

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue, Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Turkey Ought to Join Syria in Rooting Out Terrorists From Idlib

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as part of his unsparing efforts for peace and stability in the region, has once again offered its services to both Syria and Turkey to help defuse the crisis which is unnecessarily claiming the lives of the soldiers of the two countries, while the terrorists backed by the US and the illegal Zionist entity, continue to destabilize Idlib.

The villain of the piece is Washington and the purveyors of terrorism it backs. This warrants both Syria and Turkey to turn their guns on the macabrely murderous takfiris who in order to escape their total annihilations are trying to pit Ankara against Damascus.

It is unfortunate that the latest incident of the death of some 34 Turkish soldiers has angered President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and brought threats of retaliation from him, but as quickly pointed out by Russia, Ankara had mistakenly stationed its troopers on the wrong side, very near to the positions under occupation of the terrorists, and as a result when Syria used its right to target the US-backed elements, some of them died.

It is not too late to avoid such unwarranted casualties, and it is urgent for the mediators to work out a solution before the situation spirals out of control, as the US is trying to do, along with Israel which yesterday again violated the airspace of Syria by bombing positions in Quneitra.

Iran firmly believes participants of the Astana peace process initiated by Moscow, Ankara, and Tehran, in Kazakhstan some years ago for resolving the Syrian crisis, can take effective measures to battle terrorism, avoid harm to civilians and resolve the conflict through diplomacy.

A Foreign Ministry statement released in Tehran yesterday, explicitly said "Given the previous decision made by senior officials attending the Astana [peace] process on holding this meeting in our country, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues its efforts to resolve the differences."

It is worth recalling that some days earlier on February 20 Turkey's Foreign Ministry had said that Turkish, Russian and Iranian representatives were working on coordinating a date for a trilateral summit on the Syrian peace process.

Hopefully, the plan would be speeded to thwart the sinister designs of the US and its Zionist surrogate, which love to see the soldiers of the two neighbouring Muslim countries kill each other.

In fact, Turkey can greatly contribute to peace the moment it withdraws its intruding forces from Syria, which is now on the verge of eradicating once and for all, takfiri and other terrorist outfits, which means once liberation is complete, Damascus will be in a position to remove any concerns from Ankara of cross border provocations by any terrorist group.

Turkey, which had "zero problems" with Syria before the crisis was engineered by the US, Britain, France, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Israel, in 2011 and Ankara was dragged into the trap, should now take the bold step of holding direct talks with Damascus to remove all misconceptions.

In the meantime, the terrorists in Idlib, whose hands are stained with the innocent blood of hundreds of thousands of Syrian Muslims, in addition to the displacement of millions of people and the destruction of their homes and hearths, should not be shown the least mercy in Idlib.

Leader Hails Efforts to Contain Coronavirus in Iran



A health worker disinfects buses used for public transportation in the central city of Isfahan.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Thursday praised Iranian health authorities and personnel for their efforts to contain the novel coronavirus epidemic in the country.

In a meeting with the head of Iran's Academy of Medical Sciences here, Ayatollah Khamenei expressed gratitude to the health minister, his colleagues, Iranian doctors, nurses, medical staff and all personnel involved in the health services for the battle with the coronavirus disease.

"Your work is really valuable," the Leader said, adding that such activities have raised the value of the job of physicians and nurses.

Health Minister Saeid Namaki, in a letter to the Leader, pledged Thursday that Iran would surprise the world with its containment of the coronavirus that has claimed

more than two dozen lives since its breakout in the country last week.

A medical official said Friday the development of a drug and vaccine for treatment of the coronavirus is underway.

Alireza Jalali, the head of Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences, said the "scientific committees of Baqiyatallah University have been activated since last week in order to develop a definitive drug for the novel coronavirus."

"During the past week, three new projects were launched for production of vaccine and definitive drug for coronavirus. We expect the projects to yield serious results," he noted.

He said the first project is aimed at producing a genetics-based drug for the new coronavirus, Covid-19. The Health Ministry and the research department of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)

are working on the project, which is expected to yield results in three to six months.

The second project, development of a vaccine, will successfully finish in three to five months, and the third project will focus on development of a herbal medicine for Covid-19 patients, he added.

Health Ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour announced that coronavirus testing kits developed by Iranian experts at the Defense Ministry will receive final approvals in coming days, and will be mass-produced and supplied to laboratories across the country.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying on Friday tweeted that the first batch of his country's aid for Iran has arrived in the country, vowing that more will follow in the future.

"Sad to hear bad news in #Iran. 1st batch of Chinese assistance

Instagram Blocks Account Over Optimistic Virus Post

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- An Iranian student of journalism says the U.S.-based social media platform Instagram has closed his account because he published a post that expressed hope about Iran's efforts to contain a coronavirus outbreak in Iran.

Meysam Saeedi, a student of journalism at the university of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), had published a picture of himself, medical staff, and other coronavirus patients at a hospital ward making victory signs and looking strong with hope after being admitted to hospital himself for a coronavirus infection.

"Instagram closed my account

for no reason!" Saeedi wrote. "No [mention of] Haj Qassem or anything else! They only seek to stifle hope in the Iranian nation! But we will combat the #coronavirus with hope and will prevail."

Saeedi was referring to General Qassem Soleimani, the former commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), who was assassinated on the direct order of U.S. President Donald Trump in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad early last month.

After the assassination, Instagram either deleted the accounts of many Iranians who had been using the

social networking service to honor the charismatic general, or eliminated relevant content posted by them.

Even before the U.S.'s assassination of Gen. Soleimani, the American photo- and video-sharing platform had blocked the pages associated with the Quds Force's popular commander after Washington's blacklisting of the elite military force.

An American political analyst said Thursday the United States must withdraw sanctions against Iran so it can import the needed medicines and medical equipment to combat the coronavirus.

The Holy Qur'an

But Allah did pour His calm on the Messenger and on the Believers, and sent down forces which ye saw not: He punished the Unbelievers; thus doth He reward those without Faith.

The Holy Qur'an (9:26)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:17
Evening (Maghreb)	18:17
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:12
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:35

already arrived and more sure to follow. We are with you, Iran! Be strong, Iran! Hang in there, Iran! #COVID19"

The disease has infected several high-ranking officials, including four lawmakers, the country's vice-president for women affairs, and a deputy health minister.

The government has adopted contingency measures to deal with the surge in the number of infections, including closure of schools and universities in several provinces.

For the first time in decades, Friday prayers have been cancelled in 23 provincial capitals out of 31, while authorities have imposed tighter restrictions on arrivals of foreign nationals, especially those from China.

Health Minister Namaki said Friday all schools in Iran will close for three days starting from Saturday over coronavirus concerns.

"Based on assessments it was felt that there was a need for closing all the schools in the country and for this reason all the schools in the country will be closed for three

(Continued on Page 7)

Russia Indicates It Will Block Snapback of Iran Sanctions

VIENNA (Dispatches) -- Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov says Russia will keep objecting to the restoration of United Nations Security Council sanctions against Iran, emphasizing that Moscow will not let the 15-member body turn into a "toy" in the hands of the U.S.

Speaking after the 15th meeting of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Ryabkov warned that the Security Council should not be manipulated by Washington, which scrapped the nuclear deal in May 2018 and has been pressing the remaining signatories to do so.

"I think that in any case,

U.S. hypothetical attempts to enable these plots both the arms embargo and the restoration of sanctions of the UNSC will face strong opposition from our side, from other responsible members of the international community. After all, the UNSC should not become a toy in the hands of Washington. We will not let it happen," he said.

In January, the European signatories to the JCPOA triggered the deal's dispute mechanism, which amounts to a formal accusation that Tehran had broken the terms of the agreement. The measure could lead to the restoration of anti-Iran UNSC sanctions, which had been lifted un-

der the JCPOA.

Iran signed the accord with six world states — namely the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China — in 2015. It was also endorsed by the UNSC Resolution 2231.

However, Washington's unilateral withdrawal and subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the historic deal in limbo.

Iran remained fully compliant with the JCPOA for an entire year, waiting for the co-signatories to fulfill their end of the bargain by offsetting the impacts of American bans on the Iranian economy.

As the European parties failed

to do so, the Islamic Republic moved in May 2019 to suspend its JCPOA commitments under Articles 26 and 36 of the pact covering Tehran's legal rights.

Iran has taken a total of five steps in scaling back its obligations under the JCPOA.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ryabkov stressed that Moscow and Tehran would hold consultations on the Fordow nuclear facility.

As part of the fourth step away from the deal, Iran began injecting uranium hexafluoride (UF6) gas into centrifuges at the Fordow plant, where 1,044 centrifuges are installed.

(Continued on Page 7)