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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Is India Shifting Gear From Democracy to Dictatorship?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The country which calls itself the world's largest democracy with a rich polyglot culture of religious, ethnic, and lingual tolerance with emphasis on Hindu-Muslim harmony and respect for the rights of all citizens, seems to be changing track.

The trend in India today is that of bigotry, hatred, mob lynching, beating and burning alive of people, especially Muslims by thugs posing as Hindus in violation of the peaceful tenets of Hinduism, while the police look the other way and the government keeps mum.

The UN and world countries are viewing with increasing concern the growing bouts of organized violence and bloodshed.

On Monday, the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Seyyed Abbas Musavi, expressed horror at the recent mayhem in New Delhi and felt that Iran as a brotherly country having age-old ties with India, should break its silence.

He said: "We are very sorry and deeply saddened by the incidents that have happened. We consider India a country of religious tolerance."

Last week, while the white supremacist President of the US, Donald Trump the terrorist, was dining with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, thousands of Muslims in the same city were being beaten and terrorized by the hired thugs of the ruling extremist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The Delhi police, who report directly to the rabidly anti-Muslim Home Minister Amit Shah, either stood idly by or escorted the mobs. The violence raged across the north-east of India's capital for four days as mosques were set alight, Muslims were burned alive in their homes or dragged out into the streets and lynched.

Trump in his visit to India hailed Modi as a champion of religious liberty even as the Indian government has adopted policies targeting Muslims.

He publicly accepted Modi's word that he treats his countrymen fairly without regard to faith and religion and made no mention of the months of nationwide protests – both by Hindus and Muslims – over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which has been widely criticized as discriminating on the basis of religion, in particular for excluding Muslims.

According to political scientists, the amendment Act is considered to be unconstitutional. The major opposition political parties in India state that it violates the Constitution's Article 14 that guarantees equality to all. They all agree that the new law seeks to make Muslims second-class citizens of India, while preferentially treating non-Muslims in India.

As it is evident by the nationwide peaceful protests held for the past few months in India against the CAA, the majority of Hindus who believe that peace is the essential part of their religion, have come out in tens of thousands in support of their Muslim compatriots against this act.

The concept of "Ahimsa" or non-violence forms a cardinal principle of Hinduism. Then, could these gangs attacking and killing Muslims and spreading hatred, be called Hindus?

No they are not Hindus, as the Hindus themselves are testifying against the policies of hatred and bloodshed spread by these lawless and anarchic elements, intent upon destroying India.

Residents in Mustafabad, an area right on the edge of Delhi badly affected by the riots, reported seeing mobs armed with metal rods, wooden sticks, kerosene and matches coming in trucks from the neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Uttar Pradesh, whose BJP Chief Minister, the blatantly Islamophobic Yogi Adityanath, is notorious for inciting the worst state-sponsored attacks, detention and torture of Muslims in a crackdown against the anti-CAA protests.

It should be recalled that even before Modi became Prime Minister, he was considered as the symbol of an Islamophobe. As Chief Minister of Gujarat, he had been charged with complicity in the sectarian riots of 2002 that left more than 2,000 Muslims dead.

It is now clear that the notorious terrorist outfit Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh (RSS), which draws inspiration from the Italian Fascist Benito Mussolini and the German Nazi Adolf Hitler, is controlling the BJP government from behind the scenes.

The only solution to save India from turning into a dictatorship of anarchic elements, is for Modi to publicly distance himself from RSS, dismiss Amit Shah, as the opposition is demanding, and repeal the CAA and similar unconstitutional acts.

Iran 'Anxiously Following' Muslims' Plight in India



Hindu extremists beat up a Muslim man during riots in New Delhi.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran said on Monday it is anxiously following the news coming from India where communal violence has killed over 40 people.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi expressed deep sorrow over the recent violence against Muslims in the Indian capital that was the worst since 1984.

"We are very sorry and deeply saddened for the incidents that have happened," he said, adding, "We consider India a country of religious tolerance."

"The news we hear is very worrying," the spokesman said, expressing hope that the anti-Muslim violence in India will end as soon as possible.

Iranian students planned to hold a rally in Tehran Monday to protest the killing of Muslims in India.

Violence erupted in the Indian capital last Monday, leading to a three-day-long rampage, with Hindu mobs attacking Muslim homes, shops and mosques.

The attacks were carried out on protesters, who have been rallying

against a new citizenship law, after the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kapil Mishra threatened peaceful sit-ins would be removed from the streets.

It was the worst violence in Delhi since 1984, when more than 3,000 minority Sikhs were killed following the assassination of then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

On Monday, Indian lawmakers pushed and shoved each other in parliament after opposition parties demanded the resignation of interior minister Amit Shah over the handling of deadly riots triggered by a citizenship law that excludes Muslims.

Police said at least 41 people had died in two days of Hindu-Muslim clashes in New Delhi last week.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party says the law, which grants refuge to non-Muslim minorities from across south Asia, is required to protect those groups from persecution. Critics say it is discriminatory and contravenes the spirit of India's secular constitution.

Hundreds of thousands of people -

led by students and Muslim groups - have been demonstrating for more than two months, amid fears that the government will also launch a population register that could leave many Muslims stateless.

A week ago, a mob of several hundred people chanting Hindu nationalist slogans torched two mosques and dozens of Muslim houses, eyewitnesses said, while nearby houses carrying Hindu symbols were left untouched.

In parliament on Monday, opposition legislators shouted slogans and waved posters demanding that Shah, who controls Delhi's police and is a key ally of Modi's, step down.

In Shiv Vihar, a low-income area in northeast Delhi where some of the worst violence took place, hundreds of paramilitary police patrolled deserted lanes.

But there was anger from those affected.

"The police took us to another area but didn't even ask how we were," said Muhammad Uddin, 70, whose home was burnt by the mob. "I don't even have clothes."

U.S. Sanctions Hampering Iran's Fight to Contain Virus

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- U.S. sanctions on Iran have led to the outbreak and rapid spread of the coronavirus in the Islamic Republic, President Hassan Rouhani's adviser said on Monday.

"The economic sanctions, and Europe's complicity, left Iran's public health infrastructure underprepared to deal with coronavirus in a timely way," Hesamodin Ashena wrote on Twitter.

"Trump's policies are partly responsible for shaping the spread of this virus, and the lives lost in the process," he added.

Ashena said the U.S. should lift sanctions against Iran, which prevent the country from fighting the coronavirus outbreak.

"Don't you understand that coronavirus is an international problem? The more it spreads here, the more likely it is to spread there! Don't wait for an invitation to help contain the virus, lift the damn sanctions,

which is impeding us from tackling it swiftly!" Ashena tweeted.

"COVID-19 is international & circulates globally. The irony of @realdonaldtrump's sanctions, which have ravaged Iran's public health infrastructure, is that it torpedoed the virus to America. Sanctions need to be lifted to help contain a global problem- no more clowning around!"

The Iranian health ministry reported the country's first cases of coronavirus on February 19. Infected were detected in the city of Qom.

Government spokesman Ali Rabiei also blamed the US sanctions for the spread of the sinister virus, but emphasized that the Islamic Republic is successfully battling it.

"Needless to say, the pressure of U.S. sanctions and economic terrorism has adversely affected the country's

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Turk Killed in Rocket Attack Near Iran Border

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- A rocket hit an armored vehicle carrying Turkish customs personnel in an attack near the border with Iran on Monday, killing one person and injuring others, Turkish officials said, adding that clashes were under way in the area.

The rocket struck the vehicle's front wheel around 0550 GMT, Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu said on Twitter. He said "the

terrorists were followed and cornered", but did not specify who the attackers were believed to be.

Shortly after, Turkish Trade Minister Rushar Pekcan said one of the customs agents had been killed in the attack.

The office of the governor of Agri province said the vehicle was hit in transit from the Dogubayazit border area to the Gurbulak border gate, causing it

to skid off the road and flip over. In did not say who had carried out the attack.

The vehicle was near a parking lot for freight trucks, hospital and security sources said. Several ambulances, security teams and search and rescue personnel were sent to the area.

Some Turkish media reports said the attack was carried out by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)

The Holy Qur'an

They take their priests and their anchorites to be their lords in derogation of Allah, and (they take as their Lord) Christ the son of Mary; yet they were commanded to worship but One Allah. there is no god but He. Praise and glory to Him: (Far is He) from having the partners they associate (with Him).

The Holy Qur'an (9:31)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:16
Evening (Maghreb)	18:20
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:08
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:31

Ministry: 24.5 Million Iranians Took Part in Elections

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's interior ministry on Monday announced details of the voter turnout in the recent parliamentary elections.

According to the ministry, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province had the highest turnout with 70.66 percent, and Tehran province stood last with 26.24 percent.

Overall, more than 24.5 million Iranians participated in the elections, meaning average turnout across Iran's 31 provinces was 42.57 percent.

Participation in ten provinces was above 50% and in 16 other provinces the turnout was between 40 and 50%, the ministry said.

The Islamic Republic of Iran held parliamentary elections on February 21. On the election day, there were 55,000 polling stations in 208 constituencies to elect a total of 290 seats in parliament.

For 31 provinces, there were 174 single-member constituencies and 34 multi-member constituencies with each electing two to six MPs barring Tehran province which elects 30 lawmakers. The remaining five seats are reserved for religious minorities: Jews, Zoroastrians, a shared seat for Assyrians and Chaldeans, and two for Armenians.

A total of 57,918,000 Iranians were eligible to vote. Of that number, 2,931,000 were eligible to vote for the first time.

militants, who have fought an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984. The PKK are active in southeast Turkey but less so in Agri.

Earlier this month, Turkey closed its land and air borders with Iran over an outbreak of the new coronavirus. On Friday, Iran announced nationwide school closures as the death toll from the outbreak rose to 34.