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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Beirut Blast – Accident or Terrorist Plot?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The explosion that rocked Beirut port on Tuesday evening was not an ordinary one, and should not be dismissed as a mere accident of a sudden fire igniting tons of incendiary materials stored in a warehouse – as it is being reported.

It was a huge blast – or several blasts according to reports – that not just shook the Lebanese capital like an earthquake but its repercussions were felt as far away as Jordan in the east and the Mediterranean island of Cyprus 240 km to the west of Beirut.

It flattened several buildings, and although probe is underway, the death toll of over a hundred persons from among the 4,000-plus injured so far, is likely to rise.

In view of the massive damage done and widespread injuries caused as a result of shattering of window panes kilometers away from the place of the blast, Beirut resembles a war zone without any actual war taking place.

Was it an inadvertent mishap because of carelessness in storing such a huge amount of explosive material near a busy port?

Were the explosives deliberately ignited, and if so, by whom and for what reason?

Could it be a bomb attack, as the US president tweeted immediately in its aftermath?

Perhaps Donald Trump knows better, although we have no precise information at the moment since the government of Lebanon has not yet released any official statement.

Trump's tweet that was deleted may be the key to resolving the mystery of the Beirut blasts.

It is for the investigative reporters to probe this matter, since the US president who seems to be engaged in a personal war with Lebanon as part of his sinister efforts to bring about an economic collapse because of Beirut's firm resistance against Israeli plots, appeared elated when he made the tweet.

There was no hint of surprise, let alone any sign of grief in him, at the agony of Lebanon and its people.

Perhaps, his apologists might argue that Trump is an emotionless person with no humanitarian feelings for any calamity, whether caused by a natural disaster, whether the growing death toll of Americans due to the Coronavirus pandemic, whether the sufferings of the Iranians, Syrians, and Venezuelans because of his sadistic sanctions, or whether the current widespread scenes of death and destruction throughout the US, especially amongst the Afro-American citizens as a result of the thuggish president's refusal to express even the least regret on the brutal killing of George Floyd over two months ago in Minneapolis by his white police officers.

So, could it mean, the US president ordered the stealth 'bombing' of the warehouse at Beirut port by CENTCOM terrorists?

Or maybe the terrorist Trump entrusted his Zionist bosom pals the criminal task of either igniting the explosive-filled warehouse or dropping a bomb on it by a radar-evading stealth aircraft flying at a very high altitude.

Only time will divulge the facts of the Beirut blasts, or whether the enemies of the Lebanese people did achieve anything in acting in such an unmanly manner.

For its part, the Islamic Republic of Iran joins the people of Lebanon in their hour of grief, and will spare no efforts to help them tide over this tragedy, with a promise that the Americans and the Zionists will never be allowed to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon.

On the Occasion of Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Ghadir: Leader Grants Clemency to 2,135 Inmates



Ayatollah Khamenei regularly agrees with pardoning some inmates on the occasion of religious festivities.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday pardoned or commuted the sentences of a large number of Iranian prisoners.

The Leader agreed to a request by Iran's Judiciary chief Ebrahim Raeisi to pardon or reduce the sentences of as many as 2,135 inmates eligible for clemency.

Ayatollah Khamenei issued the approval on the occasion of Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice), and Eid al-Ghadir, two hugely significant Muslim festivities.

The prisoners pardoned had had their verdicts issued at courts of common pleas and Islamic Revolution tribunals, the Judicial Organization of the Armed Forces, and the State Discretionary Punishment Organization.

The Leader regularly issues such verdicts on the occasion of religious festivities.

The 10th day of the lunar Islamic month of Dhul Hijjah marks Eid al-Adha, which is celebrated at the end of the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

Eid al-Ghadir, which marks the occasion of the appointment by Islam's Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) of Imam Ali (AS) as his successor, is also celebrated on the 18th day of Dhul Hijjah.

On Wednesday, Iran executed a man for killing a soldier during riots in 2017, ISNA news agency said.

Mustafa Salehi was convicted of shooting Sajjad Shah-Sanai, a member of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). His execution was carried out as a retribution sentence demanded by the victim's parents, ISNA said.

The riots of late 2017 and early 2018 began as peaceful demonstrations against economic hardship were hijacked by foreign-backed elements to rampage through a

number of cities and towns by torching gas stations and destroying public property.

Salehi was executed in Isfahan "at the request of (Shah-Sanai's) parents," ISNA said, quoting a statement from the province's justice department.

Under Iran's Sharia, or Islamic, law, the family of a victim of murder and some other crimes can demand the death of the guilty party, or commute the sentence in return for financial compensation.

The United States and terrorists groups based in the U.S. and Europe have been fomenting riots through a series of heavily-funded broadcast networks.

In June, Iran's judiciary said it had sentenced to death Ruhollah Zam for fuelling the late 2017 riots on social media.

Zam, who was based in Paris which is known for hosting MKO terrorists, was detained in 2019, ac-

The Holy Qur'an

Surely (as for) those who believe and do good, their Lord will guide them by their faith; there shall flow from beneath them rivers in gardens of bliss. Their cry in it shall be: Glory to Thee, O Allah! and their greeting in it shall be: Peace; and the last of their cry shall be: Praise is to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.
The Holy Qur'an (10.2)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:10
Evening (Maghreb)	20:23
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:42
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:17

ording to the IRGC.

On Sqaturday, Iran's security officials said they had arrested the head of a U.S.-based terrorist group accused of being behind a deadly 2008 bombing in the southern city of Shiraz and of other abortive attacks.

The group's Jamshid Sharmahd, who was leading armed and sabotage operations inside Iran, is now in the powerful hands of Iran's security forces, a statement from the intelligence ministry said.

The leader of the terrorist royalist group known as the Kingdom Assembly of Iran, or Tondar (Farsi for Thunder) had orchestrated the April 12, 2008 bombing in a packed mosque in Shiraz that martyred 14 people and wounded 215.

Tondar had planned to blow up a dam in Shiraz, use "cyanide bombs" at a Tehran book fair, and plant an explosive device at the mausoleum of the Islamic Republic's founder, the late Imam Khomeini.

U.S., British, Saudi and Israeli intelligence services are the key sponsors of terrorist groups operating against Iran, such as the MKO, PJAK and Takfiri groups.

U.S. Circulates New Resolution on Iran Arms Embargo

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) – The U.S. has circulated a new resolution to United Nations Security Council members calling for an extension of the UN's arms embargo against Iran, Bloomberg News reports.

The text asks UN members states to stop all sales of weapons to and from Iran and to refrain from providing any "technical training, financial resources or services, advice, other services or assistance related to the supply, sale, transfer, manufacture, maintenance, or use of arms" to Iran, the news provider said.

The new resolution is almost identical to one the U.S. circulated in June, signaling the Trump administration is unwilling to make changes suggested by allies and opponents on the Security Council,

Bloomberg said.

U.S. Ambassador Kelly Craft acknowledged Tuesday that Russia and China are likely to veto any resolution. Craft and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo have threatened to invoke a "snapback" provision in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal to reimpose all UN sanctions against Tehran if the resolution is vetoed. The U.S. claims it can do that even though President Donald Trump quit the multinational accord in 2018.

World countries, including many of Washington's allies, have called it preposterous, saying the U.S. cannot claim to be a party to something it has left.

"The strategy in a perfect world will always be to have them abstain

and obviously not veto" the U.S. resolution, Craft said of Russia and China in an online appearance at the annual Aspen Security Forum. "However, let's be realistic here. Right now the strategy is working with other members of the Security Council" to put China and Russia "in a corner and shine a light on them."

Iran's UN ambassador has said he believes the U.S. resolution will be defeated and warned it would be "a very, very big mistake" if the Trump administration then tried to reimpose UN sanctions.

Ambassador Majid Takht Ravanchi said in June that restoring UN sanctions will end the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major powers and release Tehran from

all its commitments.

"If that happens, Iran will not be under constraint as to what course of action it should take," he said reporters. "All options for Iran will be open."

Lifting the arms embargo on Tehran is part of the UN 2015 Security Council resolution endorsing the nuclear agreement.

Ravanchi said ending the arms embargo in October "is an essential part of the agreement between Iran and its partners."

"We believe there is no stomach for members of the Security Council to digest the draft resolution like the one the U.S. presented," he said. "So, it is our view that the draft resolution will be defeated."

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Iran, Ukraine Call for Speedy Resolution of Jet Crash

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The foreign ministers of Iran and Ukraine on Wednesday discussed the results of a recent visit to Kiev by an Iranian delegation for talks about the January 8 crash of a Ukrainian passenger plane near Tehran.

In a telephone conversation, Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif and his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba described the recent meeting as a positive step,

Tasnim news agency reported.

They expressed hope that the continuation of talks and exchange of information between the two countries would help resolve the case as soon as possible and in a way that is satisfactory to the people of the both countries, particularly to the families and relatives of victims of the tragic incident, it said.

Foreign Minister Zarif voiced Iran's readiness to pay compensation to the families and rela-

tives of the victim as a step to alleviate their grief, Tansim said.

For his part, Kuleba said a delegation of negotiators from his country is ready to visit Tehran in October to proceed with the negotiations.

On Tuesday, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for International and Legal Affairs Mohsen Baharvand reacted to reports that Ukraine would insist on maximum compensation, stressing that international documents

and treaties will be the criteria for the sum that Iran is going to pay.

The Kiev-bound UIA Boeing 737 crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran on January 8, killing all 176 people on board, mostly Iranians. Iran said they mistook the passenger plane for a missile at a time of high tensions with the United States.

An international team has started examining the black box flight recorders from the plane.