

Iran Urges Joint Regional Efforts Against Insecurity, U.S. Plots



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani (R) shakes hands with General Qamar Javed Bajwa, the Pakistani army chief, in Tehran on November 19, 2019.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani on Tuesday in a meeting with General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Pakistan's army chief stressed the need for collective cooperation in the region to counter insecurity and thwart U.S. plots to sow discord among Muslim nations.

Shamkhani said Washington has been trying to create a rift among Muslim countries in bid to expand its dominance and ensure the security of the Zionist regime.

On the contrary, he added, Iran's strategy is to promote relations and cooperation with regional states and neighbors, particularly Pakistan.

Shamkhani also underscored the need for developing defense, security and economic ties between Tehran and Islamabad in an effort to help establish sustainable security in the region.

He further expressed Iran's readiness to reinforce economic cooperation with Pakistan, especially in border provinces.

Additionally, he slammed Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen as a clear example of fueling insecurity in the region and a violation of human rights, calling on Muslim nations to pile up pressure on the Riyadh regime and "immediately stop this heinous genocide."

The Pakistani general, for his part, called for enhanced defense relations with Iran.

Referring to plots by extra-regional states to provoke war and division among Muslim countries, he stressed that fighting "the dangerous approach" should be a top priority for the Muslim world.

Bajwa also voiced the Pakistani army's resolve to deal decisively with any mischief and sinister acts along the border with Iran.

He further hailed Iran's firm stance on supporting the cause of Palestine and its people against Israeli occupation.

And also, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri and General Qamar Javed Bajwa in a meeting underlined the need for broadening of mutual cooperation in defense fields.

The two sides explored avenues for bolstering and reinvigorating defense relations.

General Baqeri and General Bajwa discussed different issues ranging from security partnership, regional developments and maintaining stable security at the regional level.

Restoring border security, confronting the terrorist movements and preventing them from illegally crossing the borders of the two countries were among other issues of talks between the two sides.

U.S., Zionists Main Obstacles to Mideast Free of Nuclear Weapons

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iran's envoy to the United Nations Majid Takht-Ravanchi has highlighted the necessity of the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons, saying the U.S. and Zionists are the main obstacles to the establishment of such a zone.

Takht-Ravanchi made the remarks in an address to the Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction in New York.

In the Middle East, Takht-Ravanchi noted, the weapons of mass destruction arsenal of the Zionist regime supported by the USA and furthermore, and the latter's unwillingness to engage in the work of the Conference are the two main obstacles in the realization of the idea of establishing such a zone in the Middle East. "Their irresponsible policies and actions to proliferate WMD should not be acceptable to the international community," he added.

He further highlighted the significance of achieving international peace and security through elimination of all three types of weapons of mass destruction,

namely, Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological weapons.

However, he added, in order to achieve this lofty goal, the regional participating States as well as the Nuclear Weapon States should be determined to enter into meaningful negotiations and agree and honor specific obligations.

The Iranian envoy also reaffirmed that Weapons of Mass Destruction have no place in the Islamic Republic's our national defense doctrine.

Iran's "well-known position is total, irreversible and verifiable elimination of these inhumane weapons," he said.

"This policy stems from our Islamic belief, rational calculation of our national interest and that of the region and the bitter experience of being the major victim of the most systematic chemical attacks in contemporary history."

Therefore, he added, Iran fully recognizes, more than any other nation in the world, the necessity of the establishment of such a zone in our region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to play
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Iran's Army Kicks Off Major Drills in Northwestern Provinces

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Ground Force of Iran's Army started large-scale military drills on Tuesday morning in the country's northwestern region, in a bid to further boost the combat readiness of its units.

Codenamed "Zolfaghar-e-Velayat", the military drills of the Iranian Army's Ground Forces started this morning in a vast strategic area in the northwestern parts of the country.

Various divisions of the Army Ground Force are participating in the drill, which is focused on practicing the transfer of rapid reaction units via ground and air from across the country to operation zones. The enlisted units will also display their efficacy and work to enhance their readiness in responding to operational requirements and threats through day and night.

Iran has conducted major military drills in recent years

to enhance the defense capabilities of its Armed Forces and to test modern military tactics and state-of-the-art equipment.

Each year, the country inaugurates a host of new projects and hardware developed with reliance on domestic capabilities. The Islamic Republic maintains that its defense power is driven by deterrence and poses no threat to any other country.

The Holy Qur'an

And an announcement from Allah and His Apostle to the people on the day of the greater pilgrimage that Allah and His Apostle are free from liability to the idolaters; therefore if you repent, it will be better for you, and if you turn back, then know that you will not weaken Allah; and announce painful punishment to those who disbelieve.

The Holy Qur'an (9.3)

PRAYER TIMINGS

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Noon (Zohr) | 11:50 |
| Evening (Maghreb) | 17:14 |
| Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow" | 05:17 |
| Sunrise "Tomorrow" | 06:45 |

U.S. to No Longer Waive Sanctions on Iran's Fordow Plant

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington will no longer waive sanctions related to Iran's Fordow nuclear plant.

"President (Hassan) Rouhani recently announced that Iran will begin uranium enrichment activities at the Fordow facility. Therefore, the United States will terminate the sanctions waiver related to the nuclear facility at Fordow, effective December 15th, 2019," Pompeo told reporters on Monday, Reuters reported.

The U.S. State Department had said last month that it renewed waivers for 90 days.

Republican Senators Ted Cruz, Lindsey Graham and Liz Cheney praised the decision and called on the Trump administration to also end the waiver for the Arak heavy water reactor, where Chinese state-owned China National Nuclear Corp has operated.

Kelsey Davenport, director of the Arms Control Association, said Monday's decision could further jeopardize the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi, in a meeting with Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok, reiterated that Tehran will keep reducing its nuclear commitments according to the terms of the 2015 deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), unless the Islamic Republic benefits from the dividends enshrined in the agreement.

Thoughts on the 1st Anniversary of the Yellow Vest Movement

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

France's 'Gilets Jaunes' Movement, which in English means 'Yellow Vests', completed its first anniversary last Saturday but with mixed results.

The protests that had sparked in Paris following increase in fuel prices and soon spread out to other cities by evolving into a broader social campaign over income inequality and the inefficient presidency of Emmanuel Macron, with vociferous demonstrations every Saturday, seems to have succeeded in attaining some of its demands, but not all of them.

The gains are paltry, though the Yellow Vests, braving harsh crackdown by the security forces including severe injuries and a few fatalities, managed to reverse the government's fuel tax increase and compelled it to grant a 10 billion Euro aid package for the poor and deprived classes of the French society.

Their main demand, however, remains unmet, and that is, the resignation of President Macron and change in the country's laws. In other words, the Yellow Vests' demonstrations have failed to become a movement for real political change.

The turnout for the anniversary rally in Paris on November 16, was a shadow of the earlier protests, as the police successfully contained the demonstrators by revoking at the last moment the previous permission for a public rally, following eruption of violence at the Place d'Italie in the southern part of the city.

Observers believe, the government itself orchestrated violence through its agent provocateurs in order to find an excuse for an unwarranted and unconstitutional ban of the demonstrations.

As usual, the French authorities which are notorious for providing asylum to terrorists from other countries, such as the MKO hypocrites, and are quick to express support for thugs and vandals disturbing security, plundering public property, and murdering innocent citizens - as happened recently in Iraq and Iran - resorted to brutal tactics against the peaceful protestors in Paris through use of tear gas, water cannon, and brutal baton-charges.

It seems Macron, who is out of touch with everyday life of the people in France as is evident by his policies of tax cut for millionaires at the expense of the poor, has resorted to deceit in the hope of blowing the steam out of the Yellow Vest Movement by trying to appease the protestors with cosmetic measures, since he is afraid of the massive strike planned for December 5 by train and hospital workers and civil servants.

He wishes death for the movement, but for the moment he is incapable of totally suppressing it; hence his policy of divide and rule.

It should be recalled that the Yellow Vest protestors who burst on the scene last winter and caught international attention, came from all walks of life. Initially they captured the sentiments of Europeans across the borders of France, especially in parts of Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and Holland, threatening a grassroots revolution across the Continent, which has failed to materialize.

The reasons are obvious. Though earnest in their demands and justified in their peaceful protests, they lack leadership and have no fixed agenda, including what the replacement of the present governmental structure ought to be.

Moreover, officialdom throughout Europe, or for that matter in the US and Canada is not with the Yellow Vests, since the West does not want the status quo of the European Union to be changed.

This is in sharp contrast to the devilish designs of the US and NATO states in Latin America where they actively support lawless elements against the legal governments (as in Bolivia, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba); or in Muslim World, where they have destabilized and destroyed Syria and Iraq through macabrely murderous terrorists, in addition to fanning the flames of sedition in Lebanon and expressing open support for miscreants in Iran.

To sum up, still all is not lost for the Yellow Vests. The movement ought to take stock of its weaknesses and shortcomings, and plan for the future in a peaceful way through public attraction of support, if it hopes in attaining social justice that depends on not just President Macron's resignation but a complete overhaul of France's governmental structure.

Can the Yellow Vest Movement do it? If not, it would be said, it has flattered the public only to deceive them.