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## In the Name of the Most High

### Viewpoint

## Not USA but ISA – the Isolated States of America

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*Tuesday, June 30, saw yet another day of defeat for Washington in its illegitimate attempt to pressure the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to extend an arms embargo on Iran that is all set to expire this October.*

*The USA, sorry the ISA or the Isolated States of America, became all the more isolated at the World Body when Iran, Russia and China exposed its irrationality and even its traditional European allies (Germany, France, and Britain), despite their usual bids to try to find some faults with Iran, refused to buy American claims against the Islamic Republic.*

*Interestingly, at the meeting, Rosemary A. DiCarlo, the UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, who is an American citizen, found fault with her own country's illogical stance on Iran, especially the unilateral breaching of the JCPOA.*

*This made the gangster Mike Pompeo, who poses as Secretary of State, without knowing the ABC of diplomacy, look like a buffoon with his raving and ranting against Iran.*

*The outlaw bully called Donald Trump who currently rules – or more properly misrules – the US, appeared isolated both at home and abroad as the mass protests on the streets throughout the country for the past 35 days following the brutal killing in Minneapolis of Afro-American citizen, George Floyd, by white police officers, continued to denounce the dotard and his deranged policies.*

*Russian ambassador to the UN, Vassily Nebenzia told the Security Council that Washington's so-called maximum pressure policy against Iran is totally unjustified and is akin to kneeling on someone's neck – a reference to Floyd's death that has triggered protests across the US against systemic racism.*

*China's permanent envoy to the UN, Zhang Jun, said: "Having quit the JCPOA, the US is no longer a participant and has no right to trigger a snapback (of sanctions against Iran) at the UN".*

*Henry Rome, senior Iran analyst for Eurasia Group, said the UN Security Council meeting was "another vivid illustration of Washington's isolation as well as its failure over the past three years to persuade any other signatory of the deal to back its approach."*

*Tehran for its part has explained its principled stance on international law including adherence to its commitment from which it has never deviated, but warned that it will not tolerate any lawless measures against national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran.*

*It has pointed out that no illegal embargo will ever force Iran to abandon its right to develop peaceful nuclear energy, as well strengthen its defensive power (including the right to manufacture missiles), and its assistance to the people and countries of the region in confronting US-Zionist terroristic threats.*

# Probe Launched After 19 Killed in Blast at Hospital



Rescue workers cut debris at the site of a gas explosion in a hospital in northern Tehran, June 30, 2020.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian police on Wednesday questioned four people as part of investigations into a powerful explosion that killed 19 people at a Tehran clinic the night before.

The blast at the Sina At'har health centre in the upmarket northern neighborhood of Tajrish caused damage to nearby buildings and sent a plume of thick black smoke into the sky.

Fifteen women were among the 19 people who lost their lives in the tragedy.

"The police are questioning four people and investigating them," Tehran's deputy police chief General Hamid Hadavand was quoted

as saying by Iribnews.

Among them were the director general and three other officials from the clinic, which was badly damaged by the blast and a fire that took two hours to extinguish.

Tehran's police chief General Hussein Rahimi on Wednesday denied the incident could have been the result of "sabotage".

"These are definitely rumors," he was quoted as saying by Fars news agency.

The tragedy was the result of a "fire (that broke out) in this private health centre," he added.

The cause of the incident is still unknown, however.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani,

in a message of condolence to the families of the victims, called on the authorities concerned to shed light "on the cause of the accident".

Tehran fire brigade spokesman Jalal Maleki said the explosion occurred when a fire spread to gas canisters stored in the basement of the clinic.

Deputy Health Minister Iraj Harirchi denied rumors circulating on social media about "the presence of radioactive materials" in the building.

"The Sina At'har clinic was not a nuclear medicine centre" but "a dental and radiology centre," he said.

## Iran Raps France's Meddling After Court Rulings

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday dismissed France's meddling comments about an Iranian court's rulings regarding the case of a man sentenced to death over his role in violent riots that engulfed the country in 2017 and 2018 and a woman sentenced to five years in prison on national security charges.

"It is the purview of Iranian courts to hear cases and issue sentences for crimes committed by its nationals," ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

On Tuesday, Iranian authorities said Ruhollah Zam had been found guilty by a court in Tehran of "corruption on earth," a term often used to describe attempts to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

Zam spent years in France before his detention by Iranian authorities. He ran Amad News, a website and channel on the messaging platform Telegram, out of France, where he had lived since 2011. He used the channel to provoke riots and teach rioters how to make bombs and attack targets in Iran.

The judiciary also said on Tuesday that an appeals

court had upheld the sentence for Fariba Adelkhah, an Iranian who was arrested in Tehran in June, 2019.

Adelkhah was sentenced to five years in prison in May on national security charges, with an additional one-year jail term for disseminating "propaganda against the Islamic Republic".

She will serve five years, the judiciary said, because she has already been in detention for over a year, according to the Fars news agency.

"Ms. Adelkhah and Ruhollah Zam have been sentenced proportional to the crimes committed and are serving their sentences," Mousavi said Wednesday.

He also stressed that France's foreign ministry lacks any competence and authority to meddle in Iranian judicial cases. "The Islamic Republic of Iran would not approve any interference in its internal affairs."

The ministry had described the death sentence as "a serious blow to freedom of expression and press freedom in Iran," saying Paris opposed its use "everywhere and in all circumstances".

## How Did Iran Build a Howitzer Which Beat U.S. Model?

LONDON (National Interest) -- The Raad 2 is a prime example of what the Iranian defense industry does best—keeping legacy weapon systems alive through a combination of reverse-engineering copies of foreign hardware, and mating systems.

This Iranian self-propelled howitzer is half American, half Russian, and apparently built entirely in Iran.

Iran's home-grown arms manufacturer, the Defense Industries Organization, is responsible for creating quite a wide array of Iran's military hardware. DIO is an Iranian state-owned group that has reverse-engineered a large amount of equipment for the Iranian military—and

one of their self-propelled artillery pieces is no exception.

The Raad 2, or "Thunder" is self-propelled howitzer domestically produced by DIO in Iran and is a strange union of an originally American-designed turret and a Soviet-designed hull. Although the exact specifications of the Raad 2 are not known, inferences can be made by looking at what is known about the platforms it is based on.

The parent turret comes from the American M109A1, a slightly modified variant of the M109 self-propelled howitzer. The A1 is quite similar, but has a longer barrel that gave the A1 a longer range than its parent—up to 18,000 meters, or just over 11

miles. The Raad 2 seems to have just this turret, though it is probably a reverse-engineered Iranian copy, rather than the original.

The round both the M109 and the Raad 2 fire is the NATO-standard 155 millimeter round, which is one of the most common artillery rounds in the world. Some sources claim that the Iranian version has a longer range than the American M109—about 30 kilometers, or almost 19 miles. The Raad 2 shares the same muzzle brake system at its American counterpart for countering the high amount of recoil generated by the gun, and can probably fire up to five rounds a minute.

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The Holy Qur'an

And on the day when We will gather them all together, then We will say to those who associated others (with Allah): Keep where you are, you and your associates; then We shall separate them widely one from another and their associates would say: It was not us that you served: The Holy Qur'an (10:28)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:08
Evening (Maghreb)	20:45
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:06
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:52

## Taliban No. 2, Iranian Envoy Hold Talks in Qatar

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has confirmed a meeting between Tehran's special envoy for Afghanistan and a Taliban delegation in Qatar, saying the talks are aimed at promoting peace and security in the war-ravaged Afghanistan.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry's special envoy for Afghanistan, Muhammad Ebrahim Taheerian, held talks with Taliban's deputy political leader and the Qatari special representative for Afghanistan in Doha on Monday, ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said late Tuesday.

"Such meetings take place in line with Iran's efforts and consultations to facilitate intra-Afghan talks with the purpose of establishing peace, stability and security in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan," he said.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the head of Taliban's Qatar-based political bureau, met with the Iranian envoy in Doha and discussed issues related to Afghan refugees and peace in Afghanistan, Taliban's political office spokesman Suhail Shaheen said.

Baradar said the Taliban were committed to all terms of the peace agreement, emphasizing that the group would start intra-Afghan talks once all Taliban prisoners are released, according to Shaheen.

Baradar visited Tehran first in November 2019 and held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif.

During those talks, Zarif highlighted the need for Afghan-Afghan talks and the formation of an all-inclusive government in the country.

Earlier this month, Afghan's acting Foreign Minister Muhammad Hanif Atmar also visited Tehran and was told about Iran's readiness to help initiate talks between Afghanistan's government and the Taliban.

Tehran laid emphasis on the need for all Afghan groupings to join negotiations — spearheaded by the government — towards resolving the country's problems.

Violence runs rampant across Afghanistan despite the presence of thousands of foreign forces, most American, in the country.