

# Kayhan International

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## In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

### U.S. Drone War: Clear and Troubling

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*U.S. President Barack Obama has said that he "takes full responsibility" for the killing of one American and one Italian hostage held by Al-Qaeda in a drone attack by the CIA in Pakistan earlier this year.*

*In the wake of the new revelation, however, don't expect any renewed debate on the so-called "kill list" or assassination campaign to break into the mainstream anytime soon.*

*This is because analysis of thousands of other available information has led the international community to judge with high confidence that the U.S. drone strikes have "accidentally" killed thousands of innocent civilians in places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia and elsewhere.*

*As is, the international community has been criticizing for years the U.S. drone war and the existence of a presidential "kill list". They have been issuing objections for years over the legality of the program and the number of innocent people who have been killed, maimed or left traumatized by these bombings. But apparently, when it comes to the Western media, it is the death of two Western hostages that should only catch the attention of the White House and the broader public.*

*Washington might claim otherwise, that its drone war has had a stellar record of accuracy. But watching the news coverage of so many tragic deaths in the war-torn countries, the impression is totally different. In fact, killing innocent people - to whom no wrongdoing can be even tangentially attributed - has been a central part of the drone program from the very beginning, and is in many ways an inescapable consequence.*

*What's clear and troubling is that many of these innocent victims have died amid media silence too. They have never ended up meriting a special press conference and investigation into what went wrong - let alone a formal apology from the White House AND "taking full responsibility".*

*Under the White House doctrine though, apology and redress is not available for Muslim civilians killed in drone strikes. Thanks to the United Nations silence and complicity, the U.S. government has never been transparent about the thousands of other deadly drone strikes it has conducted in the Middle East and Northern Africa either.*

*The U.S. government has proven time and again that it can kill civilians overseas without trial and accountability. To this end, the U.S. government is conducting an "internal review" to see if they could improve their deadly drone program in future. So expect no apology from President Obama for the next civilian victims of the CIA drone strikes anytime soon.*

## President Rouhani: Asia-Africa Ties Will Confront Unilateralism



President Rouhani addresses the Asian-African Summit in Jakarta.

TEHRAN (Press TV) – President Hassan Rouhani has highlighted the importance of Asia-Africa ties, saying the South-South cooperation is a counterbalance to unilateralism.

"Cooperation between the countries of these two continents against unilateralism is a great and very important move in the international arena," Rouhani told reporters here after wrapping up his visit to Indonesia.

Rouhani, who was in Jakarta to participate in the summit meeting of the Asian-African Conference (AAC), added that senior officials

of more than 100 countries attended the event and exchanged views on "various issues including ways to expand the economic cooperation".

"Given the current situation of the region and the world, the issue of fighting terrorism had almost overshadowed all topics," the president stated.

Rouhani added that the participants discussed the situation in Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

He also made reference to his talks with the leaders of China, Vietnam and Indonesia as well as the prime ministers of Japan and Bangladesh

on the sidelines of the two-day conference, noting, "They all called for the expansion of relations with Iran."

In an address to a public session of the Asian-African Conference in Indonesia on Wednesday, President Rouhani urged the formation of a global front against terrorism and expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate with its neighbors, including Arab countries, in the anti-terror campaign.

The Iranian president further warned of growing terrorism in Asia and Africa, saying extremists are using intelligence, arms and financial support from certain regional and international players to achieve their "illegitimate objectives".

He also said Iran is resolute to use its regional and international potential to ensure security in the region and contribute to world peace.

### Official Slams Saudi Blocking of Humanitarian Aid

TEHRAN (Press TV) – An Iranian official has reprimanded Saudi Arabia for refusing to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Yemeni people who sustained injuries during the kingdom's airstrikes on its impoverished neighbor.

"Saudi Arabia does not help with efforts to deliver humanitarian aid and transfer of injured Yemenis for treatment," Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said in a telephone conversation with president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Peter Maurer. Amir-Abdollahian called on the international community to take stronger action to dispatch humanitarian aid to Yemen, given the deteriorating human situation in the impoverished Arab country.

He added that Saudi Arabia has

continued its military campaign against the country.

The senior official noted that two Iranian airplanes carrying humanitarian aid and medicine as well as the injured Yemenis, who have been treated in Iran, left for Yemen over the past two days after obtaining legal permission, but they were forced to turn back following Saudi Arabia's "illegal interference".

The official once again expressed the Islamic Republic's readiness to cooperate with international organizations and send humanitarian aid and medicine to the "defenseless" Yemeni people.

Maurer, for his part, said the ICRC has made great efforts to deliver aid to the Yemeni people and held close consultations with Saudi Arabia after the announcement of the end of war in Yemen.

The ICRC president, however, added that the distribution of aid in Yemen requires the complete end of military operation in the crisis-hit country.

He noted that the ICRC is seeking a secure way to channel aid to Yemen and transfer the injured.

The phone conversation came after Saudi fighter jets intercepted an Iranian airplane with humanitarian aid to Yemen and prevented it from entering the Yemeni airspace.

Saudi Arabia launched its aerial campaign against Yemen on March 26 - without a United Nations mandate - in a bid to undermine the Houthi Ansarullah movement and to restore power to the country's fugitive former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh.

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The Holy Qur'an

Speak to my servants who have believed, that they may establish regular prayers, and spend out of the sustenance we have given them, secretly and openly, before the coming of a Day in which there will be neither mutual bargaining nor befriending.

The Holy Qur'an (14-32)

#### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:02
Evening (Maghreb)	20:05
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:46
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:18

### Speaker: 42% of Graduates Unemployed

TEHRAN (Press TV) – Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said on Saturday 42% of Iranian university graduates are jobless.

Speaking on the sidelines of a cultural ceremony in the northern city of Shahroud, Larijani described inflation and unemployment as two major problems facing Iranian people.

He said the unemployment rate among young graduates, which has been recently announced by Iran's Statistics Center, is a serious problem and called on authorities to take action to improve the situation.

According to Iran's Minister of Labor, Cooperatives and Social Welfare Ali Rabiei the country has to generate about 800,000 jobs a year in order to cope with runaway unemployment.

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## Press Digest

### International Obligation

**RESALAT:** The international civil society should intervene and denounce this new post-colonialist and imperialist arrangement of the region. It is being waged by wealthy and despotic regimes for regional domination at the expense of the Yemeni people - a country where hatred of the United States and its vassals is so rampant now.

### World Ethics

**SIASAT ROOZ:** The Saudis blatantly dismiss the Red Cross call for a ceasefire, insisting that aid will only be provided when they believe it will not interfere with their illicit goals. In other words, Yemeni people are dying so that multinational corporations can lay siege to remaining oil reserves in the Arabian Peninsula. It is at these times that the international community has to ask what its ethics are.

### Yemen Dialog

**QODS:** The UN can play an important role in achieving a political settlement by bringing people to the table and helping to move towards a process of dialog to end the war on Yemen. Anti-Yemen resolutions and threats will never do that. The world body should support calls for dialog and use its influence to ensure that all parties involved commit urgently to ending the violence through a meaningful and inclusive political process.

### Fueling Extremism

**AFTAB:** Saudi Arabia and its partners have been financially and militarily supporting terrorism and the evolving Sunni insurgency against Shias for years. They have intentionally bankrolled groups whose mission it is to wipe out the Shia communities and ethnic groups in the Middle East. These un-elected regimes first started with Al-Qaeda and then bankrolled what became ISIL. They are now busy destroying Yemen.

### Center: Inflation Rate Falls to 14.5%

TEHRAN (Press TV) – Iran's inflation rate averaged 14.5% in the 12 months to March 21, the Statistical Center of Iran said.

Inflation was 30.2% in March last year, according to the center. The month of March marks the end of the Iranian calendar year.

Iran has seen its inflation rate decline from its peak of 40% under former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad two years ago.

The rate has steadily declined courtesy of President Hassan Rouhani's tight monetary policies and fiscal discipline.

Governor of the Central Bank of Iran says the administration is now working to bring the inflation fur-

ther down to single digits.

"This may not be achieved next year but we are pretty confident that we will be able to bring it down to single digits in two years," Valiollah Seif told China Central Television (CCTV) America in Washington.

Last week, Iranian banks started to cut their borrowing and lending rates to 20% from 22% after weeks of pressures.

Supporters of lower rates are disappointed with recent losses on the stock market after years of record highs.

They hope a cut in rates will prompt Iranians to direct their assets into the stock market but some economists warn they might be di-

verted instead to credit institutions often functioning outside the Central Bank's regulations.

For several years, many Iranians invested in the real estate market which experienced a 600% rise in housing prices during Ahmadinejad's tenure. The sector currently seems to have run out of steam and is languishing in a deep recession.

Many Iranians hold a large amount of stranded hard currency assets cached during years of intensified sanctions which could affect the market if they are released.

The government has to walk a tightrope in its fiscal policies to keep any volatility from possible influx of those stranded assets in check.