

# Kayhan International

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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## U.S. Crying Wolf Over Venezuela

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The United States, which has tens of thousands of nuclear weapons, has launched wars in over 150 countries, and is the greatest threat to world peace, has once again made the absurd claim that the peaceful nation of Venezuela is a threat to its national security!

It's no wonder the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) has been quick to slam Washington for its dubious claims and illegal sanctions, calling on Washington to revoke the measure.

Foreign ministers from the 12-nation UNASUR have issued a joint statement that reads: "We call upon the United States to evaluate and implement dialogue as an alternative. The signing of an executive order by President Barack Obama on March 9 labeling Caracas as an extraordinary threat to national security was actually a threat to Venezuela's sovereignty."

Under international law, the hostile actions by the U.S. amount to an interventionist threat to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other nations. These actions are only designed for one purpose: to topple the non-aligned government in Caracas.

Lest we forget the U.S. has been inflating its claims about "unusual and extraordinary threats" to its security for decades. The two countries have been at odds since late Hugo Chavez became Venezuela's president in 1999. And Washington has admitted to endorsing a coup that briefly removed Chavez from power in 2002.

So if Washington is really concerned about security, how come it never imposes sanctions on the Zionist regime of Israel which undermines the sovereignty of Lebanon; Saudi Arabia which threatens the sovereignty of Yemen and cracks down on pro-democracy protesters in Bahrain; regime changers which undermine NATO security and democratic processes in Ukraine; and persons who contribute to the conflicts in the Central African Republic and the world over? These entities and terrorist enablers have all been deemed extraordinary threats to U.S. national security for years; yet Washington has never done anything to stop them.

The problem, perhaps, is that these entities are U.S. allies and Venezuela is not - especially given America's obvious interest to end President Nicolas Maduro's rule. If this is indeed about human rights, Washington should be sanctioning its own allies first before sanctioning Venezuela.

As is, America's dominant position in the world's financial system is being contested as never before. The absurd decision to label Venezuela as a threat will only intensify its own isolation AND Latin American opposition to its intrusions.

At the same time, it will ignite Russian and Chinese efforts to establish alternatives to U.S. default financial tools. They have already started doing just that: trading in their own national currencies and encouraging others to join the club, including Iran.

For years, the U.S. has used its dominant position in the global financial system to use sanctions to contain nations it doesn't like. The Venezuela sanctions regime reflects a new degree of pettiness, though.

Without question, just like those against Iran, these illegal sanctions will backfire. They will never be able to undermine Maduro's rule, and they will never be able to preserve America's status quo in Latin America.

## Larijani: Letter Damaged U.S.' Legal Standing

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- **Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said here on Sunday a letter by U.S. Republican senators shows the influence of the Zionist lobby in the country's political scene, saying the move undermined U.S.'s legal standing in the global community.**

The senators' move in writing the letter explains the reason behind the international community's growing "distrust" in the U.S. administration, Larijani said on Sunday.

The top parliamentarian further slammed as "hollow" and "void" a speech by the occupying regime of Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu at a joint session of the U.S. Congress earlier this month, saying the American senators decided to send such a letter to Iran in another "thoughtless"

move after the world ridiculed Netanyahu's anti-Iran rant.

The letter dealt a heavy blow to the legal standing of the U.S. on the international stage, Larijani stressed.

In an unexpected move on Monday, 47 senators from the Republican party, commonly known as the GOP, issued a desperate warning to the Iranian officials on the validity of a potential nuclear deal, describing such an agreement as "nothing more than an executive agreement" which could be canceled by the next US president "by a stroke of a pen".

The letter was sent days after Netanyahu said the White House was negotiating a "very bad nuclear deal" with the Islamic Republic in his address to U.S.

# Iran to Hold Conference on Leader's Letter

Message of  
ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei,  
Leader of  
The Islamic Republic of Iran

To the  
Youth in Europe  
and North America,

I would like to talk to you  
about Islam, particularly  
the image that is presented  
to you as Islam.

my first request is : Study and  
research the incentives behind this  
widespread tarnishing of the image  
of Islam.

My second request is that in reaction  
to the flood of prejudgments  
and disinformation campaigns, try  
to gain a direct and firsthand knowl-  
edge of this religion. The right logic  
requires that you understand the  
nature and essence of what they  
are frightening you about and want  
you to keep away from.

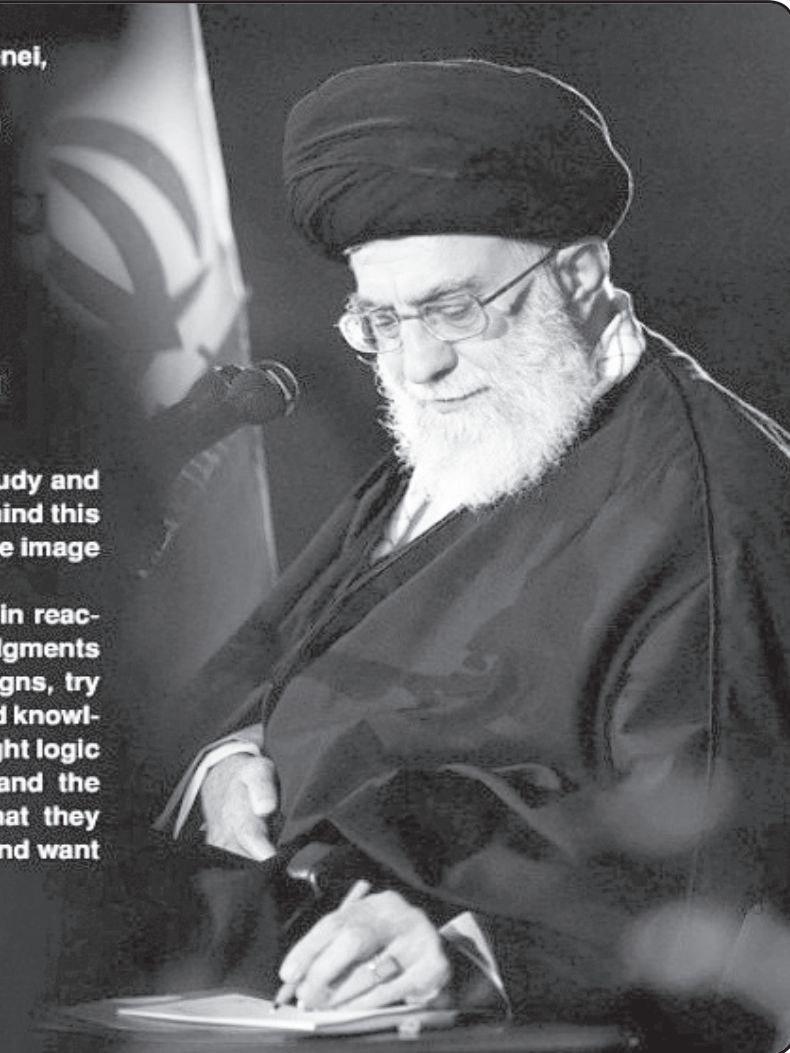
@MOUJAHED\_CY  
#LETTER4U

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- **Iran is to hold a one-day conference on a recent letter by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to the youth in Europe and North America.**

The conference titled "Seeking the Truth" is scheduled to be held in Tehran on March 16.

The event is organized by the University of Tehran and will be held in collaboration with Press TV to discuss the Leader's letter to the European and North American youth.

Scholars from different coun-



tries will attend the event. The latest news on the conference will be posted on the Twitter account @myLetter4u.

In January, Ayatollah Khamenei sent a letter to the youth in Europe and North America, urging them to study about Islam and to get firsthand information about it before accepting their governments' propaganda.

"I would like to talk to you about Islam, particularly the image that is presented to you as Islam. Many attempts have been made over the

past two decades, almost since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, to place this great religion in the seat of a horrifying enemy. The provocation of a feeling of horror and hatred and its utilization has unfortunately a long record in the

(Continued on Page 7)

The  
Holy  
Qur'an

High above all is God,  
the King, the Truth! Be  
not in haste with the  
Qur'an before its rev-  
elation to thee is com-  
pleted, but say, "O my  
Lord! advance me in  
knowledge."  
The Holy Qur'an 20:115

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:13
Evening (Maghreb)	18:30
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:50
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:14

## Gen. Suleimani Voted Iran's Person of Year

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- **An Iranian general who has been a key adviser in Iraq's fightback against ISIL was voted Iran's person of the year in an annual poll released Sunday.**

General Qassem Suleimani, commander of the Quds Force, the foreign operations arm of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, won 37% of the votes cast in the survey to mark the Persian New Year, Nowruz.

Once rarely seen, Suleimani is now frequently pictured in social media near the front line in Iraq and has been spotted close to this week's battles in Tikrit.

He has become the public, if unofficial, face of Iran's support for

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### Historic Epistle

**ABRAR:** Ayatollah Khamenei's historic letter to the youth in the West will help initiate inter-faith dialogue. The historic epistle is about engagement in global concerns and the joint pursuit of social justice, human dignity and constructive action on behalf of the common good of all peoples. The irony is that the writing is similar to another historic epistle the late Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, wrote in the 1980s to former USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev. After so many years, the audience could be different, but the objective is the same: understanding the "other".

### Deeply Divided

**VATAN EMROOZ:** Washington and associates are not comfortable with getting blamed for torpedoing the delicate negotiations over Iran's nuclear program. They are aware that their failure will challenge the IAEA, pushing their fairness, truthfulness and diplomacy to the limit. They are aware that their anti-Iran rhetoric is superficial. Their decisions to press reluctant governments to curtail support for exports to Iran, block transactions, and freeze assets are superficial. Without question, their UN-sponsored sanctions are likewise irrevocably colored by politics and hence illegal and void.

### Justice for Palestine

**RESALAT:** Under international law, UN officials and the Human Rights Council are expected to move forward with publication of their findings about the war on Gaza. They are aware that whatever the probe's findings, the U.S. will block efforts to hold Israel accountable, which also refuses to attend a periodic review of its human rights record. According to Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Israel committed war crimes during the unjustified offensive and should be held to account.

### Shattered Coalition

**KHORASAN:** The U.S.-led coalition against ISIL has failed. It's no wonder they are now seeking help from Iran to battle the extremists. Their airstrikes against Syria are illegal under international law because they don't have the UN's blessing. In the words of Iraqi army commanders, aircraft serving the coalition drop weapons for the Takfiri terrorist group. The coalition has failed to clear any area from ISIL, while volunteer forces rely on local support in cleanup and liberation operations.

## Rouhani Stresses Need for Promoting Moderate Islam

TEHRAN (Tasnim) -- **Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and the Indonesian president's special envoy, in a meeting here on Sunday, stressed the need for cooperation between the two Muslim nations in a bid to promote the moderate image of Islam in the face of extremist moves.**

"In the turbulent contemporary world, Tehran and Jakarta can introduce the genuine and moderate Islam which is faced with the omi-

nous phenomenon of terrorism and violence," President Rouhani told Alwi Shihab.

"As two Muslim and Asian countries and members of international bodies such as the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Iran and Indonesia can play a major role in advancing regional and international issues by relying on their commonalities," the Iranian president added.

He said Tehran and Jakarta can open up new horizons in their bilateral ties since they both have an Islamic culture and share views on the fight against arrogant powers.

The Indonesian envoy, for his part, voiced the Southeast Asian country's keenness to join hands with Iran in promoting the moderate Islam in the face of extremism.

Shihab also handed the Indonesian president's official invitation to Rouhani to attend an event commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Asian-African Conference, slated for April in Indonesia.

The first Asian-African Conference also known as the Bandung Conference was held in 1955 in Bandung, Indonesia.

The 25 countries that participated at the Bandung Conference represented nearly one-quarter of the earth's land surface and a total population of 1.5 billion people.

Congressmen in early March.

Larijani further called on the Iranian negotiators to block any "reactionary measures" such as the loopholes suggested in the controversial letter in a possible agreement with the P5+1 group of countries over Tehran's nuclear work.

Earlier in the week, Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif condemned the letter as a publicity stunt without any legal value.

"It is very interesting that while negotiations are still in progress and while no agreement has been reached, some political pressure groups are so afraid of even the prospect of an agreement that they resort to unconventional methods, unprecedented in diplomatic history," he said.