

Russian Scientists Under 24/7 Watch: Kremlin

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- The Kremlin has defended a new security decree, saying foreign spies are observing Russian scientists at all times.

"Of course we must be somewhat vigilant, because foreign special services are on alert," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, answering a question on the decree from the science and education ministry. "There is such a thing as scientific and industrial espionage," Peskov said, adding, "It exists 24/7 and is targeting our scientists, especially young scientists."

Kayhan International

Korean Lawmakers Reject Hormuz Deployment

SEOUL (Press TV) -- South Korea's National Assembly hosted a press briefing Wednesday outlining intense opposition to the potential deployment of naval forces to the Strait of Hormuz, off the coast of Iran.

Civic leaders argue that participation of South Korea in the U.S. venture violates the country's constitution. South Korea on Tuesday sent a destroyer carrying 300 troops to the Gulf of Aden, off the coast of Somalia, to continue the country's anti-piracy mission there.

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Viewpoint

Imam Khomeini's Legacy Firmly Binds Yemen with Iran

Scientists Summoned to Find Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation Method



Iranian Freestylers Win Two Golds at Junior World Championships



Hamas Threatens to Shower Zionist Troops With Missiles



Birthday of the Tenth Immortal Guide

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"There are places of certitude where Allah likes the servants to supplicate to Him. One of these is the tomb of the Chief of Martyrs (Imam) Husain (AS)."

The above statement about the significance of the place of martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) younger grandson Imam Husain (AS), who was martyred in the most brutal manner in the state of acute thirst in Karbala, is a sincere tribute from a worthy descendant, whose birth anniversary we celebrate every year on the 15th of the sacred month of Dhu'l-Hijjah.

The Prophet's 10th Infallible Heir needs no introduction. Born in Medina in 212 AH (828 AD), he was named Ali (AS) in honour of the One and Only Commander of Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). He carried the same 'kunya' (agnomen), that is, "Abu'l-Hasan", and strove to enlighten the Ummah with the genuine teachings of Islam in those days of Abbasid tyranny.

If his spotless character brought him the epithet "an-Naqi" (the Pristinely Pure), his other famous epithet "al-Hadi" is proof of the fact that he was the divinely-decreed Guide of his age.

Like his father, Imam Mohammad at-Taqi al-Jawad (AS), he was also a boy of 8 years when the divine trust of imamate came to rest on his tender shoulders in 220 AH.

In the next 34 years, in the manner of Jesus (AS) -- who was entrusted with prophethood while still an infant in the cradle, as the holy Qur'an says in Surah Maryam -- he endured all sorts of hardships, including house arrest and imprisonment, to make the message of Islam triumph over deviated ideologies.

This is testimony to the virtue of the Tenth Imam's mother as well -- the spotlessly pure lady Sumana al-Maghrebiyya, who was of North African Berber descent. It is confirmation of the famous narration that the Prophets and the Infallible Imams are the offspring of the most virtuous parents of their age.

Imam Hadi (AS) was known in official circles as "Ibn ar-Reza", since the awe of his grandfather, Imam Reza (AS), was still fresh amongst the Abbasid usurpers.

On his authority, the "Ziyarah" or the standard form of salutations to the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), and to the Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS), has been recorded.

The most famous salutation, however, taught by him is the "Ziyarat al-Jame'at-al-Kabira", which, as suggested by its title, is a comprehensive form of greeting for the Infallible Imams, mentioning in the most eloquent terms their unrivalled merits and their prime position in the Sight of God Almighty.

Although for several years, the Tenth Imam was not harassed by the Abbasid caliphs, such as his father's assassin, Mu'tasim, who was preoccupied with wars with the Byzantines, and the latter's son and successor, Watheq, who was immersed in pleasures, the accession of the tyrant, Mutawakkel, changed the situation.

Son of a Greek concubine of Mu'tasim, among the first acts of Mutawakkel as ruler was to destroy the shrine of Imam Husain (AS) in 236 AH, and order the site to be flooded. To his utter astonishment, however, the waters miraculously did not touch the grave of the Martyr of Karbala. He levied heavy taxes on pilgrims to Karbala, and when this failed to deter them, he ordered the cutting of limbs of the pilgrims.

With an aggrieved heart, Imam Hadi (AS) endured this fresh tragedy against his ancestor, Imam Husain (AS). He advised the devotees of the Ahl al-Bayt against risking their life, and to visit other shrines such as those of his venerable disciple and distant cousin, Seyyed Abdul-Azim al-Hassani in Rayy (near modern Tehran). Nonetheless, he continued to highlight the lofty status in the Sight of God, of the Immortal Martyr of Karbala.

Mutawakkel, fearful of the popularity of Imam Hadi (AS) among the people, who were flocking to Medina from far flung places to learn Islamic sciences, forced the Prophet's Heir to come to his capital Samarra, where he was kept under close surveillance.

With his stratagems to humiliate or martyr the Tenth Imam coming to naught, Mutawakkel was killed by his own powerful Turkic guards.

In the next seven years, the Turkic guards raised and removed from power several caliphs. Among these was Mu'taz, an enemy of God who in a cowardly manner laced the food of the Imam with deadly poison. As a result, Imam Hadi (AS) achieved martyrdom at the age of 42 in the prime of manhood in the year 254 AH, and joined his illustrious ancestors in heaven, leaving behind his son and successor, Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS) to take charge of the divine trust which would finally be entrusted to the Saviour of mankind, Imam Mahdi (AS) -- God hasten his reappearance for establishment of the global government of justice).

As for the assassin, Mu'taz, soon the Turkic guards most humiliatingly beat and kicked him to death after exposing him to the torrid sun, and throwing away his corpse.

Today, there are no signs of the graves of the Abbasid caliphs, let alone their palaces, while it is the Grand Shrine of Samarra which, despite being the target of dastardly terrorists, continues to attract pilgrims from all over the world.

Since we are on the threshold of the auspicious Day of Ghadeer, it would not be inappropriate to cite a paragraph from Imam Hadi's (AS) famous salutation to the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS):

"Peace be on you O my Guardian, O Commander of the Faithful, O Allah's Trustee on His earth, His Envoy amongst His creatures and His Conclusive Testament to His servants! I testify that you always opposed self-seeking impulses and were committed to Godwariness; that you were well able to suppress your rage and pardon and forgive the people; that you were displeased when God was disobeyed and were pleased when God was obeyed; that you did what you were enjoined with, observed what was committed to your care, preserved what you were entrusted with, communicated that which you were charged with, and awaited what you had been promised... You distributed the public funds equitably and carried out justice amongst the subjects. You knew Allah's laws better than the entire creation... But what is more amazing, and more atrocious after the denial of your right, is the wrongful dispossession of (the Orchard of) Fadak from (the Prophet's beloved daughter and your wife, Fatema) Zahra, the truthful and the pure one, the mistress of the world's women, and rejection of your testimony and that of your illustrious sons and the progeny of the Mustafa, may Allah's blessings be upon you, while Allah, the Most High, had elevated your rank over the entire Ummah and exalted your station, and He had made manifest your excellence and honoured you above all the world's denizens, keeping away all impurity from you and purifying you with utmost purification.

President Rouhani Warns:

No Zionists in Persian Gulf



This file photo shows Iranian military personnel participating in war games near the Strait of Hormuz in southern Iran.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday Iran and other Persian Gulf states could protect the region's security and foreign forces are not needed, repeating a longstanding rejection of a U.S. maritime security mission in the region.

The United States has launched what it calls a maritime security mission in the Persian Gulf backed by Britain, escalating tensions in the region.

At a weekly cabinet meeting, Rouhani said Persian Gulf states can guarantee security in the region without U.S. assistance and accused the occupying regime of Israel of sowing

instability in the Middle East.

"Israelis had better take care of the security of where they are if they can. Although, wherever they had a presence, they brought about nothing but insecurity, slaughter and terror," he was quoted saying by the Mehr news agency.

"The main perpetrator of terrorism, war and slaughter in the region is the occupying regime of Israel," he added.

He also said American calls for other nations to join its proposed naval mission were "superficial" and "impractical".

"No doubt, no matter how much of these calls is put into practice, it will

do nothing to help the security in the region," Rouhani said.

His comments came in response to efforts by the Trump administration to set up a U.S.-led naval security mission around the Strait of Hormuz.

The U.S. wants an international coalition to purportedly monitor and potentially escort commercial ships there. Britain said last week it would join the mission, but no other U.S. allies have committed themselves so far.

It's not clear if the occupying regime of Israel has been asked to participate.

Last week, the Ynet news site re-

ported Zionist FM Israel Katz had told a closed session of the Knesset foreign affairs and war committee that the occupying regime was involved in the U.S. mission.

On Sunday, the commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC)'s navy warned that "any illegitimate presence by the Zionists in the waters of the Persian Gulf could spark a war".

Iraq has also rejected Israeli involvement in the Persian Gulf, with its foreign minister tweeting Monday that regional states were capable of securing the strategic waterway themselves and that the occupying regime of Israel's participation in such a mission was unacceptable.

Tehran and Washington have been locked in a battle of nerves since U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Iran last year and reimposed sanctions.

Tensions have soared in the region, with drones downed and tankers mysteriously attacked in Persian Gulf waters.

Apart from Britain, which already has warships on protection duty in the Persian Gulf after a UK-flagged tanker was seized by Iran's IRGC, other European countries have refrained from joining the planned operation for fear it might harm their efforts to reach a negotiated settlement with Iran.

The ship seizures came after British Royal Marines detained a tanker carrying Iranian oil off the British overseas territory of Gibraltar on July 4.

Sheikh Zakzaky Caged, Mistreated in India

ABUJA (Dispatches) -- The Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) said on Wednesday its leader Ibrahim al-Zakzaky is being treated like a criminal in India where was flown in Monday for medical treatment.

Zakzaky and his wife were caged and not allowed any freedom at Medanta Hospital in New Delhi, the movement said.

Chairman of Free al-Zakzaky Committee Abubakar Abdurahman said the IMN leader may be brought back to Nigeria.

"We are already holding discussions about the plan. We may bring him back to Nigeria if the condition in the hospital did not improve," he said.

Since Zakzaky arrived at the hospital, authorities "have caged him like a criminal", Abdurahman said. Security was heightened and this was instigated by America, India and the Israeli regime, he added.

The cleric was flown to India

on Monday following a Kaduna court order last week.

He had requested to be allowed to travel to India for advanced medical treatment following the deterioration of his health and that of his wife, Zeenah, in detention.

Both of them have been detained since December 2015 after a clampdown by soldiers who killed at least 347 IMN members.

In an audio message, Sheikh Zakzaky has accused the Nigerian government of frustrating his medical treatment in India. Speaking in Hausa, he said the situation at the hospital in India is "pathetic and worrisome".

Zakzaky said the management of Medanta Hospital had been threatened not to admit him for treatment.

"The hospital officials received us well. They told us that they had parked two ambulance

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China Set to Confront U.S. on Iran Projects: Report

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- China has "re-engaged" Iran on three key energy projects which the world's biggest oil buyer is adamant to carry on with their implementation despite U.S. sanctions, a report says.

The international energy website OilPrice.com quoted a senior source working closely with Iran's Ministry of Petroleum as saying that Phase 11 of the supergiant South Pars gas field, Yadavaran oil field and the Jask oil export terminal are the three projects which the Chinese want to continue.

Head of the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) Muhammad Meshkinfam said last week talks had resumed with Chinese developers to advance Phase 11.

China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) became the dominant investor in Phase 11 after France's Total withdrew from the project last summer under increasing pres-

sure from the United States.

Last December, Reuters said CNPC had decided to suspend investment in the South Pars project, but Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh said Iran had rejected it.

"We have to sort out the issue with this country (China). It has to pull out of the contract which if it does so, its share will be transferred to Iran's Petropars," the minister said.

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) had awarded the project in July 2017 to a consortium comprising Total, CNPC and Petropars through a contract worth more than \$4 billion.

When Total withdrew, CNPC was assigned the French firm's 50.1 percent stake in the field, giving it a total of 80.1 percent in the site, with Iran's Petropars holding the remainder.

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