

# Kayhan

## International

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In the Name of the Most High  
**Viewpoint**

## Does End of US Economic Terrorism Require Talks?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*Iran has sent the right message to those trying to play dirty politics with its peaceful nuclear programme that includes increase of uranium enrichment as per the country's growing industrial needs, in the face of US economic terrorism.*

*There is no need of any so-called informal talks with the countries that have violated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), that is, the US and the three European signatories of Germany, France, and Britain, of for that matter the passing of any resolution by the Vienna based nuclear watchdog to lift the illegal US sanctions.*

*That was the gist of Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh's talk with reporters in Tehran on Monday.*

*Moreover, Iran has warned that any anti-Iran resolution by the Western powers through manipulation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in a bid to pressure Tehran will have disastrous impact on the whole issue of JCPOA.*

*Actually, there is no need of the JCPOA regarding Iran's inalienable rights to develop its nuclear industry for peaceful purposes when time and again the IAEA has confirmed the non-military nature of its nuclear project.*

*It was only out of goodwill that Iran had agreed to enter into such an agreement in Geneva in 2015 with Germany and the 5 nuclear armed self-imposed permanent members of the UN Security Council (US, France, Britain, Russia, and China) in order to expose the blackmail of the US in illegally blocking Iran's hard currency oil revenues in foreign banks.*

*It is worth noting that Iran had voluntarily reduced uranium enrichment from 20 percent to 3.67 percent for a limited duration and allowed IAEA personal to have extra hours of inspection, provided the other parties to the JCPOA fulfilled their commitments to the international accord, whose Article 37 specified that the Islamic Republic has the right to lower its own commitments if the other parties fail to abide by its clauses.*

*Now everything is transparent. In a criminal move in 2018 the US not only breached the JCPOA, but it again resorted to its policy of economic terrorism, while the three West European regimes indulged in half-hearted measures without fully carrying out their own commitments.*

*In view of these undeniable facts, there is no obligation for Iran to enter into any talks with parties that have deliberately breached the JCPOA and now intend to dupe Iranian negotiators by raising irrelevant issues.*

*This means the only alternative for the new US administration is to revoke all the illegal sanctions imposed by its predecessor, the roughish regime of Donald Trump.*

*Here, it would be repetitive to say Islam bans production of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological, as had been clearly stated by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who recently said without mincing words that the Islamic Republic has all the right to increase uranium enrichment to even 60 percent or more, if required by its peaceful industrial needs.*

*Such an unambiguous approach by Iran doesn't require any talks at all with any party, especially those regimes who ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 have never ceased their hostility towards the Iranian people.*

*The verdict is thus out. The real culprit is the US which is the cause of tension and instability in our region and throughout the world with its hegemonic policies of meddling in the affairs of other countries, while stockpiling an arsenal of doomsday weapons and assisting an illegal entity like racist/terrorist Israel to develop a weapons-manufacturing nuclear programme without any inspection by the IAEA.*

# Military Aircraft Return to Service After Overhaul



Iranian military commanders attend a ceremony for the delivery of overhauled military aircraft in Tehran, March 1, 2021.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Armed Forces on Monday took delivery of several overhauled military aircraft and aircraft engines brought back into service by Iranian experts.

They included nine military aircraft, including heavy-lift transport planes, 10 helicopters, and dozens of overhauled engines.

They were handed over to the armed forces for future use by the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). The delivery took place during a ceremony joined by Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami as well as commanders of the Army Air Force and Army Aviation Brigadier Generals Aziz Nasirzadeh and Yousef Ghorbani, the Defense Ministry reported on Monday.

Hatami hailed the dynamic nature

of the country's defense industry, saying it indicates that Iran has managed to defeat the enemy's "maximum pressure" policy.

The enemy tries to target Iran with the dual strategies of sanctioning the country and preventing it from buying military equipment, Hatami said. However, the Islamic Republic has successfully countered the campaign using self-reliance, optimization of its defensive and security equipment, and manufacturing of various new indigenous hardware, he said.

The minister identified the overhauled aircraft as F-4, F-14, Fokker F-27 Friendship, and Mirage planes, and said the transport planes were of the 704, 707, and the C-130 makes.

The overhauled choppers are capable of carrying out various

combat, security, and rescue operations, the defense chief said, adding the optimized engines comprised turbojet, turboprop, and turboshaft types.

Hatami noted how the Islamic Republic's defense industries have been experiencing sanctions since the 1979 victory of the country's Islamic Revolution.

The Defense Ministry has been battling the coercive measures by manufacturing different military equipment in line with each period's requirements on the one hand, and overhauling and redesigning its available hardware on the other, he said, describing the latter approach as "an economic and safe pathway towards leveling up the armed forces' defensive capability."

(Continued on Page 7)

## Fordow, Natanz to Get New Generation Centrifuges

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) will install new generations of IR2M and IR6 centrifuges at the Fordow and Natanz nuclear facilities, an official says.

The installation of the centrifuges will be completed within the time limit set by the Iranian parliament and gas will be injected to the machines, spokesman for the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the parliament Abolfazl

Amoui said.

Based on the law, the AEOI should also produce 120 kg of 20 percent enriched uranium within a year, he said.

In December, the parliament passed "Iran's Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions" which obliges the government to further reduce compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), unless the U.S. lifts

sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Iran has scaled down its compliance as per two articles of the nuclear deal, surpassing JCPOA-mandated limits on its uranium enrichment level and on its stockpiles of heavy water and low-enriched uranium.

The Islamic Republic has also lifted JCPOA limitations on its nuclear research and development activities.

## Officials Tell Karabakh Conference in Qom: Relations With Azerbaijan to Be Expanded

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi on Monday underlined cooperation with Azerbaijan despite sanctions, saying Tehran will keep working with Baku on the basis of mutual respect.

In remarks at a conference on the Karabakh conflict held in Qom, Araqchi said Iran and Azerbaijan have maintained relations despite the sanctions.

"Azerbaijan has been one of our major neighbors over the past few years, particularly in the time of sanctions, and we will preserve our ties on the basis of mutual respect and interests," he said.

On the most recent round of clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Araqchi voiced Iran's opposition to any threat to the territorial integrity of countries.

Pointing to the grounds for the

expansion of relations between the two neighbors, the deputy minister said Iran and Azerbaijan have set up various joint projects and enjoy a remarkable volume of cross-border exchange.

Iran and Azerbaijan have accelerated efforts in recent years to forge closer partnership in various areas.

Azeri President Ilham Aliyev has made several official visits to Tehran over the past few years. In 2016, the two sides signed eleven memorandums of understanding and agreements to promote mutual cooperation in a range of fields.

Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council Mohsen Rezaei told the conference that the Islamic Republic should be part of a committee overseeing ceasefire in the Karabakh region and its reconstruction.

"All of the parties involved and all international observers must know that the demand and resolve

of people of the region is that Iran should take part in the Karabakh ceasefire and reconstruction committee and be effectively present in monitoring as well as security and economic cooperation in the new corridors," Rezaei said, referring to corridors created as part of the ceasefire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia in November.

He said Iran's involvement in the ceasefire committee would benefit the entire region.

Highlighting Iran's unwavering support for Karabakh since the outbreak of the "unfair war" in the region, Rezaei said Iran has never backed the self-proclaimed republic of Artsakh.

Karabakh is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, but is populated only by Armenians since they broke away in the 1990s, sparking a war which forced Azerbaijanians to flee their homes.

The Holy Qur'an  
(Of) Allah, Whose is whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth; and woe to the unbelievers on account of the severe chastisement.  
The Holy Qur'an (14.2)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:16
Evening (Maghreb)	18:19
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:09
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:32

## Iran Rules Out Talks With U.S. Without Lifting Sanctions

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran on Monday reiterated that the U.S. has to lift its inhuman sanctions on the Islamic Republic before the two sides could engage in any negotiations.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh repeated a three-step pathway that Tehran has devised for Washington before the latter could find its way back to any negotiation featuring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Referring to Trump successor Joe Biden's administration, Khatibzadeh said, "The course that the U.S. has to take should feature putting the wrong policies of the previous administration behind."

He regretted that to date, the Biden team has not affected any changes in his predecessor's approach.

"We respond to measures with measures, and actions with actions. We respond to positive measures with positive measures, and will respond proportionately if we see a different behavior on the part of the U.S. and Europe," he said.

Khatibzadeh said Biden has even did worse than Trump in certain areas. "It is a source of great regret that Biden and his administration have gotten off to a very hopeless start," he said.

The spokesman further addressed recent remarks by Benjamin Netanyahu, in which he tried to implicate Iran in an explosion featuring an Israeli-owned vessel in the Sea of Oman, and the Israeli prime minister's rehashing of his claim that he was determined to prevent Tehran from acquiring "nuclear weapons."

"Such a blame game only serves the Zionist regime's corrupt prime minister," Khatibzadeh said, noting that Netanyahu was afflicted with "a pathological mental obsession with Iran that is nothing new."

The Zionist premier's claim "reflects the confusion that emanates from the regime's adventurist behavior both inside and outside the occupied territories," the spokesman said.

Khatibzadeh, meanwhile, reiterated that nuclear weapons have no place in the Islamic Republic's doctrine.

"Unfortunately, it is the Western world and the U.S. that have closed their eyes to the Zionist regime's stockpiled weapons and nuclear bombs," he added.