

# Kayhan International

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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## Admit Defeat and Leave Afghanistan

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*New US Defense Secretary Ash Carter says White House wants to make sure "progress sticks" despite promises that the occupying troops would be out of Afghanistan by 2016.*

*His remarks set the stage for further occupation of Afghanistan, which has the potential to be even more destabilizing for the region and the world than Iraq and Syria. This is while Afghanistan needs no foreign power to settle its internal problems.*

*However, the illicit regimes are thoughtlessly convinced that they could still win the bogus war on terror if only they could get more power, more money, and more managerial discretion.*

*Among multiple layers of deception and newspeak, the new official Washington spin on the strategic quagmire in Afghanistan simply does not hold.*

*A recent study by the Eisenhower Research Project at Brown University has revealed that the war on terror has cost the US, so far, from \$3.7 trillion to \$4.4 trillion. And who is scooping the cash? The Industrial-Military Complex and its global network of western contractors and banks.*

*This is not about counter-insurgency or saving the long-suffering people of Afghanistan. It's about the Pentagon's full spectrum dominance: Maintaining the American empire of bases, controlling Afghanistan's mineral resources and pivoting to Asia – read surrounding, bordering and keeping in check key competitors Russia and China.*

*The notion that the US government would spend a trillion dollar so far just to chase a few al-Qaeda militants in the mountains is nonsense. No wonder after the death of Osama bin Laden, the Taliban are still a threat!*

*So the drone war and the occupation, for all practical purposes, will continue, and this has nothing to do with fighting the bogus war on Terror. There is no Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan – most have become allies with the terrorist group of ISIL (America's own creation) in Iraq and Syria.*

*This is while the people of Afghanistan want peace and prosperity not perpetual war and occupation. They are also the ones that can solve their internal problems and rebuild their nation – with a helping hand from their neighbors. Yet this could only happen if the foreign occupying troops leave. They only fuel the violent ideology of extremism.*

*Under the circumstances, the interventionists in Washington and their NATO allies should take note: Forget about your Strategic Partnership Agreement and "support" mission, which are never designed to save Afghanistan. Instead, be courageous, acknowledge defeat, and leave the long-suffering country to avoid further isolation and humiliation.*

## Larijani Stresses Support for Syria Solution

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani has reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's support for every effort to help find a political solution to the prolonged conflict in Syria.

In a meeting with Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Adnan Mahmoud, Larijani said Iran's parliament has always been closely following up on the developments in Syria and "backs any mechanism necessary to help the Syrian government and nation under the current circumstances."

Larijani further hailed deep-rooted relations between Tehran and Damascus, calling on both sides to maintain their friendly ties.

Mahmoud, for his part, expressed gratitude to the Iranian nation, government and parliament for their

support for Syria. He also briefed the top parliamentarian on the latest developments in Syria.

Meanwhile, Iran warned against the continuation of mistakes by the U.S. and its allies in arming militants in Syria, saying such wrong policies violate international regulations.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Marzieh Afkham, said that training and arming the so-called moderate opposition forces in Syria is a repetition of previous strategic mistakes which have led to the creation of the ISIL terrorist group and Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Nusra Front.

"Under the circumstances that the threat of terrorist groups poses a serious danger to regional and global security, the insistence of the

(Continued on Page 7)

# President: Enhancing Regional Ties a Priority



President Rouhani, center, attends a conference on the "resistance economy" in Tehran.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- President Hassan Rouhani says enhancement of relations with neighboring countries is a central plank of the Islamic Re-

public's foreign policy.

"Having good relations with neighbors is undoubtedly the first step in our foreign policy; this is-

## Iran Ends Mission to Safeguard Iraq Border

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has announced the end of a special mission safeguarding its western border against ISIL militants in Iraq.

Brigadier General Kiumars Heidari, deputy commander for Iranian ground forces, told the Islamic Republic News Agency that the mission placing army units on the western border with Iraq had ended 45 days after a "red-line warning" was issued to ISIL forces to stay 40 kilometers, or 24 miles, from Iran's border.

In September army commander Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Pourdastan said that Iran would attack "deep into Iraqi territory" if ISIL forces came too close.

"In that time, we made them understand that if they crossed that red line, they would face crushing response by the Iranian Armed Forces," Pourdastan recently told IRNA. "We noticed that the Takfiri terrorists had received our message and left the area immediately."

Heidari said that ground forces -- specifically artillery units -- were still in the vicinity of Iran's western border but were no longer assigned to the particular task of defending against ISIL. Pourdastan stressed that this could change,

however, and that Iran's military was prepared to safeguard the border at any moment.

Iranian forces have in the past indirectly engaged ISIL militants. A general with Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps was martyred by an ISIL sniper late last year as he trained Iraqi troops and Shia militia in Samarra, Iraq.

An attack on Iran's abandoned embassy in Tripoli, Libya, was claimed by an ISIL affiliate in the country on the same day as Iran's announcement.

Iran denounced the bombing. "Accurate information indicates that home-made bombs exploded outside the residence of the Iranian ambassador in Tripoli, but caused minor damage," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Marzieh Afkham.

She added that Iran is following up on developments in Libya and firmly opposes any interference by foreigners in the North African country's internal affairs.

Afkham said Libya needs to find a solution to its ongoing chaos through "political agreement and national dialog among conflicting sides" in a bid to clear the way for the "formation of a national unity government" to stop the activities of terrorists and extremists.

## Leader Offers Condolences

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has offered condolences over the death of Iranian veteran politician Seyyed Sadeq Tabatabayi.

In a message, Ayatollah Khamenei voiced condolences over the "unfortunate demise" of Tabatabayi, saying that the influential figure in the Iranian politics was one of his "old friends".

Tabatabayi died at the age of 71 at a hospital in the German city of Dusseldorf on Saturday after years of suffering from lung cancer.

Born in the Iranian city of Qom, Tabatabayi was one of the major figures of the anti-regime movement of students in Europe in the years leading to the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Tabatabayi was a close aide to the late Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution, when the respected leader lived in exile in a suburb of the French capital Paris in 1978.

He was a nephew of the late Imam Musa al-Sadr, the leader of the Lebanese Shia movement in the 1970s. He also served for a short period of time as Iran's caretaker prime minister in 1980, beside other positions including the political deputy as well as the spokesman for the prime minister in the interim cabinet formed after the victory of the Revolution.

The Holy Qur'an

So when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them; surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

The Holy Qur'an (9.5)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:17
Evening (Maghreb)	18:12
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:17
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:40

are willing to expand all-out relations," Rouhani said.

The Iranian president said that the Islamic Republic seeks to forge closer ties with its neighbors based on "mutual interests".

Rouhani described as "strategic" Tehran's ties with certain neighboring states, urging the building of trust between Tehran and its neighbors.

Since its election, Rouhani's administration has reaffirmed its resolve to promote Tehran's interaction with the global community, particularly Iran's neighboring states, based on mutual respect.

The Iranian government has also repeatedly expressed its determination to allay the West's concerns about Tehran's nuclear energy program and resolve the issue based on a win-win approach.

## Press Digest

### Corruption

**DONYAYE EQTESAD:** Just as the nation stood its ground to successfully safeguard its nuclear rights and achievements in the face of foreign threats and aggression, with national unity and resolve they can similarly help the government and the parliament to uproot corruption. National resolve can be an excellent tool at the hands of the government and the parliament to resourcefully regulate the market and deal with all those opportunist individuals who seek illegitimate personal gains through actions such as bribery, extortion, cronyism, nepotism, patronage, graft, and embezzlement.

### Sanctions

**JAVAN:** The self-appointed members of the UN Security Council have so far imposed several illegitimate sanctions on Iran. However, these desperate measures have been ineffective thus far as Iran's energy sector is still booming. These coercive measures have proven to be counterproductive by any standards and quite the opposite turned into further political/economic opportunities and achievements for Iran.

### Zionism

**RESALAT:** The bankrupt Zionist leaders are trying to buy time and minimize the devastating consequences of their defeat in the last summer war in Gaza as well as the escalating pressures by the Palestinian resistance. Under the circumstances, the best the Muslim nations could do would be to pay no heed to their deceptive and frequent remarks about the non-existent threat of Iran and instead increase concentrated efforts and pressures to hasten the usurper regime's inescapable collapse.

### Occupation

**ASIA:** Invading Muslim nations to steal their natural resources is unlawful under the Geneva Conventions. This translates into the fact that the huge task of rebuilding Iraq's infrastructure - particularly its oil infrastructure - is the financial responsibility of the American and NATO aggressors. The same law applies to Syria. Therefore, they should be forced to pay reparations. Sadly enough, the extortionist regimes are forcing Iraq to sell its national patrimony to the Western firms to pay the bills for their illegal invasion and occupation.