

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani highlighted the importance of the country's security ties with neighboring Pakistan and said Tehran and Islamabad can easily defeat terrorists in the region. In a meeting with Chief of Army Staff of the Pakistan General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Tehran on Tuesday, Rouhani hailed cordial relations between the two Muslim nations of Iran and Pakistan as "an invaluable asset" which should be used to further boost mutual cooperation.

"Given the resolve that exists in Iran and Pakistan, we can easily defeat the terrorists," Rouhani further said.

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BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Several senior Iraqi officials named in a New York Times report denied on Monday that they were close to Iran or that they had given sensitive information to its government.

Salim al-Jabouri, the speaker of Iraq's Parliament in 2014 and 2015, questioned the timing of the article and said it might have been published "to incite the street" against the government, which is facing weeks of violent riots.

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Viewpoint

Thoughts on the 1st Anniversary of the Yellow Vest Movement

Company Produces Raw Material For Anticancer Drugs



Iran Win Bronze in Ju-Jitsu World Championships



Russia Balks at Turkish Idea of New Military Incursion Into Syria



Iranians Unimpressed by West's Shameless Lies

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Protests in Iran triggered by petrol price hikes last week have subsided, an Iranian judiciary spokesman said on Tuesday, a day after the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) warned of "decisive" action if rioters continue to take advantage of the situation to wreak havoc.

"Calm has been restored in the country," Judiciary spokesman Gholamhussein Esmaili told a news conference.

Several people, including members of the security forces and police, have been killed in the protests that began on Friday after fuel price rises of at least 50 percent were announced, and around 1,000 "rioters" arrested, authorities said.

Three members of the security forces were stabbed to death near Tehran, ISNA news agency reported late on Monday.

National TV said funerals will be held for security guards martyred in the protests, adding that "thousands of Iranians have staged rallies in several cities to condemn the unrest".

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Sunday said Iran's foreign foes, including the United States, were encouraging the riots by "thugs".

On Monday, the IRGC warned of "decisive" action if the violent riots continue, in which public property has been destroyed and banks and gas stations set on fire.

The United States, which quit an international nuclear deal with Iran last year and reimposed sanctions on Iranians, supported the rioters.

"As I said to the people of Iran almost a year and a half ago: The United States is with you," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted.

Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif took a swipe at the U.S. as well as some European officials, describing the West's claim to support the Iranian people as "a shameful lie".

"Lawful protest is the people's right, which has been recognized in the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and

there is no need for a reminder or hypocritical support from regimes that have officially announced that they aim to force Iran to give in to their illegitimate and unlawful demands by imposing economic pressure on Iranian citizens, even on their food and medicine," Zarif said.

He said Pompeo should first be held accountable for "declared acts of terrorism and crimes against humanity against the Iranian people".

Zarif also slammed some European allies of the U.S. and said, "Countries that have failed to demonstrate their power and will against U.S. economic terrorism and now provide political and field support for chaos and disruption of public order (in Iran) to hide their inability will bear all the consequences of their dangerous provocations."

Following a hike in the price of gasoline on Thursday midnight, a number of Iranian cities saw sporadic protests that turned violent in some cases. A number of banks and government buildings have been set ablaze.

In an address on Sunday morning, Ayatollah Khamenei warned that the sporadic protests and acts of vandalism in Iran would create insecurity.

Describing insecurity as the worst calamity for a society, the Leader said "all evil centers in the world" have mobilized efforts in recent days to encourage unrest in Iran.

The Leader also called on the people to separate themselves from a group of thugs who are encouraged by the foreign-based anti-Iranian front to foment insecurity.

Frustration has grown over currency devaluation and spikes in prices of bread, rice and other staples since Washington began to apply "maximum pressure" on Iran to make nuclear and security concessions.

The government said the price rises were intended to raise around \$2.55 billion a year for extra subsidies to 18 million families struggling on low incomes.

IRNA news agency said handouts to the poor had started on Tuesday.

Leader Meets Iranian Producers, Entrepreneurs



Ayatollah Khamenei meets with a group of Iranian producers, entrepreneurs and economic activists in Tehran, Nov. 19, 2019.

Kayhan Int'l Political Desk

TEHRAN -- A group of Iranian producers, entrepreneurs and economic activists met here Tuesday night with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The Leader's speech and de-

tails of the meeting will be covered in our Thursday issue.

The meeting came in the wake of the government's decision to hike petrol prices. Ayatollah Khamenei on Sunday threw his support behind the decision, but called on Iranians to distance themselves from "hooligans"

who are manipulating protests to damage public property.

Gasoline in Iran still remains among the cheapest in the world despite a price hike of 50 percent, which went into effect on Friday.

"The heads of power branches have sat down and made a deci-

sion supported by experts. The decision must be implemented," the Leader said on Sunday.

The petrol price increase is a calculated means of making the economy more efficient, and switching resources to the poor.

The rise is intended to raise about \$2.5 billion a year for additional subsidies for 18 million families, or about 60 million Iranians on lower incomes, the government said.

The proposal had been recommended by the International Monetary Fund as a way of ending inefficient petrol subsidies and rebalancing government spending. Iran has some of the cheapest retail petrol prices in the world partly due to high subsidies. Fuel subsidies cost 1.6% of GDP in 2017-18.

Muhammad Baqer Nobakht, the head of the Plan and Budget Organization of Iran, has said about 60 million people out of the 82 million population would get an extra monthly bonus to compensate for the rise in petrol prices.

Latest in Pro-Zionist Policy Shift Settlements on Occupied Lands Not Illegal: U.S.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The United States no longer believes that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories are illegal, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Monday, in the latest pro-Zionist shift by Washington.

The statement puts the United States at odds with virtually all countries and UN Security Council resolutions and comes just as centrist Benny Gantz races to form a cabinet to replace PM Benjamin Netanyahu, a close ally of President Donald Trump.

Netanyahu on Tuesday hailed the U.S. announcement, but the Palestinians pledged new measures to oppose it.

Netanyahu visited the Gush Etzion settlement bloc south of Jerusalem Al-Quds, where he told settler leaders he was "very moved" by the announcement.

The decision is the latest in a series of pro-Israeli moves by Donald Trump's administration, including recognizing the occupied city of Jerusalem Al-Quds as Israel's capital and recog-

nizing the occupying regime's "sovereignty" over the Golan Heights, seized from Syria in the Six-Day War of 1967.

More than 600,000 Zionists live in illegal settlements in east Jerusalem Al-Quds and the West Bank, alongside more than three million Palestinians.

The Arab League criticized Pompeo's announcement, calling it an "extremely adverse development."

The only two Arab states to have signed peace treaties with Israel -- Egypt and Jordan -- also sharply criticized the U.S. policy shift, with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warning of its "dangerous consequences".

The European Union reiterated that it considers all settlement activity "illegal under international law."

Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned that the U.S. decision to effectively back Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem Al-Quds would escalate tensions in the region.

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United Nations Global Study: U.S. Holding 100,000 Migrant Children in Detention

UNITED NATIONS/WASHINGTON (AFP/AP) -- More than 100,000 children are currently being held in migration-related detention in the United States, often in violation of international law, the UN said.

Lead author of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, Manfred Nowak, said the figure refers to migrants children currently in custody who reached a U.S. border unaccompanied, as well as those detained with relatives and minors separated from their parents prior to detention.

"The total number currently detained is 103,000," Nowak told AFP, calling it a "conservative" assessment, based on the latest available official data as well as "very reliable" additional sources. Globally, at least 330,000 chil-

dren across 80 countries are being held for migration-related reasons, according to the global study that launched Monday, meaning the U.S. accounts for nearly a third of such detentions.

The study in part looked at violations of the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child, which mandates that child detentions be used "only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time."

The U.S. is the only UN member state that has not ratified the convention which took effect in 1990.

But Nowak said that did not absolve President Donald Trump's administration of wrongdoing with respect to the detention of migrant children at the southern border with Mexico.

"Migration-related detention for (Continued on Page 7)