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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

Nasrallah: U.S. Plots Against Iran Doomed

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Secretary General of the Lebanese Hezbollah Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has sent a letter to Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif to voice support for the top Iranian diplomat who has been blacklisted by the US.

In a letter, Nasrallah praised Foreign Minister Zarif for standing against the U.S. by disclosing the truth, saying the U.S. plots against Iran are doomed to failure, like those hatched against Lebanon in the 2006 war.

What follows in the text of the Lebanese leader's letter to Zarif: Dear brother, Dr. Muhammad Javad Zarif, the honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

May the peace, mercy and blessing of Allah be upon you;

When the American authorities announced the imposition of sanctions on you and added you to the list of the honorable people, I and my brothers decided to send you a message to express our solidarity and respect; but I preferred to postpone issuing the message until today, August 14, the day on which the Lebanese resistance could defeat the US and the so-called Israel with the full support and backing from the Islamic Republic of Iran during a 33-day war in July and August 2006.

The decisions and plots in that cruel war and grave invasion were made in America, and were under the authority of the powerless administration of George Bush the son, Condoleezza Rice, and John Bolton. The Israeli army, alleged by them to be the strongest army in the region, was merely an instrument for operation in that war.

Bolton, the then U.S. envoy in the Security Council, had told one of the Arab officials in that war,

"There is no room for diplomatic activity, because the war would not end unless with Hezbollah's destruction or surrender." But a few weeks later, Bolton told that Arab official, "We must finish the war right now."

"Did you destroy Hezbollah?" the Arab official had asked him.

"No," Bolton said.

"Did you force Hezbollah to surrender?"

"No."

"So why are you ending the war?"

"Because if the war continues, 'Israel' will be gripped by a tremendous catastrophe," Bolton had replied.

Mr. Minister, our dear friend; Bolton, who threatens to overthrow the Islamic Republic's establishment, has had no achievement or victory in his life. On these days back in 2006, the U.S. retreated and was defeated in the face of popular resistance from a country with a small area and embroiled in internal disunity, let alone in the face of a great regional country, a united nation, a coherent establishment, and an august leadership.

Mr. Minister; you are a loud voice in all international venues, who discloses the truth, expresses what is rightful, and shouts it before the eyes of the world's unruliest tyrants, namely the U.S. and Trump and all individuals of the same type, and this is the biggest jihad.

They sought to besiege you, push you away, and intimidate you, but your presence and influence were strengthened and your position was elevated; and God willing, you will continue to remain an advocate of the oppressed and those resisting in the same way. May God protect and help you.

Hassan Nasrallah
August 14, 2019

IRGC Chief Gen. Salami: Enemies Must Factor 'Globalized Power' of Iran



Iran has made major breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing military equipment and hardware.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the enemies of the Islamic Republic must take into account the country's "globalized" power when making any plan with regard to Iran.

Major General Hussein Salami made the remarks while visiting the IRGC's forces positioned along northwestern Iranian mountains near the border cities of Sardasht and Piranshahr in West Azarbaijan Province on Thursday.

"Our message to the enemies is to take into account the power of the Islamic Iran, which has been taken to a global level, in all their calculations," General Salami said.

The commander described the Islamic Republic as "an independent power" in the international arena, saying the country has managed to retain its economic, political, and

cultural independence as well as its self-sufficiency in the area of military power.

"This structural independence has turned into an unparalleled model for the people of the world," Salami asserted.

Commenting on the quality of the security governing the areas, which he was visiting, Salami hailed that the IRGC's "devoted and revolutionary" servicemen enjoyed sweeping command over the entire northwestern mountainous areas that border the country's neighbors, describing the level of security in these areas as a "monumental masterpiece" created by Iranian defense forces.

General Salami's remarks came a day after the commander of the Iranian army's air defense force also said that the country's enemies did not dare try its defensive might and

preparedness.

"If the enemy today has stopped at a distance of 200 miles away from the Strait of Hormuz and is pulling out its vessels from the Persian Gulf, it is because of our armed forces' deterrence power, and the enemy knows that it cannot test Iran's preparedness and defense might," Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard said.

The commander added that the Iranian army has beefed up its deterrence power to such a degree that it now forms a solid shield and will defend the country's territory so powerfully that it will never cross enemies' mind that they might launch an act of aggression against Iran.

Last Saturday, the Iranian army unveiled the "Falaq radar system," a domestically upgraded and overhauled version of a foreign air de-

'Iran to Give Crushing Response to Any Aggression'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araqchi says the Islamic Republic will give a rapid and crushing response to any act of aggression, reiterating that Iran's military capabilities are for defense.

Araqchi made the remarks in a meeting with Chairman of the Defense, Intelligence, Foreign Affairs and Information Commission of the People's Representative Council of Indonesia, Abdul Kharis Almsyari, and some of the commission's members in Tehran.

In the meeting, the Iranian diplomat welcomed the expansion of relations with Indonesia in diverse fields, explicated Tehran's defense policy, and underlined that its military capabilities are exclusively for deterrence, not against any other country.

"In its modern history, Iran has not started any war, and will not do it hereafter either, but would not have the slightest hesitation in defending itself, and will respond to any aggressor immediately and crushingly," Araqchi stressed.

On Iran's peaceful nuclear program and the US' baseless allegations, the Iranian diplomat said, "According to the fatwa (religious edict) of the Supreme Leader, we deem any kind of non-peaceful use of nuclear energy haram (forbidden) and rejected, but we have locally developed this technology within the framework of a peaceful program, with the capabilities of our own scientists."

He also emphasized that Washington's cruel sanctions against the Iranian nation are illegal and inhumane in nature, noting, however, that Iran is determined to turn them into an opportunity for transforming its economy.

For his part, chairman of the Indonesian parliamentary commission lauded Iran's self-confidence and independence, stressed the need for the enhancement of parliamentary interaction between the two Muslim states, and voiced Indonesia's readiness for cooperation with Iran in various fields, including in the fight against extremism and terrorism.

The Holy Qur'an

But if they turn back, say: Allah is sufficient for me, there is no god but He; on Him do I rely, and He is the Lord of mighty power.
The Holy Qur'an (9.129)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:08
Evening (Maghreb)	20:11
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:53
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:24

fense radar system.

"This system has high capabilities and can identify all types of cruise missiles, stealth planes, drone systems and ballistic missiles for a range of 400 kilometers," commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard said.

The Falaq is a phased-array radar system which can be incorporated into the country's larger integrated air defense, further improving the radar coverage of existing systems, specifically that of the S-300.

In another development also related to advances in Iran's defense (Continued on Page 7)

FM Zarif to Visit Kuwait, Scandinavia

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif will pay separate visits to Kuwait and the three Scandinavian nations of Finland, Sweden, and Norway in coming days.

The Iranian foreign minister will first pay a one-day visit to Kuwait on Saturday.

After returning to Iran, Zarif will then depart for the Finnish capital of Helsinki late Sunday, and hold talks with the Scandinavian nation's president, Sauli Niinistö, and foreign minister, Pekka Haavisto, on Monday.

The Iranian top diplomat will also meet Finland's minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Ville Skinnari.

The ongoing tensions in the Persian Gulf will be a focus of talks between Zarif and Finland officials, the Finnish foreign ministry told Euronews.

Helsinki seeks to know more about Tehran's ideas to ease tensions in the region during Zarif's trip, the foreign ministry said.

"Tensions in the Persian Gulf have an impact on the entire world. The importance of maintaining a dialogue is emphasized in this situation."

"Discussion topics in the meetings will include bilateral relations, international and regional issues, human rights issues and Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Finland, the rotating president of the European Union, will elaborate on its goals and plans during its presidency during talks with the Iranian foreign minister.

Zarif will later leave Helsinki for Stockholm and Oslo, where he is going to hold talks with top Swedish and Norwegian officials.

U.S. Charges More Over Iran Embargo Violation

LAS VEGAS (Dispatches) -- A federal grand jury has charged a 74-year-old Southern Nevada man with conspiracy to violate the United State's embargo on Iran after he allegedly sold Russian-made tank helmets to someone in the Middle East's second largest country.

The three-count indictment charges Richard Lant, of Las Vegas, and Dariush Niknia, 56, from California's Elk Grove, with engaging in prohibited trade-related transactions with Iran, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California.

Between May and October 2015, according to the indictment, Niknia and Lant conspired to unlawfully sell and supply 500 Russian-made tank helmets to Niknia's contact in Tehran, Iran.

Niknia contacted Lant, who operated R&L Ltd., a company that sold Russian items, according to the indictment, and requested to purchase a Tehran-bound shipment of 500 helmets. Niknia initially paid Lant's company for two sample tank helmets and shipment from Russia to Iran.

After Niknia's customer ap-

proved the second sample tank helmet, the indictment said, Niknia paid Lant additional money to purchase 50 more tank helmets for shipment to Iran.

Enforced through the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations, the embargo on Iran prohibits the export, sale and supply of goods to Iran by anyone in the United States. It also prohibits engagement in any transaction or business dealing related to the sale or supply of goods to Iran.

If convicted, Niknia and Lant

face up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

In Germany, a German-Afghan who worked for years as a translator and advisor to the German armed forces has been charged with treason for handing state secrets to Iranian intelligence, federal prosecutors said Friday.

Abdul S., whose full name was not given in line with German privacy laws, is suspected of providing Iranian intelligence 18 classified documents, prosecutors said.

German media Spiegel Online reported at the time of arrest that the man had access to "sensitive

information on troops in Afghanistan."

The German government lodged an official complaint with Iran when the 50-year-old was arrested in January. Iran denied the allegations.

The man is expected to go on trial soon.

The Gener armed forces have about 1,300 soldiers deployed in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led noncombat mission Resolute Support.

German intelligence claims that Iran, Russia, China and Turkey are the main countries engaged in espionage in Germany.