

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday rejected France's "meddlesome" remarks regarding the case of an Iranian national, saying Tehran will brook no interference in its judicial affairs.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will not tolerate at all any discrediting of its governing rules, including independence of its judiciary," Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said after France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian announced that his country would take a tougher stance with Iran for sentencing Fariba Adelkhah, who was arrested in Iran in June 2019 on espionage charges, to prison.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- President Hassan Rouhani has issued an executive order requiring the implementation of a law passed last week that bars any cooperation with the occupying regime of Israel, including the use of Israeli software and hardware.

The Iranian interior, intelligence, foreign and defense ministries as well as the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) and the Judiciary are required to implement the law, approved last week by the parliament and the Guardian Council, the Fars news agency reported.

Viewpoint

Another Brutal Racist Murder in 'Trumpland'

Iran's Documentary Competes at Sheffield Festival



Six Iranians Compete in Online Asian Junior Chess Championship



Hezbollah, Palestine Warn Zionist Annexation Plans Will Expand



U.S. Warships Stay Away After Warning Iran's Fourth Oil Tanker Reaches Caribbean Sea

MARACAY, Venezuela (Dispatches) -- The fourth cargo of a group of Iranian tankers reached the Caribbean Sea on Wednesday as the receiving nation, Venezuela, began preparations to distribute the imported gasoline among desperate citizens, according to Refinitiv Eikon and a government official.

Iran is providing the South American country with up to 1.53 million barrels of gasoline and components to help it ease an acute scarcity that has forced Venezuelans to wait for hours in lines in front of stations.

Formally, Venezuela has the world's cheapest gasoline after over two decades of frozen prices at pump as part of a heavy fuel subsidy, but insufficient distribution has created a black market where a liter is offered at least \$2. While applauded by the Venezuelan government, the Iranian supply has been criticized by U.S. authorities as both OPEC-member countries are under sanctions. But the vessels have so far navigated undisturbed to their destinations after Iran's somber warning to the U.S. to keep clear from their path.

As tanker Faxon was entering the Caribbean, the third vessel of the flotilla, the Petunia, was heading to El Palito refinery, where the first vessel, the Fortune, is docked since Monday. The second cargo, on vessel Forest, is discharging at the Cardon refinery since Tuesday, according to the Eikon data.

Diosdado Cabello, president of Venezuela's Constituent National Assembly, distributed a message among governors late on Tuesday asking them for support for a new fuel supply system.

"We will increase distribution," he said to explain a plan drafted earlier by President Nicolas Maduro to secure and supervise supply to stations. People will also pay for gasoline in a new way, he suggested, without elaborating on details.

Iran's ambassador in Venezuela, Hojjatollah Soltani, denied in a TV interview on Tuesday that Venezuela will pay for the fuel with gold, as U.S. officials have claimed.

"There is no need for such a thing because there are other ways, such as bartering food, including coffee and cocoa," he told Iran's Arabic-Language Al-Alam TV.

The Venezuelan economy has been in tatters, hurt by U.S.-instigated political instability, and American sanctions. People have had to endure shortages of basic necessities such as food and medicines, which have forced millions to flee the country.

U.S. sanctions have mainly targeted Venezuela's oil industry -- once one of the world's biggest -- battering the country's primary source of revenue.

Venezuela, which sits on the world's biggest oil reserves and boasts one of the biggest refineries in the region, has seen its 1.3 million barrel-per-day refining network collapse due to lack of investments due to U.S. sanctions and suspicious power failures which officials have blamed also on Washington.

The U.S. has stepped up sanctions aimed at ousting Maduro in recent months.

Soltani said the sanctions are no longer effective, hailing Iran's fuel shipments to the South American country as a "victory" for the entire international community.

"Unilateral U.S. sanctions against Venezuela, Iran and several other countries have lost their effectiveness and are not as effective as before," he said.

"The US has been trying to use dollar as leverage to help its own economy flourish and exert pressure on other states, but the countries opposed to the U.S. do not submit to American bullying."

Leader Tells MPs Culture, Economy Most Pressing Issues

New Parliament Officially Convenes



New Iranian lawmakers take oath in a ceremony at parliament floor in Tehran, May 27, 2020.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's new parliament convened on Wednesday after the Feb. 21 elections under strict health protocols and social distancing rules to ward off the coronavirus.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addressed the inauguration, highlighting culture and economy as Iran's most pressing issues, which require the highest of attention of the new parliament.

The ceremony was attended by President Hassan Rouhani, Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raeisi, and Major General Muhammad Baqeri, the chairman of the Chiefs

of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces.

In his statement, the Leader said the new parliament is a testimony to the successful implementation of "Islamic democracy" in Iran.

Ayatollah Khamenei thanked the Iranian nation for their "diligence and motivation" in electing the new legislature and congratulated the parliamentarians on securing the nation's approval.

Citing the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, the Leader said Majlis stands at the head of the country's affairs.

The chamber, Ayatollah Khamenei said, is duty-bound to pave the

way for the adoption of the laws that serve as the country's path towards its desired "pinnacles and destinations".

The Leader urged the lawmakers to bring into force "the right, apt, and workable" legislation that would empower "the country to attain its sublime goals".

In order to correctly perform their duties, the lawmakers have to properly identify the country's priorities through expert analysis, maintain their active engagement, and avoid misusing the position and resources that have been entrusted with them, the Leader said.

The MPs, he added, should not

allow harmful, personal, and factional affairs to interfere with their performance.

"You respectable representatives are the ones, who can grant Majlis a decent standing," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also advised the parliament to place the main planks of the national economy -- including employment, production, and the national currency's value -- high on its agenda.

"The general policies of the Resistance Economy serve as a credible guideline in this area," the Leader said, referring to his trademark blueprint for the country's development in the face of sanctions.

Many lawmakers wore masks and their temperatures were taken before entering the parliament building in downtown Tehran.

Lawmakers will vote on Thursday for a new speaker of the chamber to replace Ali Larijani. Front-runners for the job include former Tehran Mayor Muhammad-Baqer Qalibaf and Mustafa Mirsalim.

Rouhani urged Iranian lawmakers to "cooperate" with his government during the inaugural session of the new parliament following a February election swept by principlists.

The parliament, a legislative chamber that shapes debate in Iran, had been closed for six weeks until April 7 as part of measures aimed at curbing the spread of the novel coronavirus.

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South Korea Blocking Iran's Use of Oil Money

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- South Korea is holding the largest sum of Iran's oil money frozen under U.S. pressure and yet it is reportedly stonewalling attempts to repatriate it at a time when the Islamic Republic badly needs the billions of dollars to put its economy in order and fight a new coronavirus outbreak.

South Korea was the biggest client of Iranian gas condensate with 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) on top of 100,000 bpd of crude oil, but the country stopped the imports even before U.S. sanctions on Iran's oil industry went into effect in November 2018.

There are no official figures on the amount of the money being held, but some sources have put it in the range of \$7 billion, Iran's Etemad daily newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Last December, Seoul-based Chosun Ilbo newspaper cited officials as saying that Iran's

Foreign Ministry had called in the South Korean ambassador to demand payment of 7 trillion won (\$6 billion) for oil it sold to the Asian country.

According to the paper, Iran expressed "strong regret" over Seoul's failure to complete the payment, which has been deposited at two South Korean banks without being transferred to Iran's central bank for years. It added that other Iranian authorities including the central bank also complained.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry official said at the time the Iranian side had expressed its position that it hoped for the humanitarian trade to be resumed. South Korea, the official said, was in talks with Iran and the U.S. frequently so that the shipments of humanitarian goods like medical supplies could be resumed using the won-based transaction system.

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Thousands More Job Cuts Planned Boeing to Eliminate Over 12,000 U.S. Jobs

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Boeing Co said Wednesday it was eliminating more than 12,000 U.S. jobs, including laying off 6,770 U.S. workers as the largest American planemaker restructures in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

Boeing also disclosed it plans "several thousand remaining layoffs" in the next few months but did not say where those would take place.

The company announced in April it would cut 10% of its worldwide workforce of 160,000 by the end of 2020. Boeing said Wednesday it had approved 5,520 U.S. employees to take voluntary layoffs and they will leave Boeing in the coming weeks. Boeing also disclosed it is notifying 6,770 workers this week of involuntary layoffs.

Boeing is moving to cut costs as it faces a drop in airplane demand from the coronavirus pandemic.

Boeing Chief Executive Dave

Calhoun told employees in an email that the "pandemic's devastating impact on the airline industry means a deep cut in the number of commercial jets and services our customers will need over the next few years, which in turn means fewer jobs on our lines and in our offices. ... I wish there were some other way."

In April, Boeing recorded zero orders for the second time this year and customers canceled another 108 orders for its grounded 737 MAX plane, compounding its worst start to a year since 1962.

The pandemic worsened a crisis for the company in which the 737 MAX was grounded last year after the second of two fatal crashes.

Last month, Boeing raised \$25 billion in a bond offering that allowed the company avoid taking government aid.

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Islamic Republic of Iran
Ministry of Energy
Khuzestan Water and Power Authority

Request for Qualification of Bidders and Financer Common conveyance system of agricultural and drinking water from Karun III dam to Izeh and the construction of

water treatment plant project with EPC+F method