

Condolences on the Sacrilegious Demolition of the Baqie Cemetery

Kayhan International



Zionist Smear Campaign Targets Rights Groups

RAMALLAH (MEE) -- A joint Zionist regime and civil society campaign to cut off foreign government funding for Palestinian human rights groups is employing smear tactics and misinformation, according to the groups targeted. The campaign, involving the Israeli regime and an Tel Aviv-based organization called NGO Monitor, scored a high-profile success last month when Denmark announced it was freezing funding to the Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) - a grouping of local women's organizations - pending a review. NGO Monitor says it works for transparency in NGO funding.

Navy Testing New Weapons in Caspian Drills

TEHRAN (Tasnim) -- Deputy Commander of Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi on Sunday said naval forces plan to test the country's new weapons and military equipment in the ongoing military drills in northern Iran. The war game code-named "Sustainable Security and Power 96" is part of annual exercises of the Navy in the waters of the Caspian Sea, he said in a press conference. Sea and air units of the Navy, shore-to-sea missile systems, diving teams, health-care, intelligence systems, and commando units specialized in marine warfare have been deployed to the drills, he noted.

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Viewpoint

By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

An Inconvenient Truth

Commemorating the Wahhabi Desecration of the Symbols of Allah

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"Indeed Safa and Marwah are among Allah's Symbols (Sha'er-Allah); so whoever makes Hajj to the House, or performs the Umrah, there is no sin upon him to circuit between them." (Holy Qur'an 2:158)

"As persons having pure faith in Allah, not ascribing partners to Him; whoever ascribes partners to Allah is as though he had fallen from a height to be devoured by vultures, or to be blown away by the wind far and wide. All that; and whoever venerates the Symbols of Allah (Sha'er-Allah) —indeed that arises from the Godwariness of hearts." (Holy Qur'an 22:31-32)

"O' you who have faith, do not violate Allah's Symbols (Sha'er-Allah); neither the sacred month, nor the offering, nor the necklaces, nor those bound for the Sacred House who seek their Lord's grace and [His] pleasure." (Holy Qur'an 5:2)

In the above mentioned ayahs of the Holy Qur'an, God Almighty places emphasis on His Symbols ("Sha'er-Allah" in Arabic), which He says should be venerated by believers from the depth of their hearts as indicators of monotheism, and on no account should be violated.

The All-Mercy gives some examples of His Symbols which include the sacred month and the offerings in His Path, as well as Safa and Marwa in Mecca, where pilgrims to the Holy Ka'ba, the Symbolic House of the One and Only Creator, make seven rounds between these two hillocks to keep alive the memory of Prophet Abraham's wife Hajar's frantic run from Safa to Marwa several times in search of water for young Ishmael rubbing his feet in the dust due to acute thirst.

The Lord Most High then issues a stern warning against violation of the sanctity of His Symbols.

This means only the perfidious wretch, devoid of faith in Allah, will dare to desecrate His Symbols.

Muslims may be quick to point out that those damned by God are the defilers of the sanctity of mosques and shrines, such as the sacred al-Aqsa Mosque in the Zionist occupied Islamic city of Bayt al-Moqaddas and the Takfiri-destroyed tomb of Prophet Jonah in Mosul.

Without the least doubt the Zionists, the Takfiris and others indulging in such sacrilege at mosques and shrines in various parts of the world have earned divine wrath, but the most perfidious wretches are those who attempt to defile the sanctity of the holy shrine of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and the holy shrines of members of his Blessed Household, the Ahl al-Bayt, whose pristine purity God Almighty Himself has vouchsafed in the Holy Qur'an (33:33).

Alas, today the 8th of Shawwal is that tragic day in history when

in 1345 AH (1925), the desert brigand of Najd, Abdul-Aziz Aal-e Saud, after massacring innocent Muslim men, women, and children in the Prophet's city Medina, attempted to destroy the Prophet's shrine. When he was dissuaded from doing so, he sent his Godless Wahhabi hordes to desecrate the Sacred Jannat al-Baqie Cemetery and raze to the ground the tombs of the elite of Islam, especially the towering majestic mausoleum over the blessed resting places of Four of the Prophet's Twelve Infallible Heirs - Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS), Imam Zain al-Abidin (AS), Imam Muhammad Baqer (AS), and Imam Ja'far al-Sadeq (AS).

First the heretical Wahhabis plundered the precious Persian carpets and chandeliers in the holy mausoleum then pulled it down over the heads of pilgrims still inside it, in opposition to God's explicit commandment in the Holy Qur'an against violation of the sanctity of the Symbols of Allah ((Sha'er-Allah)).

The criminal who seven years later was gifted by his British masters with the spurious entity called Saudi Arabia, thus desecrated one of the Supreme Symbols of God Almighty.

This unpardonable crime, which continues to bring tears to the eyes of all true believers, is testimony to the fact that the Saudi regime, which today is a tool of the Great Satan, the US, and is open alliance with that other arch-enemy of Muslims, the illegal Zionist entity, has no connection to Islam and its sanctities.

In view of these undeniable facts it is the duty of the Ummah to mobilize efforts for rebuilding of the Baqie Cemetery, especially the Grand Mausoleum (Sha'er-Allah) of the Four Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt. If not, all talk of liberating Bayt al-Moqaddas from the Zionists is idle prattle, because for the past 93 years Baqie has remained as an open wound in eyeshot of the Prophet's Holy Shrine.

Iran Photo Collection Stands Top in Int'l China Festival



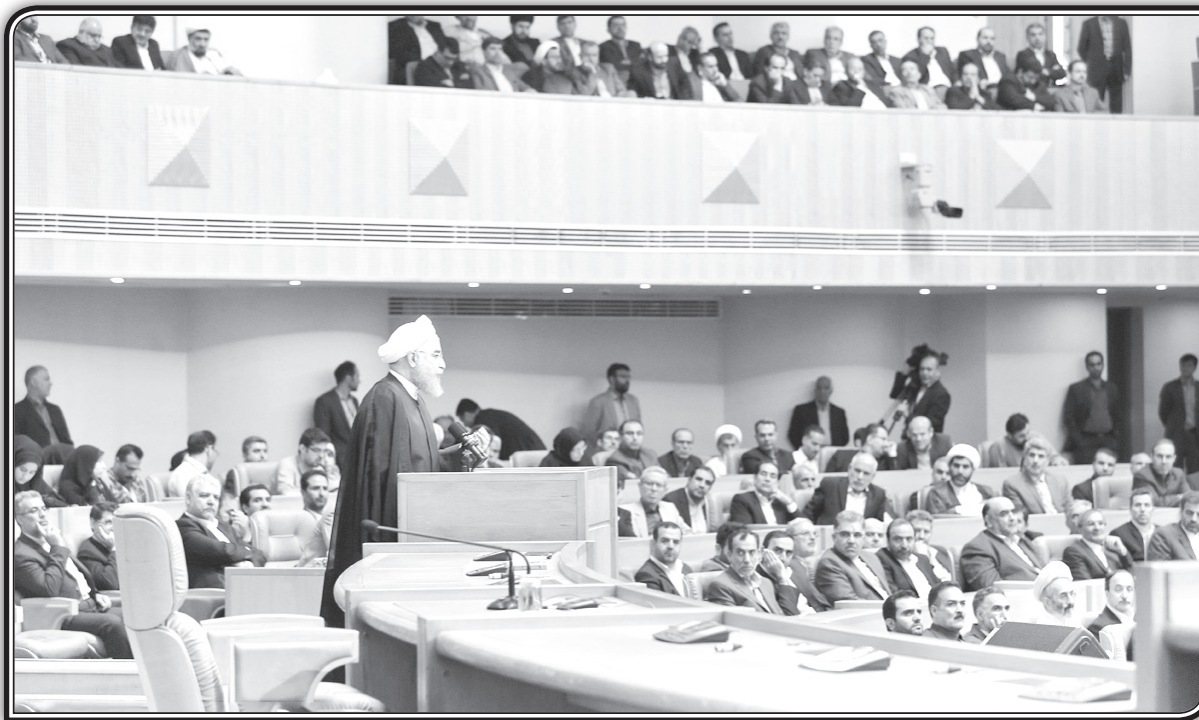
Iran Win Title in Paravolley Asia Oceania Championships



Iraqi Spokesman: U.S. Had No Role in Mosul Victories



President Rouhani: We Should Isolate U.S.



President Hassan Rouhani addresses a national forum on the occasion of Judiciary Week in Tehran, July 2, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- **President Hassan Rouhani said here on Sunday Iran should exercise such foreign policy, which would rally the world behind it rather than behind the United States.**

"We should not allow the U.S. hand to expand and become powerful," he said at a national forum held on the occasion of Judiciary Week.

"Our foreign policy should be of such effect that would make powers condemn the U.S. and reproach it should it choose to stand against us," he added.

Rouhani said, "Being revolutionary means isolating the United States, and speaking to the world in

such a language that it would comprehend and accept our discourse."

The president said the U.S. has become isolated in the international community because of its insistence to impose new sanctions against the Islamic Republic in breach of a nuclear accord.

He proceeded to cite examples of Washington's isolation on the world stage in its opposition against Iran.

Rouhani recalled a Thursday plenary meeting of the United Nations Security Council held to address the implementation of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers. The event saw the UN, the European Union, and many major world countries

all speaking appreciatively of Iran's commitment to the nuclear deal, while the United States alone cried foul.

Also, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which fights money laundering, extended last month a freeze on some of its restrictions against Iran after verifying the Islamic Republic's continued compliance with its directives. The decision came despite pressure from Washington not to do so.

"Does it suit us better for the U.S. to remain alone on the international arena alongside Israel and Saudi Arabia, or should we act in such a way that would make the entire Eu-

rope, China, and Russia stand behind the United States?" he asked.

Rouhani said the enemy was seeking to rob the Middle East of peace, stability, and development so it could both sell its arms and have an excuse to intervene.

"But we are seeking peace and stability in the region, cutting the enemy's hand short, and taking excuses away from it," he said.

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said the United States is pursuing plans aimed at undermining the Islamic Republic's standing in the region.

Addressing the same forum, Larijani said the contents of and pretexts for some of the bills put forward at U.S. Senate were indicative of such anti-Iran policy.

"The Americans have been expressing their policies in a much more transparent way in recent months," he said, adding that Washington has taken up a more overt stance against Tehran.

He emphasized that Iran's missile program, human rights issue and terrorism are merely pretexts by the U.S. Senate to exert more pressure on the Islamic Republic.

The top Iranian parliamentarian added that the Islamic Republic would definitely follow up on U.S. violations of the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, and other bills drafted in the U.S. Senate and "give a strong response" to them.

Iran and the five permanent members (Continued on Page 7)

Qatar Lets Saudi Deadline Pass

LONDON (Dispatches) -- **A deadline was approaching Sunday for Qatar to accept a series of demands made by several Arab states to lift a de facto blockade, with no indications Doha was ready to comply.**

Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Muhammad bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani said Saturday that the 13 demands from Saudi Arabia and several of its allies were designed to be spurned.

"The list of demands is made to be rejected," Sheikh Muhammad said.

"Everyone is aware that these demands are meant to infringe the sovereignty of the state of Qatar," he said at a news conference in Rome after meeting his Italian counterpart.

"The state of Qatar... is rejecting it as a principle," he said, adding: "We are willing to engage in providing the proper conditions for further dialogue."

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt an-

nounced on June 5 they were severing ties with their Persian Gulf neighbor, sparking the worst diplomatic crisis to hit the region in decades.

They accused Doha of supporting extremism and of being too close to Iran, which Qatar has strongly denied.

The crisis has raised concerns of growing instability in the region, home to some of the world's largest energy producers and several key Western allies hosting U.S. military facilities.

On June 22 the Arab states presented a list of demands and gave Doha 10 days to comply. The ultimatum is expected to expire at the end of the day on Sunday, though the deadline has not been officially confirmed.

Riyadh and its supporters have already severed air, sea and ground links with Qatar, cutting off vital routes for imports including food.

Qatari citizens were ordered to leave the countries and various steps (Continued on Page 7)

NIOC to Award \$4.8 Billion Gas Deal to Total

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- **French energy giant Total will sign a \$4.8 billion agreement to develop an Iranian offshore gas field on Monday, the oil ministry said, in the biggest foreign deal since sanctions were eased last year.**

"The international agreement for the development of phase 11 of South Pars will be signed on Monday in the presence of the oil ministry and managers of Total, the Chinese company CNPC and Iranian company Petropars," a ministry spokesman told AFP.

Total signed a preliminary deal with Iran in November, taking a 50.1% stake in the \$4.8 billion project. CNPC will own 30% and Petropars 19.9%.

Total will put in an initial \$1 billion for the first stage of the 20-year project.

The gas produced will "feed into the domestic Iranian market starting from 2021," a Total spokesman told AFP.

He said the company would "implement the project with the strictest respect for national and international law".

The contract was initially due to be signed in early 2017, but CEO Patrick Pouyanne said in February that Total would wait to see whether the U.S. administration of President Donald Trump reimposed sanctions on Iran.

Trump threatened during his campaign to tear up the landmark accord between Iran and six world powers that came into force in January 2016 and eased sanctions in exchange for curbs to Tehran's nuclear program.

His administration has taken a tough line on Iran and imposed fresh sanctions related to its ballistic missile program.

But the White House has kept the nuclear deal alive, continuing to waive the relevant sanctions every few months as required under the agreement.

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