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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Convicts Break Free While the Innocent Languish in Nigeria's Dungeons

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Lawlessness rules Nigeria, where prisoners break free from jails in thousands and the regime remains helpless to stop the armed attack, but for the innocent languishing behind bars for years, there is no freedom.

Recently, gunmen firing machineguns and lobbing grenades stormed a prison in southeast Nigeria to free over a thousand and eight hundred convicts, while the orders of the Federal Court for release of the peace-loving Leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN), continues to be ignored by the regime of Muhamadu Buhari.

Why is Buhari powerless to prevent the Biafra separatists or the Boko Haram terrorists from indulging in all sorts of lawless acts in the country?

And why does he refuse to free Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky and his wife Zeenah, who are being held captives in an undisclosed location since their abduction by the Nigerian army in December 2015?

The answers are obvious. The former military general who had staged a coup in the 1980s to seize power and now for the past few years rules as an 'elected' self-styled 'democratic' president, is not his own man.

This is evident by his fear of those who have weapons to attack and shed blood (under foreign protection), like the Boko Haram and the separatists.

In contrast he bares his fangs to kill and trample peaceful Nigerian protestors whenever they rally in the streets – in full conformity with the country's constitution – to demand the release of Sheikh Zakzaky.

It is indeed unfortunate of an oil-rich country to be immersed in poverty and following orders for the fate its own citizens rife from foreign countries.

Just a few days ago, Nigerians adhering to the teachings of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt and calling themselves Shi'a Muslims were fired upon in the capital Abuja, and a few of them killed by the regime's forces.

Buhari, however, does not have the guts to firmly say "no" to the illegal Zionist entity and seditious Saudi Arabia when these two rootless regimes dictate terms to him.

It is worth recalling that in December 2016, Justice Gabriel Kolawole had ordered release from detention of the venerable Sheikh Zakzaky and his wife, and providing of a decent accommodation for the couple within 45 days.

Justice Kolawole had also awarded payment of 25 million Nigerian pounds each (totaling 50 million), to the IMN Leader and his wife for the violation of their rights by being held in unlawful custody.

The Sheikh needs immediate medical treatment, while his wife has been infected with the Coronavirus, yet there is no humanitarian sympathy or Islamic sentiments in the heart of Buhari.

This sadism should end, and Sheikh Zakzaky, who has even been classified as a political prisoner by even the US, must be released without any delay.

Rouhani: U.S. Denying Iran Access to Virus Vaccines



President Rouhani oversees the inauguration of five knowledge-based and innovation projects via a video-conference in Tehran, April 8, 2021.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – President Hassan Rouhani said Thursday the economic war waged by the United States against Iran has totally failed and all measures taken by Washington to bring Tehran to its knees have been proven futile.

Rouhani made the remarks in an address via videoconference to the 10th summit of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, also known as Developing-8.

"Here, I am honored to announce that all illegal unilateral measures taken by the United States to bring the Iranian nation to its knees have failed," the president told the D-8 participants.

"Despite suffering heavy economic pressures, we have been able by relying on our own domestic will and capabilities to break remarkable grounds in various fields, including in the field of fighting the COVID-19 and its afteref-

fects," he said.

Rouhani said while the world economy shrank by 3.5 percent and many countries experienced negative economic growth of five to 10 percent, the Iranian economy grew by more than 2 percent in the same period.

This clearly attests to the failure of the United States in its economic war against Iran, he added.

"In the last four years, the international community has witnessed the intensification of the U.S. government's economic war against Iran. These cruel sanctions have caused great damage to our country," Rouhani noted.

Rouhani further denounced unilateralism and economic terrorism as issues that go hand in hand with the coronavirus in harming the international community.

These actions, he continued, not only illegally target ruling govern-

ments and independent nations, but also pose a serious threat to the achievements of the international community.

The Iranian president also pointed to the issue of organized Islamophobia in the world, saying that in addition to targeting Islam's lofty values and dignity, Islamophobia has also had far-reaching negative economic impacts on Islamic countries.

Separately, Rouhani said the United States blocked Iran's access to ten million doses of a coronavirus vaccine by pressuring the companies involved in the transferring of the vaccines to Iran.

"We have done what we should have done. We bought vaccines from India and we paid for it, but then they said 'our Judiciary has gotten in the way and we cannot give you the vaccines,'" he said

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FM Zarif Wraps Up Four-Nation Central Asia Visit

AGHGABAT (Dispatches) – Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif has met with top Turkmen officials in Ashgabat, where they discussed the latest regional and bilateral developments.

Zarif, concluding his Central Asian tour, met on Thursday with his Turkmen counterpart, Rasit Meredow, during which he praised Tehran-Ashgabat political, economic and cultural relations as positive.

The Iranian foreign minister underlined the necessity of boosting the two countries' environmental ties, especially with regard to the

Caspian Sea, as well as bilateral cooperation in transportation.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on cooperation in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), considering the periodic presidency of Turkmenistan in the organization.

Meredow, for his part, stressed the importance of bilateral relations, pointed to the achievements of such ties in different fields, and underscored the need to materialize the available potential in order to expand all-out ties and hold the

next round of the joint commission on economic cooperation.

The peace process in Afghanistan, cooperation in regional and international organizations and multilateral cooperation in the region were among other topics discussed by the two foreign ministers.

Zarif and Meredow signed a cooperation document.

The Iranian foreign minister also met with Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow to discuss political, economic and cultural relations.

During the meeting, Zarif stressed

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Mission Urges Amnesty to Report on Anti-Iran Sanctions

BELGIUM (Dispatches) – Iran's mission to the European Union on Friday called on Amnesty International to compile a report on the harmful impact of illegal U.S. sanctions on the livelihoods of Iranians, especially at a time when the country is grappling with a deadly coronavirus outbreak.

In a chain of tweets, Iran's Embassy in Belgium which hosts the EU's headquarters drew attention to the difficulties that over 80 million Iranians have been facing under America's unilateral sanctions, saying those problems have been compounded by the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

Along with one of the tweets,

the diplomatic mission posted a recent Amnesty report on "deliberately divisive and destructive policies that have perpetuated inequality, discrimination and oppression and paved the way for the devastation wrought by COVID-19."

"As Agnès Callamard correctly observed in an Amnesty report 'the pandemic has cast a harsh light on the world's inability to cooperate effectively in times of dire global need,' the Iranian mission said.

Callamard serves as the secretary-general of the London-based human rights group. Before her new post, she served as the special rapporteur on extrajudicial,

summary, or arbitrary executions appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

"During the past year Iranian people have been grappling with a fast-spreading virus while due to illegal US sanctions their assets have been frozen in foreign banks, effectively cutting them off from global banking channels to pay for the necessary medical supplies," the mission added.

The U.S., it added, even blocked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from granting Iran a loan that it needed to "strengthen its economy to better provide for the people and tend to their health and medical needs."

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The Holy Qur'an

How, seeing that if they get an advantage over you, they respect not in you the ties either of kinship or of covenant? With their mouths they entice you, but their hearts are averse from you; and most of them are rebellious and wicked.

The Holy Qur'an (9:8)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:06
Evening (Maghreb)	19:52
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:11
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:38

Military Spokesman:

Iran 'Definitely' to Respond to Vessel Attack

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The senior spokesman of the Iranian Armed Forces said Thursday the country will "definitely" respond to a recent attack on one of its merchant ships in the strategic Red Sea.

Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi made the remarks in an interview with Russia's Sputnik news agency, saying that Iran's response to the attack on the Saviz ship will come once the source of the assault is uncovered.

"We need to ascertain the source of the incident. If we uncover the source of the attack on the ship, we will definitely respond, we will never be silent," Sputnik quoted Shekarchi as saying.

"The ship was targeted and now different things may have happened to the ship, but we cannot take a decision on what we are going to do until after our investigations are concluded with utmost accuracy," the senior spokesman added.

Shekarchi also said Iran suspected the occupying regime of Israel and the U.S. were linked to the attack, stressing that Washington is undoubtedly involved in any attempt to undermine and harm the Islamic Republic.

The Saviz ship was struck by a blast at around 6 a.m. local time (0300 GMT) on Tuesday near the coast of Djibouti, and sustained minor damage.

In a report published by The New York Times on Tuesday, an unnamed American official was quoted as saying that Israeli forces had carried out the attack on the Iranian ship. The official called the strike a retaliation and said the ship had been hit below the waterline.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said Saviz is a non-military vessel, whose specifications and mission have been formally registered with the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The ministry added that the ship acts as Iran's logistic station in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, protects naval routes and provides security for merchant vessels and tankers against pirates.

The Foreign Ministry also vowed to take all the necessary measures regarding the case through international bodies.

In a similar incident last month, an Iranian cargo ship was damaged after it was targeted by a terrorist attack en route to Europe in the Mediterranean Sea.