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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Gambia's Gallant Goal to Redress Plight of Rohingya Muslims

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Imagine a small African nation emerging as an asylum for the persecuted and displaced Muslims of Myanmar!

Although it is a pleasant surprise to the million-odd uprooted Rohingya Muslims that Gambia in West Africa has offered to taken them as refugees, this is nonetheless a slap on the face of big Bangladesh, which despite being a neighbour sharing many cultural commonalities, has failed to be a good Muslim host.

It is an irony that while the paltry UN aid is not being properly channeled to the refugees in Cox Bazaar, a far off Muslim country has suddenly come to the rescue of the victims of the 21st century's worst genocide.

Contrast this with the behaviour of the superrich Arab country's such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, whose regimes instead of resolving the problems of brother Muslims, are trying to destroy them on the orders of their masters in Washington, London, and Tel Aviv.

dred thousand men, women, and children, is a prime proof of the crimes against humanity of Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, the current seditions in Lebanon and Iraq, are also being fueled by these same two regimes, in the interests of the US and Israel.

If the destructive war in Yemen which has so far killed over a hun-

So there is surprise to their indifference towards the Muslims of Myanmar to whom they dole out some meager dollars with much publicity without doing anything concrete, while hundreds of billions of petrodollars are syphoned off to Washington in the purchase of obsolete arms and equipment.

Leaving aside these traitors to Islamic unity and the Palestinian cause, Gambia deserves praise for filing it an official complaint against Myanmar with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague for violations of the United Nations' 1948 Genocide Convention linked to abuses against its Muslim Rohingya minority.

The complaint consists of a 46-page document listing crimes by Myanmar security forces against the Rohingya, including destruction of communities, rape, and murder.

Gambia's ICJ complaint against Myanmar signifies an important first step in an international challenge to Myanmar for the crimes that its security forces committed against the Rohingya in late 2017 in northern Rakhine state. It should also be the catalyst for a much wider international impetus toward accountability for those crimes.

The scale and barbarity of those abuses are unquestionable and unpardonable. In September 2018, the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) published a 444-page report about humanrights abuses against the Rohingya. The mission's report concluded that there was evidence of atrocities - including mass killings, gang rapes, and mutilations – warranting criminal prosecution for crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide. The report names top military officials as targets for investigation and prosecution and blames civilian authorities for "spreading false narratives, denying the wrongdoing of the (security forces), blocking independent investigations ... and overseeing the destruction of evidence."

Gambia's step is in line with its role as the current head of the Organization of Islamic Conference's ad hoc ministerial committee, which the OIC tasked in June with filing an ICJ complaint against

The Gambian move to take Myanmar to the ICJ for state-backed slaughter of the Rohingya should be an inspiration for other Muslim states to resolve the problems of the persecuted Myanmar MusVice-President Sattari in China:

China, Iran Discuss **Technological Cooperation**



Iran's Vice-President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari delivers his keynote speech to the China High-Tech Forum 2019 in Shenzhen, Nov13, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Chen Rugui, the mayor of the Chinese city of Shenzhen, says his country welcomes any scientific and technological cooperation with Iran.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Vice-President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari who arrived in China on Tuesday at the head of a delegation upon an official invitation by the Chinese Minister of Science and Technology.

Sattari was greeted by the mayor of Shenzhen on the first day of his trip to the city which is a scientific hub of the country.

Referring to existing scientific and technological capacities of the city, Chen said Shenzhen has a prominent position in terms of export volume, especially in the field of engineering services.

He further praised Iran's resist-

ance in the face of U.S. sanctions, saying China is also struggling with sanctions, but "we have mobilized all our political, economic, and technological capabilities to defeat them"

Sattari hailed Shenzhen as an innovative and intelligent city, saying "In Iran, we are also pursuing innovation and are on the path, and with the help of young and creative people in our country, the growth of innovation is expanding every day."

Iran, he said, has turned into an innovative country. Of the 80 million population of Iran, 33 million are young people aged between 20 to 40 who are at the forefront of change and innovation, he added.

"Moreover, 90% of Iranians are internet users. Thus, we can claim that half of the Internet users in the Middle East are Iranian, and this has led to the Persian language becoming the ninth language on the Internet," Sattari said. The Iranian vice president also

said sanctions have strengthened the domestic production capacity in Iran so that 98% of pharmaceuticals are manufactured domestically. Additionally, the largest number of startups in several fields is in Iran, he added.

China's technological development, Sattari said, is a model for Iran. Iran, he said, is pursuing an ecosystem of innovation and technology to have an oil-free econo-

Sattari predicted that many tech companies will soon overtake oil and steel companies in Iran and make a significant contribution to

Official Raps Europeans Over Indifferences to Drugs

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The head of the Iranian Anti Narcotics Police says European countries should know that if Tehran eases its chokehold on the passage of drugs, they will end up on the streets of Europe.

Brigadier General Muhammad Masoud Zahedian said all world countries should play their part in the fight against narcotics and help Iran which lies on the crossroads of drug trafficking originating from Afghanistan and pays a heavy price in fighting it.

Speaking on the sidelines of an exhibition of illicit drugs seized by Iranian security forces in Tehran, Zahedian said Iran's capacities are limited in the face of rising drug production in Afghanistan

The manufacturing of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan has jumped to 10,000 tonnes a year from 185 tonnes in 2001, he said.

"Iran's facilities do not match this volume, and the country may not be able to check all the inflows," Zahedian said, adding illegally trafficked substances

would definitely find their way gram by gram to the pockets of the European youths.

"We urge the European countries to support Iran's efforts to combat narcotics," the official said.

Iran is at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking and thousands of Iranian forces have lost their lives a relentless battle to stem the scourge.

Afghans blame the U.S. and other invaders of their country, saying they have usually turned a blind eye to the drug problem over the past 18 years.

Secretary-General of the Drug Control Headquarters Brigadier General Eskandar Momeni said Tuesday Iran's share of global opium seizures has risen to 90 percent from 76 percent.

According to the UN, Iran also accounts for 67 percent of the world's morphine catches, Momeni said during a visit to the border city of Mirjaveh in Sistan and Baluchestan province.

(Continued on Page 7)

Chinese Foreign Ministry:

U.S. 'Wrong Behavior' Behind Tensions With Iran

BEIJING (Dispatches) -- China has denounced U.S. "wrong behavior" for abandoning Iran's nuclear deal, saying it constitutes the root cause of tensions between the two countries.

"It is China's consistent belief that the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA and maximum pressure campaign against Iran is the root cause of the current crisis," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said here.

"The U.S. should quit such wrong behavior to make room for diplomatic efforts and cre-

ate conditions for de-escala-

tion," Geng added.

The administration in Washington unilaterally walked out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in May last year and reinstated all the anti-Iran sanctions that it had lifted as part of the landmark accord.

Geng said parties including the European side and Iran "should exercise restraint, remain committed to full and effective implementation of the agreement, and resolve differences within the JCPOA".

Pointing to a recent report by the Iranian Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Geng said Chi-

na "supports the IAEA in fulfilling its duty in an objective and impartial manner and will continue to work with other parties for the political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear

Iran is gradually removing limits on its uranium enrichment activities in response to the U.S. abrogation of the nuclear agreement and re-imposition of "toughest" sanctions on

The IAEA confirmed in its report on Monday that Iran has begun enriching uranium at Fordow (Continued on Page 7)

Holy Our'an

Surely We have revealed it-- an Arabic Ouran-- that you may understand. We narrate to you the best of narratives, by Our revealing to you this Quran, though before this vou were certainly one of those who did not know. The Holy Qur'an (12.2)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)

16666666

Evening(Maghreb) 17:18

Dawn(Fajr)" Tomorrow" 05:12

Sunrise "Tomorrow" 06:39

Iran Welcomes **UAE** Call for **Diplomacy**

TEHRAN (Dispatches) --Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday Tehran has always stressed the importance of dialogue and political negotiations as the only solution to regional problems and issues.

Abbas Mousavi said the Islamic Republic will do whatever it can to set the stage for talks between countries in the region.

He made the remarks in response to questions about recent comments by a UAE official, saying Abu Dhabi did not seek tensions with Tehran and wanted disputes to be settled through diplomatic ways.

"The idea of the formation of a forum for regional dialogue and a non-aggression treaty as well as the launch of the Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE) initiative at the 74th meeting of the UN General Assembly by the Islamic Republic of Iran's president are within this framework," he noted.

He said the HOPE initiative has been presented to heads of state of Iraq and countries to the south of the Persian Gulf.

"This plan emphasizes our common security with our neighbors based on compliance with common principles, including not threatening to use force, settling the crises peacefully, respecting the sovereignty of countries and not interfering in the internal affairs of countries as well as nations' right to self-determination," the spokesman said.

Iran believes if this process is set in motion, the common interests of all regional countries will be ensured and their differences of opinion respected, he added

Mousavi said Iran hopes the regional countries will embrace the HOPE initiative and begin comprehensive regional talks in a bid to eradicate the root causes of divisions in the region and take practical, serious and effective steps toward resolving regional crises.