

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi on Wednesday strongly condemned the occupying regime of Israel’s “terrorist attacks” on the Gaza Strip and assassination of an Islamic Jihad commander.

Mousavi stressed the need to prosecute and punish Zionist occupiers in international courts as war criminals as he praised the legitimate struggle and “heroic resistance” of the Palestinian people, saying unity is the only way for the Palestinian people to fight the usurpers.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami on Wednesday shrugged off recent U.S. sanctions against the Iranian Armed Forces General Staff and some high-ranking military people, saying they have no effect on the forces. Hatami said the Americans have already targeted the Armed Forces as part of measures against the Iranian nation. “This time, again, a number of our dear commanders have been targeted by the sanctions, which will have no effect,” he stated.

Viewpoint

Gambia’s Gallant Goal to Redress Plight of Rohingya Muslims

Iranian Films Line Up to Compete in Estonia



Iranian Athlete Bags Gold at World Para Championships



Protests in Lebanon Flare, One Killed



Birthday of God’s First-Ever Creation

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“I bear witness that you were (descended) through pure loins and chaste wombs.”

We are on the eve of one of the most auspicious days in the history of the world. It is the day on which God Almighty sent into the world, through an unbroken chain of virtuously monotheistic fathers and mothers, His Last and Greatest Messenger.

It was on the 17th of Rabi al-Awwal that the Best of God’s creation was born in a monotheistic family, and as confirmed by the above-mentioned phrase which is found in standard forms of salutation to the Messenger of Mercy and his Infallible Ahl al-Bayt, it was no ordinary birth.

He was born in the year known as **“Aam al-Feel”** (Year of the Elephant, corresponding to 570 AD), because of a manifest miracle that brought Divine Wrath upon the Abyssinian governor of Yemen, Abraha’s elephant-led abortive attempt to attack the holy Ka’ba, in the form of a flock of small birds that showered force with a hail of deathly pebbles.

On the eve of Prophet Muhammad’s (SAWA) birth, the idols that the infidel Arabs had placed in Prophet Abraham’s edifice of monotheism, the holy Ka’ba, fell headlong.

The forces of Jahiliyyah, whether in the Arabian Peninsula or elsewhere in the supposedly civilized world, witnessed events that heralded the end of the days of ignorance.

History bears witness that the sacred fire of the Zoroastrians that had been kept burning in Persia proper for over a thousand years, suddenly died down to the horror of the Mobads.

In Ctesiphon (Mada’en near Baghdad in Iraq), a crack suddenly appeared in the huge arch of the magnificent hall of audience of the Sassanid king of kings (Shahenshah). At the same time, 14 parapets came crashing down from atop Khosrow Anushirvan’s palace.

They were others portents in other parts of the world including China, India, Africa and Europe, that are outside the scope of this brief column, in which I intend to point out that none of the ancestors and ancestresses of the person sent by God as **“Mercy unto the creation”** (holy Qur’an 21:107), were other than staunchly virtuous monotheists.

This is confirmed by all respected scholars of Islam, whether Sunni or Shi’a Muslims, and disproves the allegation of hypocrites that Abraham’s father was Azar the idol-worshipper – actually his misled uncle, while his father’s name was Tarakh.

The famous Sunni scholar of Mamluk Egypt, Jalaluddin as-Suyuti (1445-1505) has written extensively on this subject to prove that all the ancestors of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) were true believers.

This has also been confirmed by Shaykh Abdul-Haqq Muhaddith Dehlawi of Mughal India (1551-1642), who writes: “All the ancestors of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) from Adam up to Abdullah were pure and clean from the uncleanness of disbelief and paganism. It was not possible for Allah to put that Holy Light (of the Prophet) into dark and dirty places, i.e. the loin of a pagan man or the womb of a pagan woman. Also, how could it be possible for Allah to punish the ancestors of the Prophet on the Day of Judgment and thus humiliate him in the eyes of the world?”

Allamah Muhammad Baqer Majlisi of Safavid Iran (1616-1698) has written that it is the unanimous belief of Shi’a Muslim scholars that the father, mother and all ancestors of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) followed the true religion, and his Light never entered into the loin of any pagan man or the womb of any pagan woman. Also, the authentic hadith say that all his ancestors were **“Siddiqun”** (Truthful Ones): They were either prophets or successors of prophets.”

The sceptics, both among the followers of other creeds and those who claim to be Muslims, might raise eyebrows in this regard, because their hearts have yet to be enlightened by the Celestial Light Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) was, as he himself says in a famous hadith: **“The first thing God created was my Light.”**

Thus in order to better understand the Seal of Prophets, his mission Islam, and his authentic **Sunnah** and **Seerah** (practice and behaviour) we have to trace our sources to Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and his Blessed Household (Ahl al-Bayt), rather than those idolatrous Arabs who became Muslims in the last days of his life (and that too for a variety of reasons, and not out of sincere conviction).

Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) himself has said: **“I was always being transferred from the loins of the pure ones to the wombs of the pure ones.”**

It means after Prophet Ishmael, all his ancestors were **“Awsiya”** (legatees) of Ishmael. In several hadith we find the mention of the name of the Prophet’s grandfather, Abdul-Muttalib as a **“Hujjah-Allah** (Proof of the One and Only God) of his time, and that after him his son Abu Taleb was the **“Wasi”** (legatee). Now it becomes clear to, as to why Divine Providence entrusted the upbringing of the orphaned Muhammad (SAWA) to Abu Taleb, and why the Prophet (on the express commandments of God at Ghadir-Khom) proclaimed his equally purely and pristinely descended cousin, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), as Vicegerent. Imam Ali (AS) himself has said in this regard: **“By Allah, neither my father ever worshipped idols, nor my grandfather Abdul-Muttalib, nor his father Hashem, nor his father Abd Munaf. They prayed facing towards the Ka’ba and followed the religion of Abraham.”**

No wonder, it is highly recommended to visit the shrine of Imam Ali (AS) in Najaf or to salute him from afar, on the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

Zionists’ Reaction to Gaza Rockets: Frenzied Bombing and Begging for Truce



Palestinian women sit near the remains of a house destroyed in an Israeli airstrike in the southern Gaza Strip November 13, 2019.

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) -- At least 24 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, including a father and his two sons, as the Zionist military continued its frenzied air campaign for a second day Wednesday.

The latest flare-up was triggered by the occupying regime’s assassination of a top member of the Islamic Jihad on Tuesday morning, showing little sign of easing.

The enclave’s ministry said 69 people had also been wounded during the hysterical bombardment.

The furious attacks came after Palestinian resistance movements in Gaza responded to the assassination of Islamic Jihad’s Baha Abu al-Atta with rocket salvos which reached as far as Tel Aviv and sent more than a million settlers to shelters.

Some of the bodies of those killed in Gaza City were brought into Shifa hospital in taxis and ambulances early on Wednesday. Medics and witnesses said they were civilians who lived in densely populated neighborhoods.

A father and his two sons were killed by an airstrike while on a motorcycle, an eyewitness told Middle East Eye, adding that they had just reached their home when the attack took place.

The father was a farmer with no

political affiliations and was coming back from his field, the eyewitness said.

Islamic Jihad confirmed that two of its fighters were killed in separate strikes south of Gaza City during the morning. It identified one of the men as Khaled Farraj.

The occupying regime of Israel launched deadly strikes against Gaza early on Tuesday, triggering a wave of tit-for-tat rocket salvos and airstrikes.

Air raid sirens sounded in the occupied towns of Ashkelon and Netivot near the Gaza fence.

Since Israel’s targeted killing of the Islamic Jihad commander and

his wife on Tuesday morning, at least 220 rockets have been fired at Zionist targets from Gaza, the military said.

Abu Musaab al-Breem, spokesman of Al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of Islamic Jihad, said: “What’s going on is retaliation for the assassination of Abu al-Atta and is coordinated by all Palestinian factions.”

Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who ordered the assassination, on Tuesday accused Abu al-Atta of masterminding recent attacks against the occupying regime and planning more in the near future.

On Wednesday, however, Netanyahu called on Islamic Jihad to stop rocket attacks.

“They have one choice: to stop these attacks or absorb more and more blows. Their choice,” Netanyahu said at the start of a cabinet meeting, adding that Israel was not seeking a further escalation.

A diplomatic source told the Reuters that the UN Middle East envoy was on his way to Cairo to begin mediation to end the flare-up.

The rocket barrage by Palestinian resistance movements have sent Zionists huddling for shelter and forced occupied cities and towns to shut down.

The Zionist regime casts rising Gaza tensions as part of a regional struggle with Iran that has also played out in Syria.

Netanyahu has invoked such scenarios in trying to form a broad coalition cabinet with centre-left rivals to secure a fifth term after two inconclusive elections this year.

Dozens Killed or Injured During Visit by ‘Defense Minister’ Yemeni Missile Hits Saudi Military HQ in Maarib

ADEN (Dispatches) – Yemen’s Houthi fighters fired a missile at the Saudi military headquarters in the city of Maarib on Wednesday during a visit by the self-proclaimed defense minister of former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, killing at least seven troops and injuring a dozen others, local officials said.

The base is the main military facility overseeing a Saudi ground offensive aimed at recapturing the capital Sanaa, administered by Houthis since 2014, which lies 120 km (75 miles) to the west of Maarib.

There was no immediate confirmation from the Saudi military, which has been waging a ferocious war on Yemen for more than four years.

But Saudi-owned news channel Al-Arabiya said seven soldiers were killed in the attack.

Muhammad al-Maqdishi, the self-proclaimed defense minister of Hadi, and Saudi military officers were in the compound at the time, the officials said.

The Saudi military spokesman did not respond to a request for comment, Reuters said.

The Saudi war has killed tens of thousands of people and pushed millions to the brink of famine.

Saudi Arabia invaded Yemen in 2015 to restore Hadi to power, who is now based in the southern port city of Aden. It has carried out thousands of airstrikes on Yemen, destroying the impoverished country’s most civilian infrastructures.

Last week, Houthi forces fired missiles and drones at the Red Sea port city of Al-Mokha, causing deaths and injuries.

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Mayor Declares City Disaster Zone Worst Floods in 50 Years Submerge Venice

VENICE, Italy (AFP) -- Venetians woke Wednesday to devastating scenes after the highest tide in 50 years washed through the historic Italian city, beaching gondolas, trashing hotels and sending tourists fleeing through rapidly rising waters.

Shopkeepers on the Grand Canal raged against those who have failed to protect the UNESCO city from the high tide, blaming corruption for the much-delayed barrier protection system which could have prevented the disaster.

“The city is on its knees,” Venice’s mayor Luigi Brugnaro said in an interview with national broadcaster RAI, as he called the city a disaster zone.

“There’s widespread devastation,” he said in the famed St. Mark’s Square, which bore the brunt of the flooding.

The financial cost of the flooding is likely to run to hundreds of millions of euros, Mayor Brugnaro said, while a senior cleric said the city’s historic Saint Mark’s Basilica risked “irreparable” harm.

“The Basilica is suffering structural damage because the water has risen and so it’s causing irreparable damage, especially when it dries out in the lower section of the mosaics and tiling,” Venice Archbishop Francesco Moraglia told a news conference.

Asked about the likely financial impact, Brugnaro said: “it’s in the hundreds of millions of euros.”

Tourists lugging heavy suitcases waded in thigh-high galoshes or barefoot through the submerged alleys, as water taxi and gondola drivers baled sewage-tainted water out of their trashed vessels.

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