

# Kayhan International

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In the Name of the Most High  
**Viewpoint**

## West Is Politicizing Global Drug War

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Iran continues to call for a new global campaign against drugs trafficking and organized crime but to no avail.

Even the United Nations agrees that Tehran has been playing an important role in countering drugs trafficking from its eastern borders with Afghanistan - the world's largest opium producer - but more still needs to be done.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Iran ranks first in the world in drug seizures. Each year, the country seizes around 80 percent of the opium and 40 percent of the heroin and morphine seized in the world. It also continues to pay a heavy price in the campaign against drugs trafficking.

If that is the case, which clearly is, then how come the West continues to politicize the subject matter of war on drugs by refusing to offer any help to Iran - diplomatically and logistically? For instance, under the sanctions regime, Western governments refuse to provide Iran with high-tech monitoring tools and screening technology in order to help effectively guard its long border with Afghanistan.

At the UN, Iran has always complained about the European Union and other international bodies' lack of serious cooperation with Tehran in the campaign against drugs trafficking from Afghanistan. Over the past three decades or so, Iran has spent billions of dollars to seal its borders and prevent the transit of narcotics destined to European, Arab and Central Asian countries.

The war on drug trade has so far claimed the lives of over 4,000 Iranian police officers and soldiers. Still, many European countries prefer to look the other way, refusing to give any credit to Iran.

Despite the apathy and unfairness, Tehran is determined to fight this war alone, yet at the same time welcomes proposals for joint cooperation in projects that are aimed at combating drugs trafficking and/or plans in line with developing and reconstructing Afghanistan.

Moreover, Tehran believes the presence of foreign troops and the consequent destruction of the remaining infrastructure is not going to be of any help in the fight against drugs or to the international rebuilding efforts currently underway in Afghanistan. The best way to win this battle is to send more international aid and training - not more foreign troops and weapons.

In any case, to hit international drug traffickers where it hurts hardest, the international community has to abandon politics, support national/global investigations targeting organized criminal and trafficking networks, promote the application of drug control treaties, and develop practical measures to effectively fight money laundering and corruption.

## Iran Welcomes Cooperation With Turkey

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran is ready to give partnership stakes to Turkish companies in its construction of roads, airports and railways for which the country has put aside \$10 billion.

Over the next three to five years, Iran has many transportation projects on offer which it is ready to award some to "internationally proven Turkish companies," Iranian Ambassador to Ankara Alireza Bigdeli said.

He said prospective Turkish corporations would be awarded contracts based on work partnership with Iranian companies without bids.

Ankara-based construction company Bergiz Insaat has already

won a \$1.2 billion project to build a highway between Iran's north-western city of Tabriz and Bazarvan on the border with Turkey. It is also building an \$800 million subway in Tabriz.

Commercial ties between Iran and Turkey remain strong. Trade volume stood at \$14 billion last year which the two countries plan to raise to \$30 billion.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited Tehran in April and the two neighbors signed eight documents to expand cooperation and boost trade.

"We are working to improve trade in local currency with Turkey. We need a mechanism to protect

(Continued on Page 7)

# India 'Resetting' Ties With Iran



Indian Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari (L) submits a written message of PM Narendra Modi to President Hassan Rouhani during a visit to Tehran in May.

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India has begun to reset its ties with Iran, notwithstanding the uncertainty surrounding the negotiations between the Persian Gulf nation and the P5+1, the second Indian English-Language paper The Hindu wrote.

After cutting down oil imports from Tehran in the recent past following sanctions, India is now keen on pushing for connectivity with Iran, which will pave the way for its entry into Afghanistan and the Cen-

tral Asian region.

An inter-government memorandum of understanding signed in May for the development of the Chabahar Port in Iran, a recent visit by Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar for Foreign Office discussions, and the impetus being given to the North-South Transport Corridor are perceived as attempts to mend ties.

New Delhi has also ignored cautionary voices from the U.S. not to rush into doing business with Iran

till it firms up the nuclear deal with it.

After its meeting on June 12, members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) reviewed the status of the dry run study between India, Iran and Russia via the Caspian Sea, a follow-up meeting to further streamline work related to the corridor has been scheduled for July.

The international transport corridor across Nhava Sheva (Mumbai)

## UN, Iran Stress Need for Political Solution in Syria

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- An Iranian diplomat and the UN special envoy to Syria have underlined the need for a political settlement of the ongoing crisis in Syria.

During a telephone conversation on Tuesday night, Hussein Amir-Abdollahian, the deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs, and Staffan de Mistura discussed the latest developments in crisis-hit Syria.

The UN envoy described as constructive his recent consultations in the Swiss city of Geneva with Syrian sides as well as representatives from different countries on the foreign-backed crisis in Syria, which has

plagued the Arab country for more than four years now.

The tension in Syria has been further aggravated by the activities of ISIL Takfiri terrorists who carry out crimes against different religious and ethnic groups.

On Monday, a UN human rights expert called on the Security Council to take immediate action to protect the lives of civilians in areas controlled by ISIL.

"The Security Council has an obligation to act," Ben Emmerson, the UN special rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, said on

Monday after submitting a report on ISIL's crimes.

"Given the reports of genocide, all members of the Security Council may now have a specific responsibility to take action to prevent this most serious of international crimes," he added.

The Syrian crisis has left over 230,000 people dead and millions displaced since its onset in March 2011.

De Mistura is also scheduled to pay a visit to Iran as part of a regional tour to discuss Syria's ongoing foreign-sponsored conflict.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Press Digest

### Damning Evidence

**RESALAT:** According to several independent reports from the EU, the Zionist regime committed war crimes during the onslaught on Gaza, including the use of unconventional ammunitions in densely populated areas and the use of civilians as human shields. The regime initially denied using the controversial weapons containing phosphorus and depleted uranium. But, indisputable evidence - shown globally on TV networks - forced its crazy leaders to admit using them.

### Doomed Escalation

**SHARQ:** It is the new Iraqi government and not the United States that possesses the capacity to reverse the ongoing situation. The new American air power might succeed in saving the lives of those at immediate risk, but it won't redeem a record of failure that now extends over several decades. That failure is definitive and indelible, and has nothing to do whatsoever with outgoing PM Maliki and his administration.

### Joint Conspiracy

**AFTAB:** The terrorist group of ISIL is a joint U.S.-Saudi-Israeli conspiracy to ignite a region-wide sectarian war to purge the Middle East of Iran's arch of influence stretching from its borders, across Syria and Iraq, and as far as Lebanon and the coast of the Mediterranean. It is open secret that ISIL was harbored, trained, armed, and extensively funded by this unholy alliance within Turkey's borders.

### Partial Actors

**SIASAT ROOZ:** Obama contends that the U.S. must use airstrikes and "humanitarian" bombs in Iraq in order to curb the rise of ISIL. Perhaps, he has forgotten the fact that it is the U.S. military presence in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Middle East that is driving terrorism against the region and the world. To curb terrorism, Obama must stop supporting "good" terrorists in places like Syria.

The Holy Qur'an

[9:78] Do they not know that Allah knows their hidden thoughts and their secret counsels, and that Allah is the great Knower of the unseen things?

The Holy Qur'an (9:78)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:06
Evening (Maghreb)	20:45
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:03
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:49