

Sheikh Zakzaky Taken to Unknown Place

ABUJA (Dispatches) -- The Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) says Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky has been transferred to an unknown location upon return from India where he sought medical treatment, only to face an "obstruction" in the procedure.

"We urge the security agency holding him hostage to declare to the public where they are keeping him in the country," IMN spokesman Ibrahim Musa said in a statement. Zakzaky returned to Nigeria along with his wife Mallimah Zinat after announcing an early departure from

(Continued on Page 7)

# Kayhan International



MP: Iran-Saudi Thaw Possible

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission on Saturday praised Saudi Arabia's appropriate treatment of Iranian Hajj pilgrims and expressed optimism about a possible thaw of relations between Tehran and Riyadh.

"Up to this day, they (Saudis) have behaved hospitably and if they continue this path, there would be a thaw of relations with Saudi Arabia as we are witnessing it with the existing signs," MP Mojtaba Zonnoor told Tasnim.

VOL NO: LV 10959 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Sunday, August 18, 2019, Mordad 27, 1398, Zil-Hijjah 16, 1440, Price 30,000 Rials

Viewpoint

## Yemen War Comes Home to Cripple Saudi Oil Installations

## Italy Corti Hosts Iranian Short Film



## Barcelona Begin With Surprise Defeat to Athletic Bilbao



## Nasrallah: Zionist Regime Wished to Create New Mideast by 33-Day War



## Inhuman U.S. Sanctions Killing Patients in Iran

By: Abbas Kebriaeezadeh\*

Last month, the U.S. Department of State released a video addressed to the people of Iran. In the video, Trump administration official Brian Hook claims that it is a "myth" that sanctions target Iran's access to medicine. For more than a decade, my fellow Iranian medical professionals and I have been struggling to protect patients from the fallout of U.S. sanctions. We have studied sanctions impacts on Iran's health care sector and advocated for better responses from our own government. Our findings make clear that the harms being inflicted on Iranian patients are not mythology.

Today's integrated and interconnected world depends on banking systems and trade networks that are dominated by the United States. Consequently, the U.S. government is able to use economic sanctions to cause harm to economic, political, and even social relations in target countries with relative ease.

Although U.S. sanctions are engineered in a way that may appear not to target humanitarian access to food and medicine, in practice U.S. sanctions function as a tool of economic war. Officials in Washington continue to insist that they maintain "exemptions" to their sanctions to protect humanitarian trade, even after the International Court of Justice has ruled that these exemptions are insufficient, leaving "little prospect of improvement" in the "serious detrimental impact on the health and lives" of Iranians individuals. At the end of the day, it is incumbent on the United States to heed this humanitarian warning.

In response to such pressures, and as part of its post-revolution policies of self-sufficiency, Iran has made important strides in safeguarding its people's access to medication. Iran is a world leader in the production of generic drugs, helping significantly lower the cost of health care. According to Akbar Barandegi, director general of Iran's Food and Drug Administration, almost 97 percent of the country's needed pharmaceutical doses are provided by about 100 local pharmaceutical companies, most of which belong to the private sector. Just 3 percent of demand is met with imports, purchased from many of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies.

According to the Lancet, chemotherapy drugs such as asparaginase, the leukemia treatment mercaptopurine, and even the basic pain killer paracetamol have run out of stock, threatening the treatment of thousands of children.

These purchases may form only just a small proportion of total demand, but they relate to specific medications vital for the well-being of many patients, particularly those with advanced or chronic diseases.

Last year, several of my colleagues who work in the field of pediatric oncology published a note in the Lancet showing that chemotherapy drugs such as asparaginase, the leukemia treatment mercaptopurine, and even the basic pain killer paracetamol had run out of stock, threatening the treatment of thousands of children. Access to these medications is being significantly disrupted as a result of U.S. sanctions against Iran. This disruption takes three primary forms.

First, sanctions impact the availability of imports. While imports represent just 3 percent of Iran's total demand by unit, they account for 39 percent of the country's needs by value, reflecting the fact that imported medicines are typically five times more expensive than domestically-made equivalents and the fact that Iran tends to import specialized drugs, which are generally more expensive.

Just as with raw materials, banking restrictions have made it more difficult for Iranian importers to pay European and Asian suppliers for medicine. Shortages of imported medicines and skyrocketing costs are putting the most vulnerable patients—those with rare or advanced diseases—at the greatest risk.

There is particular concern over the risk to pediatric cancer patients. In this face of these import disruptions, opportunists have begun smuggling counterfeit and low-quality medicines into Iran through routes from Pakistan, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. Should disruptions grow worse, it could also lead to introduction of counterfeit or impure ingredients to domestically-manufactured medications, leading to not only low-quality drugs, but also new public health risks.

Second, sanctions interrupt domestic production by interrupting supply chains. Iran's pharmaceutical manufacturers use over 10,000 different compounds in their production processes. The pressure of U.S. sanctions and the chilling effect on international banks have already made it impossible for many suppliers to reliably receive payment for raw materials sold to Iran.

Some medications require 15 substances from different manufacturers in various countries in order to be produced. The absence of even one substance brings the production of that medicine to a halt.

Finally, the impact of sanctions on Iran's economy hurts health care providers and consumers alike by reducing purchasing power. Lower government revenues and reduced access to foreign currency put a strain on health care spending, making imported drugs more difficult to afford for patients even when hospitals have them in stock. According to data released by the Central Bank of Iran, the cost of health care in Iran rose nearly 20 percent between November 2017 and November 2018.

Declining output will also create unemployment. The Iranian Pharmaceutical Industries Syndicate estimates that pharmaceutical manufacturers employ approximately 25,000 staff, while a further 100,000 workers are employed in distribution companies, pharmacies, and aftersales support. These workers are some of Iran's best and brightest, and around 20 percent of those employed are university graduates. Their futures are at stake.

What may seem like sterile banking sanctions are truly much more dangerous. These sanctions disrupt the access of the Iranian public—especially the poor, the elderly, children, women, and patients suffering from chronic diseases—to the medications they require. Medicines become more expensive and of worse quality. An unreliable supply chain leads to incomplete treatment of diseases and their becoming chronic. The crisis deepens when the slowdown in domestic production increases the country's need to import drugs. All this is

(Continued on Page 7)

## 1 Million bpd Oil Facility Targeted

# Yemen's Biggest Drone Attack on Saudi Arabia



In this March 8, 2004 photo, an industrial plant is seen at Saudi Aramco's Shaybah oil field in Saudi Arabia's Rub al-Khali desert.

DUBAI (Dispatches) -- Yemen's defense officials said on Saturday that they had launched 10 drones in the "biggest attack" on massive oil and gas facilities inside Saudi Arabia's sprawling desert since the kingdom invaded Yemen in 2015.

Speaking to Al Masirah television, a military spokesman described the attack on Shaybah, close to the United Arab Emirates border, as being launched "in the depths" of Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter.

"We promise the Saudi regime and the powers of aggression bigger and wider operations if the aggression continues," Yemen's

armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Sare'e said.

The state oil giant Aramco said in a statement to reporters that it had "controlled a limited fire this morning at the Shaybah NGL facility," which produces about one million barrels of crude oil a day, after the drone attack. "There were no injuries and no interruptions to Saudi Aramco's oil operations."

However, Saudi authorities have a habit of playing down such attacks which have later turned out to have caused major damages.

In May, an assault by Yemeni drones targeting the kingdom's crucial East-West Pipeline, a 1,200-ki-

lometer (746-mile) link between its eastern oil fields and the Red Sea, were initially dispelled by Saudi officials as minor incident.

The attack on the Shaybah oil field again shows the reach of Yemen's drone program as Shaybah sits only a few kilometers (miles) from the kingdom's border with the United Arab Emirates. Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been in a yearslong, bloody war against Yemen.

The oil field at Shaybah is in the Arabian Peninsula's Empty Quarter, a sea of sand where temperatures routinely hit 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit).

Saudi Aramco on its website refers to the field as "the most remote treasure on Earth," home to reserves of 14.3 billion barrels of oil and 25 trillion cubic feet.

The site is some 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) from Yemen, demonstrating the range of the country's drones. UN investigators say Yemen's new UAV-X drone, found in recent months during the Saudi war, likely has a range of up to 1,500 kilometers (930 miles). That puts Saudi oil fields, an under-construction Emirati nuclear power plant and Dubai's busy international airport within their range.

Yemeni fighters have used drones, which can be difficult to track by radar, to attack Saudi Patriot missile batteries, as well as enemy troops.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE launched their war against Yemen in March 2015 to back a former regime which resigned and then fled to Riyadh. The UAE recently began withdrawing troops from the conflict while UAE-allied militants recently seized the city of Aden, further complicating a war seen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Saudi warplanes fired flares over the city of Aden, in southern Yemen, at dawn Saturday near camps occupied by southern separatists who last weekend took over most of the Aden, a blow to Saudi Arabia to overtake all of Yemen.

Saudi Arabia renewed a call overnight for UAE-backed militants to withdraw from all sites they had

(Continued on Page 7)

## U.S. in Last-Ditch Effort to Steal Oil Tanker

GIBRALTAR (Dispatches) -- The shipping agent for an Iranian-operated supertanker says the vessel is ready to depart Gibraltar on Sunday or Monday, as the U.S. made a last-minute effort to seize it again.

The head of the company that processes paperwork and procurement for the Grace 1 oil tanker in the British overseas territory said the vessel could be sailing away in the next "24 to 48 hours," once new crews dispatched to the territory take over command of the ship.

"The vessel is ongoing some logistical changes and requirements that have delayed the departure," Astralship managing director Richard De la Rosa told the Associated Press.

De la Rosa's comments came a day after the U.S. obtained a warrant to seize the vessel over alleged violations of U.S. sanctions on Iran. It was unclear if that could happen before the

ship departs since Gibraltar officials have said that any request to seize the vessel would have to make its way through the territory's courts.

He said the new crews were Indian and Ukrainian nationals hired by the Indian managers of the ship and that his company had not been informed about the supertanker's next destination.

The tanker, which carries 2.1 million tons of Iranian light crude oil, had been detained on July 4 in Gibraltar by British troops on the U.S. order. The seizure fueled tension between London and Tehran, which on July 20 seized a British-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz in apparent retaliation.

Analysts had said the release of the Grace 1 by Gibraltar could be followed Iran's release of the British ship Stena Impero.

But late on Friday, a day after the Iranian tanker was released,

(Continued on Page 7)

## Reps of Iran, Houthis, Europe Hold Talks Tripartite Meeting on Yemen in Tehran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Representatives from Iran, Yemen's Houthi movement, and four European countries held a trilateral meeting here on Saturday to discuss the latest developments in the war-torn Arab country.

The meeting was held at the foreign ministry in Tehran within the framework of Iran's international consultations to settle the Yemen crisis through political means.

Senior assistant to Iran's foreign minister Ali-Asghar Khaji met Houthi spokesman Muhammad Abdul-Salam and ambassadors and heads of missions of the four European Union countries known as the EU/E4, namely Britain, France, Germany, and Italy.

They elaborated on their respective countries' views regarding the Yemen developments, including the political and humanitarian is-

ssues and the developments on the ground.

They expressed deep regret over the continuation of the critical situation in the Arab country, where tens of thousands of Yemenis have been killed and the country's infrastructure has been destroyed as a result of the war.

The participating delegations underlined the need for ending the war as soon as possible, and called for political solutions to resolve the Yemen crisis.

They further voiced concern over the humanitarian situation in Yemen, urging any delivery of humanitarian aid to the people to be expedited.

The delegations also called for the full implementation of Stockholm agreements, and that all parties live up to all their commitments,

(Continued on Page 7)