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'Arabs Must Stop Disgraced Dance to Please Zionists'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – **Tehran has dismissed an anti-Iran statement issued by the Arab ministerial quartet in Cairo, calling it "baseless" accusations and a blatant interference in the issue of Iran's commitment to the nuclear deal.**

In a Thursday statement, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi said the allegations are completely worthless and do not follow any kind of logic, and that the countries in question have basically no right to comment on such matters.

Qasemi's reaction came after the Arab Ministerial Quartet Committee on Wednesday accused Iran of interfering in Arab countries' internal affairs.

In a statement after the meeting in Cairo, the committee, which is made up of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, decried "the provocative statements by the Iranian officials against the Arab countries."

"The countries that bear the main responsibility for the invasion, destruction and a humanitarian crisis in Yemen, as well as the spread of terrorism and extremism in the region, should abandon their disgraceful political dance to please the Zionist regime," Qasemi responded.

Qasemi highlighted Iran's constructive role in the stability and security of the region, adding that the countries responsible for the aggression against Yemen and creating a humanitarian disaster there as well as the development of terrorism and extremism in the region must stop putting the blame on others.

They should also stop their destructive role in creating more crisis in the region, Qasemi said, stressing that such moves are aimed at making the Zionist regime delighted.

"These states must at the same time realize that the Iranophobic policy does not work anymore," he added.

UK's 'Irresponsible Unison' With Saudis

Qasemi also chided British leaders over their anti-Iran remarks during the Saudi crown prince's first official foreign visit, calling

on them to stop trading global peace and security for economic interests.

The spokesman condemned the "irresponsible unison" of the British and Saudi officials in accusing Iran of destabilizing the region as Muhammad bin Salman visited London.

"It is an interesting joke that British authorities, in their meeting with the officials of a country such as Saudi Arabia which is an aggressor against Yemen and the cause of a humanitarian tragedy and war crimes in the country and the main source, promoter and sponsor of extremism, terrorism and conflagration in the Middle East and the world, are making such statements against Iran," he said.

"Britain and other countries must, in a responsible move, pressure Riyadh into stopping bloodshed in Yemen and exporting terrorist ideologies and not trade their economic interests with global peace and security," Qasemi added.

Bin Salman arrived in the UK on Wednesday for a three-day trip, where the Downing Street spokesperson said the two sides had agreed to counter Iran's "destabilizing" role in the region after a meeting between the Saudi crown prince and British Prime Minister Theresa.

They "discussed Iran, agreeing on the importance of working together to counter Iran's destabilizing regional activity," according to the spokesperson.

Bin Salman and May also agreed on a target of 65 billion pounds (\$90 billion) of mutual trade and investment in the coming years, hailing it "a significant boost for UK prosperity ... as we prepare to leave the European Union."

"The political and arms support of the UK and some other countries such as the US for Saudi Arabia is a threat to security, peace and stability of the whole region," Qasemi said.

"Britain's unison with Riyadh makes the country's responsibility in the formation, escalation and continuation of crises in the West Asian region heavier and the achievement of peace and cooperation among the regional states more difficult, prolonged and costly," he said.

Vice President Jahangiri in Baghdad: Iran Reiterates Readiness to Rebuild Iraq



Iranian First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri, left, and Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri shake hands during a meeting in Baghdad, March 8, 2018.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – **Iranian First Vice President says the Islamic Republic has been and will be next to the Iraqi people in rebuilding the country following the devastating war it had with Daesh terrorists.**

"In the fight against Daesh, we showed that Iran was inseparable from Iraq and now that Iraq's reconstruction is on the agenda, we are ready to assist the Iraqi government and nation because we view Iraq's security and prosperity as Iran's own security and prosperity," Jahangiri told Iraqi President Fuad Masum here Thursday.

Masum said Iraq would always remember Iran's assistance in the fight against terror and expressed hope that the cooperation would continue to include reconstruction efforts.

Expressing Baghdad's desire to expand ties with allies and neighboring countries, Masum said he was looking forward to using Iran's experience in dealing with various issues, ranging from banking to environment.

"Baghdad welcomes Iranian investment in Iraq's economic projects and wants Iran's private sector to take on a more serious role in this regard," he noted.

Jahangiri also met with Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri and Iraqi Islamic Party Secretary General Ayad al-Samarrai.

Jahangiri said Iran is standing next to its Sunni and Shia Iraqi brothers, and hopefully Iraq will be reconstructed as soon as possible.

"I hope that with more unity among the Sunnis, Shias, and

Kurds, a great movement will take shape in the reconstruction of Iraq, and this great nation can play its historic role in the region."

Samarrai appreciated the positive views of the Islamic Republic of Iran in recent years regarding the rebuilding of Iraq.

He said Iraq has faced two major challenges, expelling the U.S. occupation forces and eradicating the terrorists; but the most important mission today is to attract investments to reconstruct Iraq.

"We are very pleased with Iran's views on investing in Iraq, and we do emphasize that there are good investment opportunities in Sunni regions and we welcome the investment of Iranians in these regions."

(Continued on Page 7)

Tehran Backs Peace Talks in Afghanistan: Envoy

UNITED NATIONS (Press TV) – **Iran says it supports all forms of peace talks among various Afghan groups, urging regional and international assistance towards the resolution of the Central Asian country's security and economic woes.**

Addressing a Security Council debate on Afghanistan on Thursday, Iran's UN envoy Gholam-Ali Khoshroo said the Islamic Republic "backs all kinds of reconciliatory Afghan-Afghan talks towards achieving peace. In this context, we welcomed participation in the Kabul Process and similar procedures towards achieving peace and security in Afghanistan."

The Kabul Process held its first session in June 2017, and the second one on February 28. Dozens of international delegates, including representative from Iran, partook in both editions.

The second conference saw Afghan President Ashraf Ghani offering the Taliban militant group to join direct talks with Kabul.

Addressing a Thursday Security Council session that renewed the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)'s mandate for another year, the UN's Afghanistan envoy Tadamichi Yamamoto urged the Taliban to seize on the opportunity.

"The offer of negotiation is on the table," Yama-

moto said. "It is now incumbent upon the Taliban to come forward with an offer of their own, and start direct talks with the government to put an end to the suffering of the Afghan people."

The last round of peace talks between the militants and the Afghan government was held in 2005, but broke down soon afterwards. Ever since, the Taliban have rejected the notion of renewing talks with Kabul, saying they would only sit at the negotiation table with the United States.

Khoshroo further said the promotion of regional cooperation with Afghanistan is "a priority and an important step towards the reinforcement of peace and the enhancement of the overall economic situation in the region."

Iran, he added, has been hosting millions of Afghan refugees over the previous decades.

The country has also executed more than 300 development projects worth more than \$500 million to help strengthen Afghanistan's infrastructure, Khoshroo said.

Khoshroo further said Afghanistan's national unity government is at the forefront of fighting terrorism, calling on the international community to stand by the Kabul government in this battle besides helping it overcome its political and economic problems.

Rouhani Tells Erdogan Over Phone: Turkey, Iran Obligated to Save Lives of Syrians

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – **Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, in a telephone call with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has said the two countries are obliged to save the lives of Syrian people, particularly those who are under the siege of ter-**

rorists in Eastern Ghouta.

"All of us should make efforts to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe in Eastern Ghouta," Rouhani told Erdogan during a phone conversation Wednesday night.

"Tehran and Ankara have a

heavy duty to save the people of Syria, especially those in Eastern Ghouta," he added.

The Iranian president further called on Turkey to use its influence to prevent mortar attacks by terrorists on Damascus from Eastern Ghouta and help to se-

The Holy Qur'an

And whenever a chapter is revealed, there are some of them who say: Which of you has it strengthened in faith? Then as for those who believe, it strengthens them in faith and they rejoice.

The Holy Qur'an (9.124)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:15
Evening (Maghreb)	18:25
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:59
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:23

Zarif to Head to Pakistan Sunday for 3-Day Visit

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) -- **Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will travel to Pakistan on Sunday for a three-day visit, Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad Mehdi Honardoust announced on Friday.**

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Zarif will visit at the official invitation of his Pakistani counterpart Khawaja Muhammad Asif in response to the latter's day-long trip to Tehran in September.

The Iranian minister will sit down with the Pakistani foreign minister, Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa as well as National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

The Iranian foreign minister will also attend Pakistan Economic Forum (PEF) in Islamabad and deliver a speech at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), Honardoust noted.

Zarif will further travel to the southern port city of Karachi and visit the mausoleum of Muhammad Ali Jinnah to pay tribute to the founder of Pakistan.

Iran and Pakistan seek to increase bilateral trade volume to almost five billion dollars per year.

At the end of his last visit to Islamabad in May, the Iranian foreign minister said Tehran and Islamabad have agreed to increase cooperation to boost security at the two countries' border areas.

cure a safe exit route for civilians to leave the besieged district.

Erdogan, for his part, described the situation in Eastern Ghouta as a tragedy and said Iran and Turkey as two Muslim countries in the region should try their hardest to end the tragedy.