

Kayhan

International

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Time for Nuclear Weapons Convention Is Now

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Eastern Europe is in flames and the bogus war on terror launched by nuclear-armed regimes across the Middle East and North Africa has only produced one thing: instability and chaos – not only in the region but across the globe.

The situation on the ground is so dire that the international civil society has to do something about it before the nuclear-armed regimes start the long-dreaded nuclear war – Ukraine is still in flames.

Just about all developing nations have also started to sour on the present push by the self-styled world powers to control the lucrative business of nuclear technology through dominating international bodies such as the United Nations Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

There is an emerging rift between the world's developing countries and the big powers as regards NPT-illegal punitive measures against peaceful nations such as Iran.

For many countries, which have questioned the legality of the sanctions regime, Iran's ill-treatment at the hands of arrogant world powers seeking to control access to vital and lucrative technologies is starting to resonate.

True to form, the developing nations don't trust the Western powers given their double-standard approach toward Iran's civilian nuclear program and that of the Zionist regime which possesses over 200 nuclear warheads.

This obviously indicates that the developing nations are not comfortable with the idea of solely relying on others to provide them with the nuclear technology. Any doubters should ask the United Nations General Assembly.

Interestingly, they are reflecting on the comments made by Iranian government officials that: no country can solely rely on others to provide it with the technology and materials that are becoming so vital for its development and for the welfare of its people. Nations have lost their trust in the Security Council and see it as the instrument of a few nuclear-armed powers to advance their own agenda.

And to steer clear of similar future disputes for other nations seeking the peaceful technology at the IAEA and the Security Council, a complete ban of all nuclear weapons through an intercontinental convention could be proposed.

This is because as long as the U.S., China, Russia, France, Britain, India, Pakistan and Israel make no definitive moves to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, the danger of nuclear war fighting will never go away and hence there will be simply no realistic prospect of a nuclear-free world.

As anticipated, it is about time the civil society banned and eliminated nuclear weapons since they are illegal and their illegality should be recognized through a legally binding nuclear weapons convention at the UN.

To start with, the international initiative can deal with the issue and conclude the convention. The body can also establish an ad hoc committee with a mandate to begin all-party talks to this end.

In the interim, the self-appointed members of the UN Security Council will have to bear the primary responsibility in the talks, pending the conclusion of the convention – if they have genuine concerns about the nuclearization of the world.

Leader's Aide Tells UN Envoy: Afghans Should Rely on Own Strength

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian official says Afghanistan does not depend on any foreign state to deal with its ongoing challenges.

"Afghanistan's problems must be solved by people in this country, internally and without interference of foreign countries," Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said here in meeting with UN special representative to Afghanistan, Nicholas Haysom.

Noting that Iran and Afghanistan enjoy many commonalities, Velayati said Iran has been sheltering Afghan refugees for four decades.

All countries sharing borders with Afghanistan are prepared to help settle problems in the war-hit country, he added.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought to strengthen the legal government in Afghanistan," Velayati said, warning that extremist groups are likely to become active in Afghanistan despite efforts by the Kabul government.

The UN envoy said Iran plays a valuable role in hosting Afghan refugees and fighting narcotics produced in Afghanistan.

Haysom added that the ongoing problems in Afghanistan should be settled only through dialog and in cooperation with Afghan forces.

The U.S. and its allies invaded Afghanistan shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York City as part of Washington's so-called war on terror.

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IRGC Official:

Iran Will Destroy Tel Aviv Instantly If Attacked



Leader's representative in IRGC *Hojjatolislam Mojtaba Zolnour.*

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – A senior figure in Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps warned that should the occupying regime of Israel launch an attack on his country, Tel Aviv would be destroyed instantly.

"If the Zionists were certain that they could win a war against

us, they'd have initiated one by now, but since they don't have the strength to do so, they do nothing but threaten," said Mojtaba Zolnour, who represents Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in the IRGC.

Should the Zionist regime nev-

ertheless decide to strike Iran, the Islamic Republic's missiles will fall in the heart of Tel Aviv, "even before the Zionists' missiles will reach us", he said.

Zolnour's comments were reportedly a response to Zionist FM Avigdor Liberman, who said Friday that Israel was doing too much talking about Iran's nuclear program, and that "if you want to shoot, shoot, don't talk".

In an implied attack on PM Benjamin Netanyahu, the Yisrael Beytenu party chief recalled that when prime minister Menachem

geted with bombings, again with no casualties.

Most Western nations and the United Nations moved out their staff last year during fighting between rival factions vying for control of Tripoli, four years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi.

Libya's internationally recognized government and the elected House of Representatives has been forced to work out of the east since a group called Libya Dawn took control of the capital, reinstated the previous assembly and installed a rival administration.

The eastern-based government is recognized by the United Nations and Western powers. The Tripoli administration is not, but still controls ministries, airports and some oil facilities.

In January, gunmen claiming loyalty to Islamic State stormed the Coronthia luxury hotel, killing around nine people, among them five foreigners.

Lebanon Offered Aid in Building Dam

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Tehran announced Sunday its willingness to help Lebanon better manage its water resources by offering its assistance in the construction of a much needed dam.

Lebanese Environment Minister Muhammad Machnouk met with Iran's Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian here, with the latter saying that Tehran's private construction companies are at the disposal of the Lebanese government if it agrees to the construction of an Iran-sponsored dam.

In 2012, Iran granted Lebanon a \$40 million cash donation to finance the construction of the Balaa dam in Batroun. The Iranian assistance drew heavy criticism for Lebanese political leaders.

MP Boutros Harb said the Iranian access to Batroun was for political purposes and would serve as a prelude to allowing the armed entry of Iran and its allies to the region.

The Iranian energy minister confirmed Sunday that Tehran did not end up funding the building of the Balaa dam, which is currently under construction.

Chitchian said his meeting with Machnouk also touched on the pollution of water resources, the issue of droughts and other strategic concerns relating to water resources.

Machnouk is on an official visit to Tehran where he participated Saturday in the country's 14th environmental conference.

After the conference, Machnouk praised the advancement of the environmental sector in Iran.

The Holy Qur'an



Except those of the idolaters with whom you made an agreement, then they have not failed you in anything and have not backed up any one against you, so fulfill their agreement to the end of their term; surely Allah loves those who are careful.

The Holy Qur'an (9.4)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:17
Evening (Maghreb)	18:11
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:18
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:42

Begin decided to blow up Saddam Hussein's nuclear reactor at Osirak in 1981, "we woke up the next morning" to hear about it for the first time.

Similarly, in 2007, when the occupying regime of Israel allegedly destroyed an alleged Syrian nuclear reactor, "there was no talk about it" ahead of time, he said in an interview with Channel 2 news.

Netanyahu has long threatened to attack Iran in order to destroy, or at least hobble, its nuclear program, although such threats have largely tapered off.

Netanyahu is resolved to take on the Obama administration with a speech that he is scheduled to deliver to the U.S. Congress on March 3, in which he will likely warn against an deal with Iran that doesn't do away with its uranium enrichment program.



Intentional Silence

QODS: The project of ethnic cleansing is well underway in occupied Palestine, backed by a ruthless entity that plans to build thousands of new illegal residential units on Palestinian lands at any cost. The international community is hearing less lately about the disaster in the Gaza Strip. That silence is intentional: The criminal regime of Israel has barred journalists from entering the occupied territory simply because this is a U.S.-supported disaster.

Double Standards

RESALAT: The so-called international civil society have no intension to pursue justice or target terrorism, but adopt double standards vis-a-vis political matters related to terrorism in order to protect their own illicit interests - a reality that is so evident in the remarks of the American and European government officials when they talk about fighting ISIL in Iraq and Syria. It is time for the Islamic world to adopt a tougher stance against terrorism sponsored by the enemies of freedom and democracy as well as those who are covertly or overtly creating crisis and havoc in the Middle East.

Foreign Threats

JAVAN: As long as the U.S. and its allies blame Iran for their humiliation in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, it is immature to assume that foreign threats have all gone or that the existing strategic opportunities will always remain for the country to enjoy. Quite the opposite, these opportunities could be short-lived and even turn into potential threats, undermining the great socio-political and economic achievements thus far. We must appreciate and protect the well-deserved strategic position of the country in the region and work harder than ever to turn the remaining threats into opportunities.

War of Hypocrites

AFTAB: The U.S. and its coalition of regime-changers continue to train and arm "moderate" terrorists in the push for regime decapitation in Syria. These regimes have a long record of supporting terrorists and using terrorist tactics. Under international law, if there is any meaning to the war on terror, then the enemy must be those who practice terrorism. These hypocritical regimes have no intention to observe international law. Quite the opposite, they violate it almost daily in places like Iraq, Syria and Libya.