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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Who Attacked the Iranian Ship in the Red Sea?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Was Iran's anti-piracy vessel in the Red Sea, "Saviz", attacked by state-sponsored pirates or by pirate regimes – both of which want to keep the region in turmoil?

Investigations are underway to determine the extent of damage, although there were no casualties. The probe on Tuesday's terrorist attack off the coast of Djibouti will also focus on any links to a similar terrorist attack on the Iranian cargo ship "Shahr-e Kord" last month in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Iran will be interesting to find out the type of explosives used by the terrorists and the bases from which they operate, even though the US CENTCOM terrorists in the region have quickly distanced themselves from the attack on "Saviz", saying no American forces were involved.

Such a statement, however, does not mean the Americans were totally unaware of the terrorist attack, since the US actively supports Israeli terrorism throughout West Asia as well as Saudi Arabia's terroristic war in Yemen.

The "Saviz", owned by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines, has been stationed in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, since late 2016 to protect naval routes and to provide security for merchant vessels and tankers against pirates.

It is a non-military vessel, whose specifications and mission are formally registered with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Iranian vessels have often been attacked by pirates operating in the region, and there are instance of Iranian crewmen being kidnapped and held captive by these modern day corsairs infesting in the shipping lanes between the Horn of Africa and the southern coasts of Yemen.

The case of "Saviz" is clear, since no petty pirates were seen in its vicinity, which means it is the dirty work of some terroristic state using technology and arms supplied by the Americans.

At any rate, Tehran has decided to take all the necessary measures regarding the case through international bodies and will on no account end its peacekeeping mission in the region.

Once the investigation is complete and the identity of the attackers or their affiliations determined, Iran will respond in a decisive manner to counter state-sponsored pirates or the pirate regimes.

FM Zarif in Nur-Sultan Kazakhstan, Iran Sign Document for Cooperation



Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif, second left, and his Kazakh counterpart Mukhtar Tleuberdi pose for photographers after signing a document for cooperation in Nur-Sultan on April 7, 2021.

NUR-SULTAN (Dispatches) -- The foreign ministers of Iran and Kazakhstan here Wednesday signed a document for cooperation as Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif continued a four-nation Central Asia tour.

The document signed by Zarif and Kazakh Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi stressed the importance of strengthening friendly, neighborly and fraternal relations between the two countries.

The document calls for increasing cooperation on bilateral, regional and international issues, eliminating obstacles on the way of expanding relations.

The document also emphasizes sustainable consultations on political, economic, social, humanitarian, environmental, military, secu-

rity and cultural matters.

After the meeting, Zarif said at a press conference that discussions were held on strengthening Iran's participation in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) within the framework of bilateral relations.

Zarif noted that the peaceful use of the Caspian Sea was also reiterated in the meeting.

The Iranian minister also said railways and transit routes are of great importance between Iran, Kazakhstan and other neighbors. He said Iran wants Kazakhstan to expand its use of Iranian ports for access to international waters.

Zarif highlighted the many historical and cultural commonalities linking the two nations, thanking the Central Asian state for standing by the Islamic Republic on various

global fronts.

He said regional issues, particularly the Afghan crisis, were also discussed in the meeting, during which the two sides emphasized the need to respect the will of the Afghan people, democracy and ethnic balance in the political future of the war-torn country.

In his talks with Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Zarif stressed the need to find ways for lasting cooperation with Kazakhstan.

Describing Kazakhstan as a friendly neighbor of Iran in the Caspian Sea region, Zarif highlighted the importance of closeness of the views of the two states on regional and international issues.

For his part, the Kazakh president

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Iran to Unveil 133 Achievements on Nuclear Day

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says the country is set to unveil and inaugurate 133 new achievements in the nuclear technology sector on the occasion of National Nuclear Technology Day.

In a statement, the AEOI said great efforts by the staff and specialists of Iran's nuclear industry led to 133 new successful achievements in the previous year alone.

It added that the achievements, which will be unveiled on Saturday, were made in different fields of the nuclear industry, including quantum, enrichment, heavy water,

deuterium compounds, radiopharmaceuticals and lasers.

Eight of the achievements will be unveiled in person by President Hassan Rouhani, and the rest will be put on display during exhibitions and video-conferences.

On Tuesday, the AEOI spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said that the country has started mechanical tests on its indigenized advanced IR-9 centrifuge machines.

"One of the developments made in the field of enrichment is the beginning of the mechanical tests on IR-9 centrifuge machines, which are able to produce 50,000 SWUs

(Separative Working Units) of enriched uranium," Kamalvandi told ISNA.

He added that the IR-9 is one of the most important centrifuge machines in Iran which has been manufactured based on new standard methods.

Ali-Akbar Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), on Wednesday said the AEOI provided medicines that were required by around one million patients suffering from refractory diseases around the country.

The organization, he said, was

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Commercial Ship Saviz Attacked in Red Sea

DUBAI (Dispatches) -- An Iranian ship has been attacked in the Red Sea off Yemen, Tehran acknowledged Wednesday.

Iran's Foreign Ministry confirmed the attack on the MV Saviz. The assault came as Iran and other countries sat down in Vienna for the first talks about the U.S. removal of sanctions, showing there were efforts outside the negotiations to derail the process.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh described the ship as a commercial vessel.

"Fortunately, no casualties were reported ... and technical investigations are underway," Khatibzadeh said. "Our country will take all necessary measures through international author-

ities."

In an earlier state TV statement, an anchor cited a New York Times story, which quoted an anonymous U.S. official telling the newspaper that the occupying regime of Israel informed America it carried out an attack Tuesday morning on the vessel. The Associated Press said Zionist officials declined to comment about the assault when reached by the news agency.

Zionist war minister Benny Gantz, while refusing to say if the occupying regime launched the attack, described Iran and its regional allies as a major threat.

"Any place we find an operational challenge and necessity, we will continue to act," Gantz told journalists.

Iran's Tasnim news agency reported that a limpet mine planted on Saviz's hull caused the blast. A limpet mine is a type of naval mine that is attached to the side of a ship, usually by a diver. It later explodes, and can significantly damage a vessel. Iran did not blame anyone for the attack and said Iranian officials likely would offer more information in the coming days.

In a statement, the U.S. military's Central Command only said it was aware of media reports of an incident involving the Saviz and that U.S. forces were not involved.

A European diplomat with knowledge of the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity to

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The Holy Qur'an



How can there be a league, before Allah and His Messenger, with the Pagans, except those with whom ye made a treaty near the sacred Mosque? As long as these stand true to you, stand ye true to them: for Allah doth love the righteous.

The Holy Qur'an (9:7)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:06
Evening (Maghreb)	19:50
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:14
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:43

Nowruz Fallout: Coronavirus Cases Hit 20,000

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran shattered its daily record for new coronavirus infections for the second consecutive day, with 20,954 cases reported.

The record Wednesday comes as the country is in one of the most severe surges of the coronavirus to date. It follows a two-week public holiday for Nowruz, the Persian New Year, when millions traveled to vacation spots across the country and congregated in homes in defiance of health guidelines.

For months, Iran has struggled to curb the coronavirus amid inhuman sanctions imposed by the West. The case count Wednesday brought the total number of infected to 1.98 million, according to official figures. Iran Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said another 193 people had died in the past 24 hours, raising the confirmed death toll to 63,699.

The country's vaccine rollout lags amid the sanctions, with only some 200,000 vaccine doses administered in the nation of 84 million, according to the World Health Organization. COVAX delivered its vaccine first shipment to Iran on Monday from the Netherlands, containing 700,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses.

Tehran, the capital, and 250 cities and towns are declared "red zones," which have the most severe restrictions in place and the highest virus positivity rate. Over 85% of the country now has the "red" or "orange" infection status, authorities say.