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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Upgrading of Iran-Syria Defence Ties Ensures Regional Stability

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The western media is rife with rumours regarding the recent upgrading of the traditional Iran-Syria defence ties for bolstering Damascus' air power against terrorism of all kinds, including the takfiri threats and the illegal foreign military presence in parts of the country.

It was a routine reaffirmation of the close ties the two Muslim countries have enjoyed over the past four decades since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, and Syria's strategic decision to close the Iraqi oil pipeline to its Baniyas port on the Mediterranean during the 8-year war the US had imposed on the Islamic Republic through the repressive Ba'th minority regime of Baghdad.

It was yet another proof that the Islamic Republic of Iran will always stand beside Syria and the fraternal Syrian people to protect their Islamic dignity, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity, at a time when the western-backed terrorists have slaughtered almost half a million men, women, and children over the past nine years, in addition to making millions of other Syrians homeless.

The latest agreement signed in Damascus by Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Major-General Mohammad Hussein Baqeri, and Syrian Defence Minister Ali Abdullah Ayyoub, is continuation of the comprehensive military cooperation inked way back on 16th June 2006 in Tehran by the then defence ministers of the two countries – Iran's Mustafa Najjar and Syria's Hassan Turkmani (the latter martyred in 2012 by terrorists on the payroll of the US, Saudi Arabia, and Israel).

President Bashar al-Assad confirmed this point when he said during discussions with Maj.-Gen. Baqeri yesterday: "This agreement reflects the strategic level of relations between Iran and Syria and is the outcome of years of common measures and cooperation in the fight against terrorism in Syria."

He is absolutely right. If not for the Islamic Republic's strategic advisory role in Syria, the macabrely murderous terrorists would have long fragmented the country into Zionist bases for expansion southwards towards Iraq and the Persian Gulf.

This is the reason the frustrated Zionist entity, having failed to balkanize Syria through the terrorists, indulges in frequent air and missile attacks, which from now on will certainly be thwarted with the boosting of Syria's air defences, especially since Iran has significantly strengthened the large Syrian military base at Latakia airport.

The Americans are also alarmed at the failure of their own terrorist policies, and know fully well that their forces have no place in a resurgent Syria, once the Syrian national army after completing the mopping up operations in Idlib, turns towards the eastern Euphrates region and its oilfields to oust the uninvited US forces.

On the Iraqi border, the American occupied enclave of at-Tanf is also waiting for liberation, as well as the Golan Heights which the Israeli occupiers claim to have annexed in violation of the UN Security Council resolution.

Syria is an integral part of the Resistance Front, and a vital link connecting post Ba'thist Iraq to Lebanon and Occupied Palestine. Hence the Islamic Republic of Iran considers Syria's security as its own security, and Damascus' defence capabilities to be those of Tehran.

Currently, Iran is involved in implementing several industrial projects in Syria, including cement factories, car assembly lines, power plants, and silo construction. Iran also plans to set up a joint Iranian-Syrian bank in the future.

In view of these extensive multilateral ties, it is important for Iran and Syria to boost their defence cooperation in the face of Zionist-takfiri threats, at a time when CENTCOM terrorists are roaming free in the region and refusing to leave Iraq despite the demands of the Iraqi people for closure of all American bases.

President Assad Hails Strategic Ties After Military Deal



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, center right, holds talks with head of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian armed forces Major General Muhammad Baqeri in Damascus July 9, 2020.

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- Syria's President Bashar al-Assad said here Thursday a military agreement signed between Damascus and Tehran a day before is the result of years of cooperation in fighting against terrorism.

"This agreement reflects the strategic level of relations between Iran and Syria and is the outcome of years of common measures and cooperation in the fight against terrorism in Syria," Assad told head of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian armed forces Major General Muhammad Baqeri.

Baqeri, for his part, underlined "the importance of Iran's continued efforts aimed at boosting

bilateral ties between the two friendly and brotherly nations in all fields."

The top Iranian military official also stressed that continued strengthening of bilateral ties is in the interests of Iran and Syria and that he supports it against any attempts to interfere in the domestic affairs of the two countries and damage their independent decision-making.

Major General Baqeri arrived in Damascus on Wednesday and signed a "comprehensive" agreement with Syrian Defense Minister Ali Abdullah Ayyoub to strengthen military and defense cooperation.

Baqeri said Iran plans to strengthen Syria's air defense systems as part of a military agreement between the allies.

"We will strengthen Syria's air defense systems in order to improve military cooperation between the two countries," he said after arriving for an official visit. The deal will "further enhance our will... to confront pressures by America."

The occupying regime of Israel has launched hundreds of strikes in Syria since the start of an imposed war there in 2011, targeting government troops and their allies in a bid to stop their advances and prevent the defeat of foreign-backed terrorists.

U.S. Assassination Set a 'Dangerous Precedent': UN

GENEVA (Dispatches) -- A UN special rapporteur says the U.S. has put the world at unprecedented peril with its assassination of Iran's top anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani, warning it is high time the international community broke its silence on Washington's drone-powered unlawful killings.

The January 3 assassination set a "dangerous precedent," placing the international community at edge of a cliff, Agnes Callamard, UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, said here Thursday as she presented the world body's Human Rights Council with a report on the assassination.

"On January 3rd 2020, the world moved into a very difference space. On that day, the United States used an armed drone to target and kill Iran's top general, Qassem Soleimani, as well as a number of his companions, including largely Iraqi representatives," she said, adding, "That is a significant and troubling new development."

Callamard called the attack "the first known incident" in which a state invokes what it calls "self-defense as justification for an attack against a government official outside a declared armed conflict."

The international community must now confront the "real prospect" that states would follow in Washington's footsteps by trying to justify and carry out such acts of bloodshed, she added.

Apart from General Soleimani, former commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the attack near Baghdad International Airport killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) anti-terror group, along with several others. The strike came while General Soleimani was on an official visit to the Iraqi capital.

Both commanders enjoyed deep reverence among Muslim nations over their endeavors in eliminating the U.S.-sponsored Daesh terrorist group in the region, particularly in Iraq and Syria.

Callamard's report underlines the "unlawful" nature of the operation, and shows how the U.S. has failed to provide sufficient evidence of an ongoing or imminent attack against its interests to justify the strike.

In response to the assassination, the IRGC fired volleys of ballistic missiles at a U.S. air base in Iraq on

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Locals, Officials Deny Reports of Blast West of Tehran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- A senior official on Friday dismissed online reports of an explosion in western Tehran.

The governor of Qod city, Leila Vaseqi, was quoted by the Fars news agency as saying no explosion had occurred, but that there was a power outage that lasted about five minutes.

Reuters said residents contacted by the news agency in the city and elsewhere said they had heard no explosion.

The report came in the wake of a number of fires in Iran recently, including after the explosion of oxygen gas canisters in a hospital in northern Tehran which media outlets hostile to the

Islamic Republic have tried to portray as coordinated.

Only an explosion at the Natanz nuclear site appears suspicious to Iranian officials.

Last week's explosion at the nuclear facility, which is monitored by inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), caused no casualties but damaged an assembly workshop for IR6, IR4 and IR2m centrifuges.

In an analytical piece with no byline, Hamshahri Online compared the explosion at the nuclear site to the assassination of top Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in January. In response to the assassination, Iran

conducted a missile attack on the American Ain al-Assad military base in Iraq.

Nour News, an outlet close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, also said that the occupying regime of Israel could not have taken part in the Natanz explosion operation without U.S. support or at least a green light from Washington.

"If we accept that the Zionist regime's role is true, then we have to accept that they had received U.S. approval to directly engage with Iran," the outlet added.

"It is very unlikely that Israel and the U.S. have carried out such madness without thinking

Pompeo Lies to Have Iran Arms Ban Extended

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran on Thursday denied that U.S. forces had seized a boat carrying Iranian weapons to Houthi fighters in Yemen, saying the charge was aimed at extending a UN arms embargo on Tehran.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo claimed in Washington on Wednesday that U.S. and unidentified allied forces had interdicted a vessel off Yemen's coast on June 28 that was carrying Iranian arms to the Houthis.

"Lying, accusations and spreading hatred are key elements of America's foreign policy, especially in the current regime," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said. "Pompeo's remarks stem from this approach."

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has taken a hardline with the United Nations to push it to extend the embargo on Iran, saying that lifting it would allow Tehran to acquire advanced weapons.

"Americans are trying to provide excuses to continue their maximum pressure on Iran, advance their malicious goals and to extend the arms embargo on Iran," Mousavi said.

Relations between the long-time foes have worsened since 2018 when Trump abandoned an

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The Holy Qur'an

And on the day when He will gather them as though they had not stayed but an hour of the day, they will know each other. They will perish indeed who called the meeting with Allah to be a lie, and they are not followers of the right direction.

The Holy Qur'an (10.45)

PRAYER TIMINGS	
Noon (Zohr)	13:10
Evening (Maghreb)	20:42
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:14
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:58