

"Now that the trustworthy Iranian negotiators have realized the disloyalty of the U.S. and its European accomplices, it is necessary that they narrate the consequences of their misplaced trust to the West for the Iranian nation, who have shown great patience for six years," the senior Iranian academics said in an open letter to President Hassan Rouhani and FM Muhammad Javad Zarif.

Kayhan International

IRGC Builds Vertical Landing Drone

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – An Iranian military commander on Monday unveiled plans for testing a vertical take-off and landing military drone by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force.

Director of the Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization of the IRGC Ground Force, General Ali Koohestani, highlighted the great headways that his forces have made in manufacturing a broad range of homegrown military equipment, including artillery ordnance, aerial refueling equipment, anti-armor weapons, various assault rifles, tanks and drones.

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FM Zarif:

Iran Can No Longer Tolerate Maritime Offenses









Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei:

Increasing Population Must Become a Culture

TEHRAN (Dispatches) --Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called for more babies in Iran, hailing a big populace as a source of national strength for any Muslim country.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks to a gathering of young married couples in March on the occasion of the anniversary of the First Shia Imam, Imam Ali (PBUH)'s marriage to the Prophet of Islam (PBUH)'s daughter Fatimah.

The Leader's website published the remarks for the first time late Sunday.

Ayatollah Khamenei described a "decent spouse" among the greatest of divine offerings, and advised couples to make their lifestyles as much in line with Islamic principles as possible.

Ayatollah Khamenei then cited the Prophet as advising Muslims towards holy matrimony, reproduction, and population growth.

"If the number of Muslims, whether in an Islamic country like Iran or the Muslim Ummah increases, the ground will be prepared for development and sublimation," the Leader said.

"When a population is large, it necessarily features more

competent people, and this ultimately contributes to a growth in available competencies," Ayatollah Khamenei remarked. "Small populations become subjugated," the Leader said as he advised that the increase in the number of babies becomes a "culture".

Ayatollah Khamenei cited the examples of countries like China and India, which have come to boast many achievements thanks to the expanse of their respective populations.

"In China and India, having a larger population is recognized and respected as social, political, and international advantages and that is why they have had some achievements."

In some Western countries such as the United States, some families are found to have more than a dozen children, the Leader stated.

"They are encouraged (towards bearing more children), and no one reprimands them," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"When it comes to Iran, however, it's the other way around and people are encouraged to behave conversely, namely to give birth to few children," the Leader added.

No Reaction From Nigerian Government: Sheikh Zakzaky Granted Bail for Medical Care

KADUNA, Nigeria (Dispatches) -- A Nigerian judge ruled on Monday that the detained leader of a banned Nigerian Shia Muslim group could seek medical treatment abroad, after a series of protests calling for his 2016 court order. It is the largest Shia organization in a country where around half of the population is Muslim.

During the December 2015 raid on his residence in the city



Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif looks on during a news conference in Tehran, Aug. 5, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran runs security in the Strait of Hormuz and will no longer tolerate "maritime offences" there, its foreign minister said on Monday, a day after it seized a second oil tanker near the strategic waterway for smuggling fuel.

Tanker traffic through the Strait has become a focus for an increasingly tense standoff between Washington and Tehran, into which Britain has also been dragged.

"Iran used to forgo some maritime offences in the Persian Gulf but will never close its eyes anymore," Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif told a news conference in Tehran, adding Iran is responsible for the security and safety of the Strait of Hormuz and the region.

Angered by intensified U.S. sanctions designed to strangle its vital oil trade and the failure of European parties to agree on a way of salvaging the 2015 nuclear agreement, Tehran has scaled back its commitments under the pact.

"Iran will leave its 2015 nuclear deal with powers if necessary," Zarif said, adding that all measures taken by Iran were however "reversible if its interests under the deal are secured."

Zarif called for improved ties with Iran's neighbors in the Middle

East. He also labeled as "piracy" the seizure by Britain in July of an Iranian oil tanker near Gibraltar.

Two weeks later, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) seized a British tanker, Stena Impero, near the Strait of Hormuz for marine violations.

"Britain has been complicit in the U.S. economic terrorism against Iran," Zarif said.

The foreign minister said the United States is unable to build a naval coalition in the Persian Gulf because its allies are too "ashamed" to join it.

"Today the United States in alone in the world and cannot create a

coalition. Countries that are its friends are too ashamed of being in a coalition with them," he said.

"They brought this situation upon themselves, with lawbreaking, by creating tensions and crises."

Iran and the United States have been locked in a battle of nerves since May 2018 when President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the landmark 2015 deal and began reimposing sanctions.

Tensions soared after the Trump administration stepped up a U.S. campaign of "maximum pressure" against Iran, with drones downed and tankers mysteriously attacked in Persian Gulf waters.

The United States has pounced on those developments, seeking to form a coalition whose mission -dubbed Operation Sentinel.

According to the New York Times, while the U.S. is trying to project its campaign as a bid to secure the Persian Gulf, "the Europeans argue that Washington created the problem in the first place by trying to kill off Iran's oil exports".

Hence, Washington has been struggling to build such a coalition, with European countries reticent and believed to be concerned about being dragged into a possible conflict.

Asked on Monday about reports that he had been invited to meet Trump in the White House, Zarif said he had turned it down despite the threat of sanctions against him.

"I was told in New York I would be sanctioned in two week unless I accepted that offer, which fortunately

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al with powers if necessary," The United

release turned violent last month.

Nigeria banned the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) in July after a week of protests in which the group said at least 20 of its members were killed in police crackdowns. Police gave no death toll.

The group's leader, Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky, has been held since 2015 when government forces killed around 350 people in a storming of its compound and a nearby mosque. He has not been released despite a court order to that effect, and the IMN said his detention is illegal.

The judge in a court in the northwestern city of Kaduna granted Zakzaky and his wife leave to seek medical treatment in India under supervision of state officials.

Żakzaky's lawyers have said that while in detention, Zakzaky lost an eye to advanced glaucoma and risks losing the other, while shrapnel lodged in his body since the 2015 storming of the IMN compound was causing lead poisoning. IMN says Zakzaky should be released in line with a December of Zaria, Zakzaky lost vision in his left eye as well as three of his sons, while his wife sustained serious wounds.

Since then, the government has been violently cracking down on the IMN and its members.

The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC), based in London, said last month that the cleric's health condition had further deteriorated, since he was reportedly poisoned in prison.

The cleric's son, Muhammad, told Press TV on July 6 that his father was in dire need of medical treatment, as "large and dangerous quantities of lead and cadmium have been found in his blood." He said that the authorities intended to murder his father since they refuse to take any measures.

Recently, a Nigerian court granted the government permission to label the IMN as a "terrorist" group, a move that many believe would give the officials the opportunity to clamp down harder on it. IMN members regularly take to the streets of the Nigerian capital to call for the release of Zakzaky.

India Strips Kashmir of Special Autonomous Status

Leaders Warn of 'Catastrophic' Consequences

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR (Reuters) -- India on Monday revoked the

special status of Kashmir, the Himalayan region that has long been a flashpoint in ties with neighboring Pakistan, moving to grasp its only Muslim-majority region more tightly.

In the most far-reaching political move in one of the world's most militarized regions in nearly seven decades, India said it would scrap a constitutional provision that allows its state of Jammu and Kashmir to make its own laws.

"The entire constitution will be applicable to Jammu and Kashmir," Interior Minister Amit Shah told parliament, as opposition lawmakers voiced loud protests against the repeal.

The government also lifted a ban on property purchases by nonresidents, opening the way for Indians to invest and settle there, just as they can elsewhere in India, although the measure is likely to provoke a backlash in the region. Pakistan, which also claims Kashmir, said it strongly condemned the decision, which is bound to further strain ties between the nucleararmed rivals.

"As the party to this international dispute, Pakistan will exercise all possible options to counter the illegal steps," its foreign ministry said in a statement.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, convulsed by a nearly 30-year armed revolt in which tens of thousands of people have died, with hundreds of thousands of Indian troops deployed to quell it.

India blames that rebellion on Pakistan, which denies the accusation, saying that it backs the right to self-determination for Kashmir. Hours earlier the Indian government launched a security crackdown in the region, arresting local leaders, suspending telephone and internet services and restricting

public movement in the main city of Srinagar.

Regional leaders have previously said stripping Kashmir's special status amounts to aggression against its people.

The streets in Srinagar were largely deserted as travel curbs kept people indoors, said a Reuters photographer who found a telephone connection in a restaurant near the city's airport.

There was heavy deployment of security forces across Srinagar, but no signs of protest.

A top government source in New Delhi told reporters the restrictions were precautionary, adding that life was expected to return to normal fairly soon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had pushed for radical political change in Kashmir even before he won re-election in May, saying its laws hindered integration with the rest of India. "Politically, it's advantage BJP," said Happymon Jacob, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University in the Indian capital.

"The scrapping of Article 370 of the constitution is likely to set off a slew of political, constitutional and legal battles, not to speak of the battles on the streets of Kashmir." Monday's move reflects Modi's muscular approach to national security. In February, he ordered war planes into Pakistan after a militant group based there claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on a

military convoy in Kashmir.

That step, in turn, prompted a retaliatory raid by Pakistan.

Introduced decades ago, the constitutional provisions reserved government jobs and college places for Kashmir's residents, among other limits aiming to keep people from other parts of the country from overrunning the state.

The government has also decided (Continued on Page 7)