

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran is concerned about the situation of Muslim people in the Indian-controlled Kashmir, Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif told India's Foreign Secretary of India Vijay Keshav Gokhale here on Sunday.

The top Iranian diplomat expressed hope that the situation would improve for Muslims after India revoked the semi-autonomous status of Kashmir on August 5. Zarif also said Tehran and New Delhi have been expanding co-operation in various sectors, calling for further strengthening of relations.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- A senior lawmaker here on Sunday called for a decisive response to Canada's sale of Iranian diplomatic properties in Ottawa and Toronto, saying Canadian shipments crossing the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf should be confiscated in response to the move.

"An order should be issued to confiscate ships and goods that set off from the Hormuz region to the destination of Canada," said Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, adding, "This measure should be adopted as soon as possible."

Viewpoint

Return of the Prodigal!

Tehran Exhibits Historic Spanish Artworks



Iran Down Qatar at Asian Volleyball Championship



Hezbollah's New Missile 'Capable of Destroying All Military Battleships'



Yemen's Biggest Retaliation Shocks Invaders

Specter of Oil in Triple Digits

U.S. blindly accuses Iran; Sen. Graham urges attack on Iran's oil facilities

15 structures at world's largest oil processing plant damaged

Analysts: Abqaiq attack worse than Iran closing Strait of Hormuz



Fires burn in the distance after a Yemeni drone strike on Saudi company Aramco's oil processing facilities in Abqaiq on September 14, 2019.

LONDON (Dispatches) -- The oil market will rally by \$5-10 per barrel when it opens on Monday and may spike to as high as \$100 per barrel if Saudi Arabia fails to quickly resume oil supply lost after attacks over the weekend, traders and analysts said.

Attacks on two plants at the heart of the kingdom's oil industry on Saturday knocked out more than half of Saudi crude output, or 5% of global supply.

Industry sources have said it may take weeks to bring production fully online.

Bob McNally of Rapidan Energy told Reuters crude prices would spike by at least \$15-20 per barrel in a seven-day disruption scenario and go well into triple digits in a 30-day scenario.

"This does not include what are likely to be large (if difficult to model or predict) premia to reflect zeroing out of global spare production capacity amidst ongoing disruption risks, hoarding, and panic sentiment."

"The outage of 5 million bpd (barrels per day), roughly half of the current Saudi production level and about 5% of global supply, is very large by historic standards. It would

in relatively few weeks start to put a stress on the market," Samuel Ciszak, founding partner at ELS Analysis, said.

"This incident is a very uncomfortable wake-up call to radically higher risk premiums on Persian Gulf production."

Gary Ross of Black Gold Investors said the heart of the Saudi oil industry has been successfully attacked. "These attacks are difficult to stop and could occur periodically. The market has to price this risk in."

Tilak Doshi of Muse & Stencil said, "In the oil universe, this attack is perhaps equivalent to the 9/11 attacks ... Abqaiq is easily the world's single most important oil production and processing infrastructure site."

"For Asian governments, perhaps this overtakes the perennial concern about the safety of tanker traffic in the Strait of Hormuz with even more serious concerns about the impact of a direct breakout of hostilities between the Saudi alliance and Iran."

Yemen's Houthi movement, fighting a Saudi-led invasion, claimed responsibility for "a large-scale operation involving 10 drones" on the Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities run by the Saudi

state-owned oil company Aramco before dawn Saturday.

U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo was quick to blame Iran for the brazen attacks, claiming there was no evidence the drones originated in Yemen.

The claim prompted a strong rebuttal from Iran and ridicule from many social media users who compared Pompeo's rushed conclusion to Washington's indecision about the murder of prominent journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018.

The top U.S. diplomat accused Iran of launching an "unprecedented attack on the world's energy supply"

without giving evidence, while Trump offered support for Saudi Arabia in a call on Saturday with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman.

At least one Republican lawmaker, Lindsey Graham, urged the U.S. to attack Iranian oil facilities.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi dismissed Pompeo's allegations as "blind and fruitless remarks" that were "meaningless" in a diplomatic context.

Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif, writing on Twitter, mocked Pompeo, saying the United States had failed in its campaign of "maximum pressure" and was now "turning to 'max deceit'."

Zarif said Washington and its allies are "stuck in Yemen" and that blaming Tehran "won't end the disaster".

The conflict has been in military stalemate for years. Saudi Arabia and its allies have air supremacy but have come under scrutiny over civilian deaths and a humanitarian crisis that has left millions facing starvation. The Houthis, more adept at guerrilla warfare, and their allies in the Yemeni army have increased attacks on Saudi cities.

The attack represented Yemen's most serious strike since Saudi Arabia invaded the impoverished nation four years ago. That Yemen could cause such extensive damage to such

a crucial part of the global economy astonished some observers.

"So while everyone is wrestling w/ securing the Strait of Hormuz the Houthis (!) w/10 drones (!!) successfully attacked the single most important facility in the global oil economy," Kristin Smith Diwan, senior resident scholar at the Arab States Institute in Washington wrote on Twitter. "Unbelievable."

According to U.S. government information, 15 structures at Abqaiq suffered damage on their west-northwest facing sides.

Any extended closure would most likely bring serious consequences to the world's oil supply, the New York Times said.

Energy experts said that the attack on the Abqaiq facility represented their worst nightmare, and that it was perhaps worse than Iran blocking the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial path for the distribution of oil supplies.

"If there is a single crown jewel, this is it," said McNally, a former White House energy adviser who is now the president of the Rapidan Energy Group, a market research firm.

The attacks not only shut down the processing plant, but also disrupted flows from the oil fields that feed into it. Further complicating matters, the plant was built with custom-made equipment that may be difficult to fix quickly if there is serious damage, because run-of-the-mill parts cannot be used to get the plant up and running, the New York Times said.

The attacks have raised the question of the potential effect on both oil prices and Aramco's plans for an initial public offering of stock, it added

General Hajizadeh:

U.S. Bases, Carriers Within Range of Iran Missiles

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – A military commander said on Sunday that U.S. bases and aircraft carriers in the region were within range of Iranian missiles and the country is ready for a fully fledged war.

"Everybody should know that all American bases and their aircraft carriers in a distance of up to 2,000 kilometers around Iran are within the range of our missiles," the head of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Aerospace Force General Amirali Hajizadeh said.

The commander also said Iran has always been ready for a "fully fledged" war.

In May, Hajizadeh said Iran would hit America "in the head" if it made a military move. He said America's military presence in the Persian Gulf used to be a serious threat but now it's an opportunity.

"An aircraft carrier that has at least 40 to 50 planes on it and

6000 forces gathered within it was a serious threat for us in the past but now...the threats have switched to opportunities," Hajizadeh said.

"The Americans in the region are like a piece of meat under our teeth. We will hit them in the head if they move," he added.

The U.S. military has sent forces, including an aircraft carrier and B-52 bombers, to the Middle East to counter what the Trump administration says are "clear indications" of threats from Iran to U.S. forces there.

The deployment triggered some "serious discussions" about a war with America at a parliament session, chairman of parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh said then.

IRGC Commander Major General Hussein Salami attended the session and reiterated that "the Islamic Republic of Iran is

fully prepared for war", Falahatpisheh said.

Not only Iran will not be defeated in this war, but it can end the war in the region victoriously, Salami was quoted as saying.

"However, our strategic analysis is that there is not going to be a war. The U.S. behavior on the ground shows that Americans are not after a war," he reportedly said.

On Sunday, General Hajizadeh said the Americans have removed their warships some 400 kilometers away from Iran's territorial waters, thinking they are out of the range of Iranian missiles.

"However, no matter where they are, if a conflict is ignited, their warships will be first to be targeted by our fire," he said.

Last month, the New York Times reported that the 5,600 men and women aboard the nuclear-powered USS Abraham

(Continued on Page 7)

To Discuss Lasting Truce in Syria: Presidents of Iran, Russia, Turkey Meet in Ankara

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- The presidents of Turkey, Russia and Iran meet on Monday to try to secure a lasting truce in northwest Syria.

The summit in Ankara will focus on the Idlib region, the last remaining territory held by terrorists seeking to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iran's Hassan Rouhani have backed Syria against foreign-backed terrorists. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, along with the United States, European and Arab allies, has supported different militant factions in the conflict.

Syrian government forces have regained control of most lands lost in the war. In recent months, they have attacked Idlib, where Takfiri terrorists hold sway alongside other militants backed by Turkey and

other foreign countries.

Under a deal with Moscow and Tehran two years ago, Turkey set up 12 military observation posts in northwest Syria aimed at reducing fighting between Syrian forces and terrorists. The Turkish military posts have recently been caught in the crossfire due to the Syrian offensive in the region to drive out terrorists.

In an interview with Reuters on Friday, Erdogan warned that any Syrian government attack on the posts would draw retaliation from Turkish forces, possibly risking a direct confrontation between Ankara and Damascus.

"The moment that the regime messes with our observation posts, if there is any attack, then things will take a very different direction," Erdogan told Reuters. "We will not hold back like we are now.

We will take any necessary steps."

Erdogan and Putin agreed at talks in Moscow in August to "normalize" the situation in the region, after Syrian troops encircled terrorists and a Turkish post.

While Putin and Erdogan have forged close ties over a range of issues like energy and defense co-operation, recent attacks by Syrian troops have also strained ties between Ankara and Moscow.

While Erdogan has said that Turkey could not handle an influx of refugees, he has also previously threatened to "open the gates" for migrants to Europe unless Ankara receives more international support.

On Friday, Erdogan reiterated his warning and said Monday's summit would aim to stop the migration from Idlib and establish

(Continued on Page 7)