

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Several political analysts and university professors took the podium at a conference in Iran's capital of Tehran to lay bare the true face of the U.S. government and document how it has systematically violated human rights.

The University of Tehran hosted the international conference attended by Iranian and foreign scholars and political experts. During the conference, co-sponsored by the Iranian World Studies Association, Islamic Human Rights Commission in London, and the University of Tehran's Faculty of World Studies, speakers enumerated the factors making the United States the world's biggest violator of human rights.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- If approved by the Iranian cabinet, a woman is going to take the helm at the country's national airliner Iran Air as the first-ever female Iranian heading the company.

Farzaneh Sharafbafi, a current board member Iran Air, will replace the current CEO Farhad Parvaresh if approved by members of President Hassan Rouhani's cabinet. Sharafbafi, the director-general of Iran Air's Research Department, will be the first-ever woman to head the national flag carrier.

Viewpoint
By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer
Investigating U.S. War Crimes in Syria
P. 2

Yazd City Registered as World Heritage Site
P. 3

Iran Scoop Another Gold at Asian Athletics Championships
P. 6

Truce Comes Into Force in Southwestern Syria
P. 8

Immortal Lessons of the Battle of Ohad

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"Do you suppose that you would enter paradise, while Allah has not yet ascertained those of you who have waged jihād and not ascertained the steadfast?" (3:142)

"How many a prophet there has been with whom a multitude of godly men fought. They did not falter for what befell them in the way of Allah, neither did they weaken, nor did they abase themselves; and Allah loves the steadfast." (3:146)

"When you were fleeing without paying any attention to anyone, while the Prophet was calling you from your rear, He requited you with grief upon grief, so that you may not grieve for what you lose nor for what befalls you, and Allah is well aware of what you do." (3:153)

"O you who have faith! Do not be like the faithless who say of their brethren, when they travel in the land or go into battle, 'Had they stayed with us they would not have died or been killed,' so that Allah may make it a regret in their hearts. But Allah gives life and brings death, and Allah sees best what you do." (3:156)

Above are some of the ayahs of Surah Aal-e Imran of the Holy Qur'an pertaining to the crucial Battle of Ohad which the Arabs imposed upon Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and in which after initial success the Muslims faced a setback that would have turned into a complete rout if not for the valour of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) in single-handedly defending the honour of Islam.

Every single event of the luminous life of the Seal of Messengers is a valuable lesson for Muslims in every age and place. As could be understood by the above-cited ayahs, it is a test of faith, whether in war or peace, because whatever the Prophet does is on the commandment of God Almighty.

Obedience to the Prophet and his Infallible Successors, is obedience to God Almighty. It means Divine Leaders guide humanity towards real peace and prosperity in life and salvation in afterlife.

In other words, the representatives of God on earth are not like the manmade leaders, who are not sure of either themselves or their goals, irrespective of whether they are hereditary (whose forbears have seized power through military might), or those elected and selected by the people.

Thus, in view of these facts, when the Arabs of Mecca – with the connivance of the crafty Israelites as well as the hypocrites amongst the Muslims – assembled a strong well-armed force of 3,000 and marched upon Medina with the intention of killing the Prophet and wiping out Islam, God Almighty decided to test the faith of the believers.

The Prophet consulted his companions whether to give battle to the enemy in the streets of the city or to march outside into the open countryside (not that the Divine Leader was in need of the imperfect counsel of fallible minds but to test their degree of faith and prudence), and chose the latter course, because he did not want the women, the children and the elderly to be exposed to the danger of fighting and that too against merciless hordes who would commit any sin or crime.

The hypocrites amongst the Muslims deserted the Prophet at the last moment under their leader Abdullah bin Obbaib, while those weak of faith accompanied him with reluctance but hoping for booty in case the Arab infidels fled.

It so happened that the Muslims took the early initiative in repulsing the attack of Abu Sufyan and his Arab hordes, thanks to the flashing blade of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), but the sight of the camp baggage of the fleeing Meccans was indeed a test for those in the army of Islam.

Those of the Muslims who were afraid of war and reluctant to face the enemy dashed for the spoils, including those guards posted at the mountain pass by the Prophet with instructions not to leave their posts.

The result was catastrophic. One of the enemy commanders, Khaled bin Waleed, who was hiding behind the mountain with fresh forces, suddenly burst upon the Muslims making most of them flee, despite the calls of the Prophet to stand ground.

The Prophet's valiant uncle, Hamza (AS), was attacked from behind by the Abyssinian Wahshi, who like the modern day cannibalistic Takfiri terrorists, carved out the liver of his victim and took it to his mistress Hind bint Otaiba to be chewed. She was the wife of Abu Sufyan, and thus the mother and grandmother of such despicable tyrants as Mu'awiyya and Yazid.

All books of hadith and history state that the lone person now standing beside Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and warding off the repeated assaults of the Arabs was Imam Ali (AS). Later some 13 other Muslims returned to the battlefield after being assured the Prophet was alive.

As could be gleaned from the book *"al-Mustadrak as-Sahihayn"* by the famous Sunni Muslim scholar Hakem an-Nisabouri, the only one defending Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) was his cousin and son-in-law Imam Ali (AS). He has recorded a hadith that reads:

"Ali has four distinctions which no one share with him: He was the first male who prayed with the Messenger of God. He was the bearer of his banner in every battle and he was the one who stayed with him at the Battle on the day of al-Mihras (the Battle of Ohad), and he is the one who washed his blessed body and laid him in his grave."

Later, the Prophet while praising the faith and swordsmanship of his dear cousin, said that on the Day of Ohad Archangel Gabriel could be heard chanting: *"La Fatha illa Ali, la Saifilla Dhu'l-Feqar (there is no braver youth than Ali and no sharper sword than Dhu'l-Feqar)."*

Thus, there are important lessons to be learned from this immortal encounter by today's Muslims, whose ranks are unfortunately split, while their archenemies the US and the illegal Zionist entity, along with the hypocrites amongst the Arab regimes, are preparing for the kill.

In such a situation, only firm adherence to the path of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and treading the footsteps of Imam Ali (AS) in discerning divine leadership will help them defeat the despicable enemies.

Iraq Declares Mosul a Liberated City



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi shakes hands with army officers upon his arrival in Mosul to declare victory over Daesh in the city on July 9, 2017.

MOSUL (Dispatches) -- **Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory in the "liberated" city of Mosul on Sunday, his office said, in the biggest defeat yet for Daesh terrorists.**

"The commander in chief of the armed forces (Prime Minister) Haider al-Abadi arrived in the liberated city of Mosul and congratulated the heroic fighters and the Iraqi people for the great victory," said a statement from his office.

The announcement comes after a grueling nearly nine-month battle to retake the northern city from the extremists after three years under their rule.

A photo on Abadi's official Twitter account showed him dressed in a black military uniform and cap as he arrived in Mosul to announce the

recapture of the city.

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hussein Dehqan swiftly hailed the liberation in two separate congratulatory messages to commander of Hashd al-Sha'abi volunteers Hadi al-Ameri and his Iraqi counterpart Erfan Mahmoud al-Hayali.

The liberation, the message read, brought happiness to all advocates and supporters of stability, peace and security in Iraq, particularly the Iraqi nation, government and the armed forces.

"It was impossible to achieve such victories in Iraq without the sincerity, bravery and devotion of the volunteer forces under the leadership of top Shia clerics and the country's brave commanders," he added.

In his message to Hayali, the

Iranian defense minister said, "This major victory thwarted plots of the U.S. and the Zionist regime."

The fighting did not seem to be completely over, with gunfire still audible in Mosul and airstrikes hitting the city around the time the premier's office released the

Qatar Seeks Compensation From Saudi-Led Bloc

DOHA (Dispatches) -- Qatar on Sunday announced it was establishing a committee to pursue compensation claims potentially worth billions of dollars over the country's "blockade" by Persian Gulf states.

Attorney-General Ali bin Fetais al-Marri said the Compensation Claims Committee would deal with cases including major companies, such as Qatar Airways, and individual Qatari students who have been expelled from the countries where they were studying.

"This committee will receive all claims, whether from the public sector, private sector or individuals," Marri told journalists at a press conference in Doha.

Potential plaintiffs such as Qatar

statement. The declared victory in Mosul marks a milestone for the Iraqi security forces, who had crumbled in the face of a Daesh onslaught across Iraq in 2014.

Daesh swept across much of Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland in a lightning offensive that year, proclaiming a self-styled "caliphate" straddling Iraq and neighboring Syria.

But the Takfiri group, which is facing twin offensives in both countries, has since lost large parts of the territory it once controlled.

The Iraqi forces launched their campaign to recapture Mosul in October, seizing its eastern side in January and launching the battle for its western part the next month.

But the fight grew tougher when Iraqi forces entered the densely-populated Old City on the western bank of the Tigris River that divides the city.

In recent days, security forces have killed extremists trying to escape their dwindling foothold in Mosul, as Iraqi units fought to retake the last two Daesh held areas near the Tigris.

Earlier Sunday Iraq's Joint Operations Command had said it killed "30 terrorists" trying to escape across the river.

(Continued on Page 7)

German Troops Begin Leaving Incirlik

BERLIN/ANKARA (Dispatches) -- Germany began on Sunday to pull its troops out of a Turkish air base where they have supported military operations in Syria following a row with Ankara over access, a German defense ministry spokesman said.

The withdrawal from the Incirlik base, approved by the German parliament last month, marks a further step in one of many bilateral disputes, ranging from a post-coup clampdown by Ankara to Turkish political campaigning in Germany.

German tornado jets were due to keep operating out of Incirlik at least until the end of July as part of a mission providing reconnaissance aircraft to support U.S. operations in Iraq and Syria.

In the meantime the necessary material was to be moved to a new air base in Jordan, where the planes

are scheduled to be deployed by October.

A German air tanker refueler left Incirlik for the Jordan base on Sunday, the ministry spokesman told Reuters.

(Continued on Page 7)

Istanbul Hit by Biggest Protest Rally in Years

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) -- Tens of thousands of people massed Sunday for a rally of Turkey's main opposition party in Istanbul, the biggest protest event in several years by critics of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

A sea of people filled the vast seashore square in Maltepe on the Asian side of Istanbul for the rally marking the end of a 450 kilometer "justice march" from Ankara to Istanbul by Republican People's Party

(CHP) leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, an AFP correspondent reported.

Kilicdaroglu launched the march after a parliamentarian from his party was imprisoned in June. The march grew into a protest of the massive crackdown on people with alleged links to terror groups that began after a coup attempt last summer.

"If only there was no need for this march and there was democracy, media freedoms, if civic society groups could freely express their

opinions," Kilicdaroglu told The Associated Press as he headed Friday into the final stretch of his marathon march.

Tens of thousands of people have joined Kilicdaroglu throughout his march in scorching heat, chanting "rights, law, justice." Hundreds of thousands of people greeted Kilicdaroglu while waving Turkish flags and flags emblazoned with the word "justice."

(Continued on Page 7)