

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- The Iranian Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy on Tuesday submitted a triple-urgency motion to the legislature to counter the United States' hostile campaign aimed at renewing all United Nations sanctions against Iran. If the U.S. manages to unilaterally activate the snapback mechanism against the Islamic Republic, the motion will oblige the government to take reciprocal measures such as lifting the restrictions placed on the Iranian nuclear program by the 2015 multilateral accord, named the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Mojtaba Zonnour, who chairs the committee, said.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- An Iranian deputy finance minister said Tuesday an announcement last month by the World Bank about data collection irregularities used in compiling the annual Doing Business reports proved Iran was right in its criticism of the body and its rankings. Muhammad Ali Dehqan said for years Iran was of the view that the World Bank adopted a politicized approach in issuing its closely watched annual ranking of countries' business and investment climates. "In dealing with countries, the World Bank has some sort of playing politics and unjust approach which we have repeatedly touched upon," Dehqan was quoted by the IRIB News.

Viewpoint

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Qatar, Pakistan Rule Out Normalization With Zionist Regime

After President Trump's Threat: Iran Warns U.S. Against 'New Strategic Mistake'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) — Iran warned the U.S. on Tuesday against making a “strategic mistake” after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened Tehran over false reports it planned to avenge the assassination of top general Qassem Soleimani.

“We hope that they do not make a new strategic mistake and certainly in the case of any strategic mistake, they will witness Iran’s decisive response,” Government spokesman Ali Rabiei told a televised news conference.

A flimsy U.S. media report, quoting unnamed officials, claimed that an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate the U.S. ambassador to South Africa was planned before the U.S. presidential election in November.

“Any attack by Iran, in any form, against the United States will be met with an attack on Iran that will be 1,000 times greater in magnitude!” Trump wrote on Twitter on Monday.

Rabiei expressed regret that “the president of a country who has claims to global management and order would make hasty, agenda-fueled and dubious remarks on such a weak basis.”

He warned that reacting to such reports would “achieve nothing but disruption to the region and to world calm” and advised Trump to “refrain from fresh adventurism... for the sake of winning

a new term as president.”

On Monday, the foreign ministry denied the report of an assassination plot as “baseless” and part of “repetitive and rotten methods to create an anti-Iranian atmosphere.”

The outright rebuttal by Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeid Khatibzadeh came after Politico news website claimed that Iran had sought to assassinate U.S. Ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks.

Khatibzadeh said the “malicious and agenda-driven” report published in the American media outlet cited the statements of a seemingly U.S. government official in an effort to make it appear true.

The spokesman later posted a tweet in which he advised American journalists to beware of falling into the trap of U.S. politicians’ efforts “to peddle lies.”

“U.S. warmongers have always used gullible ‘journalists’ to sell their folly. Under Bush they used them to sell the \$7 trillion Iraq War. Now they are at it again, using Politico to peddle lies,” he wrote.

“U.S. media needs to be vigilant so as not to be used by politicians,” he added.

Relations between Washington and Tehran have been tense ever since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

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Protests Held Outside White House, in Muslim Countries

'Day of Uprising' Against Betrayal Deals in U.S.



In the Gaza Strip, protesters trample and set fire to placards showing Zionist PM Benjamin Netanyahu, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa and the UAE's Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, with words reading, "Betrayal Deal".

RAMALLAH (Dispatches) -- Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank took part in protests denouncing the normalization deals due to be signed in Washington on Tuesday between the occupying regime of Israel, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Both the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Hamas movement, which governs the Gaza Strip, have condemned the U.S.-brokered accords as a “stab in the back” to their people.

Zionist premier Benjamin Netanyahu and top diplomats from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain were set to sign the agreements to normalize ties on Tuesday, without any progress on an

Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was in Beirut for a meeting with secretaries of Palestinian factions on Tuesday, told President Mahmoud Abbas in a phone call that all Palestinian factions were united against the deal, and “will not allow the Palestinian cause to be a bridge for recognition and normalization with the occupying power at the expense of our national rights, our Al-Quds and the right of return”.

On Monday, Palestinian Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayeh described the accords as another “black day” for the Arab world.

“This will be another date to add to the calendar of Palestinian

misery,” he said, adding that the PA would have to “correct” its relationship with the Arab League for its refusal to condemn the two normalization accords struck in the past month.

Bahrain’s Foreign Minister Abdullah al-Zayani and the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan arrived in Washington on Sunday, while Netanyahu arrived on Monday amid calls for his resignation in Occupied Palestine over his ongoing corruption probes and his regime’s mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bahrain and the UAE have not fought wars against Israel, unlike Egypt and Jordan, which signed

peace treaties with the occupying regime in 1979 and 1994 respectively.

‘Day of Popular Uprising’

A new civil society group representing various factions called for “a day of popular uprising” on Tuesday to coincide with the signing of the deal.

The group, called the United Palestinian Leadership for Popular Resistance (UPLPR), was formed following the meeting between leaders of all Palestinian political factions in the Lebanese capital Beirut last week.

In its first statement, the group called for nationwide protests - named “the black day” - across Palestinian territories to demand the cancellation of the so-called “deal of the century” and Israeli occupation.

It also called for another day of protests - dubbed “day of mourning” - on Friday, during which black flags were to be raised to express rejection of the normalization agreement.

Protests on Tuesday kicked off at 11am in Hebron (Al-Khalil) and Tulkarm, with posters denouncing normalization and calling for Arab unity against occupation.

In Al-Khalil, minor clashes erupted between young Palestinians and Zionist forces in Bab al-Zaweya at the end of a demonstration, according to a Middle East Eye correspondent.

Fahmy Shaheen, the representative of National and Islamic Forces in Al-Khalil, said that protests in his city reflected anger at the almost

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Post-COVID Surge in Gun Sales Overwhelms FBI

TEXAS (Reuters) -- A surge in people buying guns since the coronavirus pandemic began has flooded the FBI's background check system, causing a spike in the number of delayed checks and allowing gun sales to proceed without them, FBI data disclosed on Tuesday showed.

Gun control advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety obtained FBI data through a Freedom of Information Act request.

There has been a 54% increase in the number of background checks that were delayed past three days in the March through July period, as compared with the same time last year, the data shows.

More than 5% of the 5.86 million background checks conducted during those months this year were delayed past three business days, it showed.

More Americans are trying to

buy guns than ever, according to FBI data. The bureau conducted 93% more background checks in that March through July period this year as compared with the same period the previous year, when it conducted 3.03 million checks.

Background checks may have become more difficult to complete as state law enforcement and other government agencies housing records may have been closed or slower in replying to FBI requests because of the pandemic's impact on staffing, said Rob Wilcox, deputy director of policy at Everytown.

If an FBI background check takes longer than three business days, a gun dealer can sell the firearm to a buyer, under current regulations.

That worries groups like Everytown because it means thousands

of people prohibited by law from owning guns - such as most convicted felons - may have obtained them as the FBI background check was delayed.

“They should have allocated the people and resources needed to conduct these background checks,” said Wilcox.

The FBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment. When asked in April about the spike in background checks caused by increased gun sales, the FBI said its system was “operational and will continue to process requests.”

U.S. gun sales have soared this year, sparked by fears of social unrest because of the pandemic, violence seen on the streets of American cities during protests for racial justice, and the turbulence over the presidential election.

Trump Ready to Sell Any Weapons to 'Wealthy' Arabs

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he would be willing to sell other countries in the Middle East the same weapons systems sold to the occupying regime of Israel, noting the region's wealth and saying it would be good for the United States and U.S. jobs.

“They’re very wealthy countries for the most part,” Trump told Fox News in an interview ahead of a signing ceremony at the White House for agreements normalizing relations between the Zionist regime, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain later on Tuesday.

He noted that the UAE wanted to buy some fighter jets, adding: “I personally would have no problem with it. Some people do, they say ... maybe they go to war.”

Trump remarks about a secret

new nuclear weapon also left experts scratching their heads.

“I have built a nuclear, a weapon, I have built a weapon system that nobody’s ever had in this country before,” Trump said in an interview with journalist Bob Woodward for his book published this week.

“We have stuff that you haven’t even seen or heard about. We have stuff that Putin and Xi have never heard about before,” Trump said, referring to Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Xi Jinping of China. “There’s nobody. What we have is incredible.”

Weapons experts are puzzling over Trump’s words. Some think he may have been talking about a nuclear warhead that was modified to reduce its explosive power. Known as the W76-2, this weapon certainly is unknown to the general public —

not because of secrecy or mystery but because of its obscurity.

Asked by a reporter to clarify his comment, Trump on Thursday said he’d rather not.

“There are systems that nobody knows about, including you, and we have some systems that nobody knows about. And, frankly, I think I’m better off keeping it that way,” he said.

James Acton, a nuclear expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said in an interview Friday that Trump may have been referring to the W76-2 warhead. Although its existence was not a secret, the timing of its first deployment was. The warhead is on the business end of a Trident II D-5 missile carried aboard Navy ballistic missile submarines.

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