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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Assange's Arrest, an Assault on Independent Journalism

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Freedom of the press, which includes the printed and electronic media, is a right of journalists, without interference from state authorities and guaranteed by constitutional protection. The United Nations 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference, and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

Yet despite, the US First Amendment ensuring this freedom of journalism and the right of journalists to cover facts and realities, Washington is violating its own constitution by demanding the extradition of the Founder of the famous website 'WikiLeaks', Australian investigative journalist, Julian Paul Hawkins, who goes by the pseudonym 'Julian Assange' and is currently languishing in a prison in Britain.

What are the US, Britain, and other western regimes, afraid of? Their crimes against humanity, of course, and their bleak, black and bloody record of state terrorism to destabilize and dominate world countries.

Assange, who exposed the dirty secrets and wrongdoings of the western regimes, especially that of the US, faces trumped up charges that threaten the very independence of journalists and journalism.

The roguish regime of Donald Trump has levelled an 18-count indictment, charging him under the 1917 Espionage Act for his constitutional right to reveal to the American and the world people a trove of secret documents relating to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The right of a journalist, committed to his profession and abiding by the universal principles of presentation of facts, realities and the plain truth, is to expose horrific crimes, especially by state actors, so that the powerful politicians who order them are brought to justice. This is the reason press freedom is considered important.

Assange, who was seized from the embassy of Ecuador in London, where he had sought asylum in 2012, did just that with full confidence of enlightening the world people with facts and how regimes indulging in crimes against humanity, try to conceal the manifest truth.

It should be recalled that in 2010, the British daily Guardian, as well as the New York Times and a few other corporate newspapers, had partnered WikiLeaks to publish the contents of thousands of confidential US diplomatic cables, known as Cablegate. That year, WikiLeaks released other confidential US government information as well, such as the Afghanistan War Logs, the Iraq War Logs, and the infamous "Collateral Murder" video.

The material exposed atrocities perpetrated by the US military, as well as other disgraceful acts—like US diplomats strategizing on how to undermine elected governments not liked by Washington, to spy on allies and to bully poor countries into paying wildly exorbitant prices for life-saving drugs.

Since investigative journalists expose the dirty and criminal activities of the US and pro-US regimes, they are either kidnapped and killed or imprisoned on trumped up charges.

It is time the free world and all those dedicated to journalism closed ranks to pressure the release of Assange and similar investigative journalists, or else, the US and its accomplices-in-crimes, such as Britain, the illegal Zionist entity, and Arab dictatorial regimes, would continue with gay abandon their indulgence in 'yellow journalism' by manipulating the press to publish lies and distort realities.

The plan is to distract attention from their acts of state terrorism, which include the genocide in Palestine, the war in Yemen, the false accusations against Iran, and the sabotaging of oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman by the CENTCOM terrorists.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Larijani: Tanker Attacks in Line With U.S. 'Economic Terrorism'



An Iranian navy boat tries to stop the fire of an oil tanker after it was attacked in the Gulf of Oman, June 13, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said Sunday that suspicious attacks against oil tankers in the Sea of Oman are in line with the U.S. economic sanctions on Iran.

Larijani said the attacks on oil tankers on Thursday have all the fingerprints of the U.S. after the country failed to achieve any results through economic sanctions on Iran.

He said the U.S. has a track record of fabricating tension to use it as a pretext for aggression, citing incidents during the World War when the Americans would target their own ships near Japan to give themselves an excuse to ramp up aggression against the Asian country.

Shortly after the incidents on

Thursday morning, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo blamed Iran, without offering any evidence. Iran has rejected the accusation, and footage later released by the U.S. as proof of Iranian involvement has been discredited by experts and dismissed by other governments, including Japan.

Larijani mocked remarks by Pompeo, who urged Iran to "meet diplomacy with diplomacy, not with terror, bloodshed, and extortion."

"The funny part of the story is Pompeo's remarks advising Iran to use diplomacy in response to diplomatic moves. He's really a fine one to talk," Larijani said.

The Iranian official then named a series of measures taken by the U.S. against Iran and asked if they con-

stituted "diplomacy."

"Is it diplomacy to start a face-off with a revolutionary nation with acts of economic terrorism, which they themselves call the toughest ever?" he said.

"Is it diplomacy, Mr. Pompeo, to renege on one's promises in the nuclear agreement?" he said, referring to the U.S.'s unilateral withdrawal from a multilateral deal with Iran.

On Thursday, two oil tankers – one sailing under a Panama flag and owned by Japan and another bearing the Marshall Islands' ensign owned by Norwegian Frontline – were hit by yet unspecified accidents in the Sea of Oman. Iranian rescuers rushed to the assistance, transferring all of their 44 crew members to Iran's southern shores.

Iran Summons British Envoy Over 'Baseless' Accusations

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has summoned the British ambassador to Tehran after London blamed it for attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, the Students News Agency ISNA reported.

"During the meeting with Iran's foreign ministry official, Iran strongly condemned the unfounded allegations and criticized Britain's unacceptable stance regarding the attacks in the Gulf of Oman," it said.

The ambassador was asked for an explanation and correction after Britain was the only nation to echo U.S. accusations, ISNA reported.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt issued a statement on Friday blaming Iran and its Islamic Revolution Guards Corps for the attacks, saying no other state or non-state actor could have been responsible. Iran has denied any involvement.

The British ambassador on Sunday brazenly denied he was summoned by the Iranian foreign ministry. "Interesting. And news to me," ambassador Rob

Macaire said in a tweet a day after the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement that it had summoned the envoy over his government's accusations.

"I asked for an urgent meeting with the Foreign Ministry yesterday and it was granted. No 'summons'. Of course if formally summoned I would always respond, as would all Ambassadors," Macaire wrote.

On Friday, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said London had concluded Iran was "almost certainly" responsible for Thursday's tanker attacks.

He was echoing remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump who said Thursday's attacks on two tankers in the Gulf of Oman had Iran "written all over it".

Iran has denied any involvement in the twin attacks. It dismissed Hunt's accusations as "false" and chided London for its "blind and precipitous alignment" with U.S. views, according to the foreign ministry.

The latest incident comes as ties between Tehran and

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Hamas, Iran Jointly Denounce U.S. Summit in Bahrain

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran and Hamas say a plan devised by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump targeting the Palestinian nation, dubbed "the deal of the century", only seeks to meet the interests of the Zionists in the Middle East and aims to establish the Zionist regime's occupation policies.

The remarks were made in a meeting between Iran's Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi and senior Hamas officials, including deputy head of its political bureau Saleh Al-Aroui, a member of Hamas Political

Bureau Hessam Badran, its foreign relations chief Osama Hamdan and its representative in Lebanon Ahmed Abdulhadi, whose report was published on Hamas website on Sunday.

During the meeting, the two sides noted that the policies adopted by the United States leave no doubt that a series of pro-Zionist decisions made by the U.S. president, which started with introducing the occupied East Jerusalem Al-Quds as the capital city of Israel and moving Washington's embassy there, will continue with lending full

support to Israel's settlement construction activities in the West Bank and the occupied part of the Golan Heights.

In December 2017, Trump officially declared the disputed city of Jerusalem Al-Quds as the occupying regime's "capital," despite warnings from around the world that the measure would risk triggering a fresh wave of violence in the Middle East.

Later in May 2018, the United States officially announced the opening of its new embassy in

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The Holy Qur'an



And if every soul that has done injustice had all that is in the earth, it would offer it for ransom, and they will manifest regret when they see the chastisement and the matter shall be decided between them with justice and they shall not be dealt with unjustly.
The Holy Qur'an (10:54)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:05
Evening (Maghreb)	20:44
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:01
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:48

EU's Financial Mechanism Only on Paper

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani says the financial mechanism proposed by the EU to normalize economic ties with Iran after the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear has not yet been translated into reality, and is only on paper.

In a meeting with the Chairwoman of the Foreign Policy Committee of the French National Assembly Marielle de Sarnez here, Larijani said despite several rounds of negotiations held between Iran and the European Union, French President Emmanuel Macron's promise to preserve the Iran nuclear deal has not yet been realized.

"When there is no appropriate ground for banking ties, how can Iranian and French firms press ahead with their economic activities?" Larijani said.

The parliament speaker went on to say that France's Total company was among the first foreign firms which left Iran after the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal back on May last year.

For his part, the French senior lawmaker said Paris is seeking to preserve the JCPOA and is making efforts to implement the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX).

"Efforts are underway to preserve the Iran nuclear deal," she added.

After the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran deal, the European Union set forth the INSTEX to keep its economic ties with Iran amid the U.S. sanctions. But over one year on, the mechanism has not yet been implemented. Iran has warned that preserving the JCPOA requires multilateral efforts by all remaining signatories of the deal.