification being a vague, unproven claim of "imminent" threat of violence against Americans, Trump himself shot it down by saying that it "doesn't really matter" wheth-

er Soleimani and al-Muhandis posed an imminent threat.

In other words, as Commander-in-chief of America, I, Donald Trump can authorize the killing of anyone, regardless of whether the person singled out for extra-judicial execution is a serving official of any country, and it matters not whether the person poses an imminent threat.

Strangely, the facts advanced by Iraq's parliament particularly by Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi regarding the reason for Qassem Soleimani's visit to Baghdad on the fateful day he was assassinated, have either been downplayed or ignored.

The Holy Qur'an

Their apostles said to them: We are nothing but mortals like yourselves, but Allah bestows (His) favors on whom He pleases of His servants, and it is not for us that we should bring you an authority except by Allah's permission; and on Allah should the believers rely.

The Holy Qur'an (14.11)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:17
Evening (Maghreb)	17:45
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:42
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:08

## Zarif Chides Trump for Misunderstanding His Comments

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif says U.S. President Donald Trump misunderstood his comments in an interview with Germany's Der Spiegel on Friday, when he had said the Trump administration can lift its sanctions and return to negotiations.

On Saturday Trump tweeted, "Iranian Foreign Minister says Iran wants to negotiate with The United States, but wants sanctions removed. @FoxNews @OANN No Thanks!"

In his latest tweet addressed to Trump, Zarif posted a screenshot of his interview with Der Spiegel and said the U.S. president was "better advised to base his foreign policy comments and decisions on facts", rather than "Fox News headlines or his Farsi translators" and called on him to read the interview.

In the interview, Zarif was asked if after the assassination of top military commander General Qassem Soleimani he would rule out the possibility of negotiations with the United States. The answer was that it depended on the Trump administration correcting its past, lifting the sanctions and coming back to the negotiation table. Iran is "still at the negotiating table. They are the ones who left," he added.

## Correction

Our Sunday, Jan 26, 2020, story on Page 2 must read, "Minister Calls for ECO...", and not as printed. The typo is regretted. Editor