

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) -- The European Union has imposed sanctions on eight Iranians, including the head of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the bloc said in its Official Journal on Monday.

The travel bans and asset freezes are the first EU sanctions on Iran since 2013. The bloc, which also hit three Iranian prisons with asset freezes, blacklisted IRGC chief General Hussein Salami. Iran has repeatedly rejected accusations by the West of human rights abuses.

Kayhan International



TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Some 3,000 Iranian legal experts have issued a statement vehemently condemning the blatant violation of the right to free speech and free flow of information by Western social media platforms through blocking international social media accounts of Iran's national broadcaster.

The statement was issued on Monday in the wake of Google targeting for the seventh time Iran's 24-hour English-language Press TV news network last month and blocking the network's access to its official YouTube account without any prior notice.

VOL NO: LV 11400 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Monday, April 13, 2021, Farvardin 24, 1400, Sha'ban 30, 1442, Price 40,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Time for Iran to Shatter the Glass Houses

Iranian, Iraqi Security Chiefs Discuss U.S.-Daesh Ties



Iran Win Three More Medals in Asian Olympic Qualifying Tournament



Canadian Party Endorses Boycott, Arms Embargo Against Zionist Regime



Natanz to Get Stronger Enrichment Machines Iran: Zionist Regime Should Await Revenge

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's foreign minister on Monday said the occupying regime of Israel is responsible for a weekend blackout at a key Iranian nuclear facility, an incident that a Zionist media outlet reported was the result of a cyber-attack carried out by the Mossad, Israel's spy agency.

Iranian officials said Sunday that the nuclear site, Natanz, had suffered a mysterious electrical outage, which the head of Iran's civilian nuclear agency later blamed on "nuclear terrorism" and another official called a "crime against humanity." Suspicion immediately fell on the Zionist regime, which for years has carried out a terrorist campaign of explosions, assassinations and other forms of sabotage aimed at Iran's nuclear program.

A security source said on Monday that the key individual responsible for the Natanz incident has been identified.

"Necessary measures are being taken to arrest the main element behind the disruption in the power system of Natanz complex," Nour News quoted the source as saying.

In comments quoted Monday by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said that "the Zionists want to take revenge on the Iranian people for their success in lifting the oppressive sanctions, but we will not allow it and we will take revenge on the Zionists themselves."

On Sunday, the Zionist public broadcaster Kan, citing unnamed Israeli and U.S. intelligence sources, reported that the occupying regime of was behind the cyber-attack on Natanz and that the "Mossad was involved."

Yoel Guzansky, former head of the Iran desk of the occupying regime's security council, said that reports of Mossad involvement in the Natanz blackout indicate a rare move to circumvent military censor and unofficially claim responsibility.

"If it was authorized, Israel wants its name to be connected to the attack and to gain something, either vis-a-vis Iran or the U.S. If it's unauthorized, it's a security breach problem, but either way, it's a problem," he said. "It's not healthy to brag, but you also force your opponent to do something, and I'm sure they will."

While Iranian officials acknowledged that centrifuges were damaged, Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said Monday that emergency power systems were put into operation after the attack and that "enrichment in Natanz has not stopped and is moving forward vigorously".

In a news briefing Monday, Saeed Khatibzadeh, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, called the attack on Natanz "a bold act of nuclear terrorism on Iranian soil" and among the "crimes against humanity which the Israeli regime has been doing for many years now".

There were no casualties or nuclear contamination as a result of the attack, but it could have "resulted in a catastrophic situation," he said.

He added that some of the older-generation centrifuges were damaged but would be replaced by newer ones.

On Saturday, the day before the blackout and Iran's national day for nuclear technology, new, more-modern centrifuges were tested at the Natanz facility, with capacity to refine uranium at a much faster rate.

A senior Biden administration official said: "We have seen reports of an incident at the Natanz enrichment facility in Iran. The United States had no involvement, and we have nothing to add to speculation about the causes."

The attack on Natanz came less than a week after Iran and other countries attended talks in Vienna aimed at lifting inhuman U.S. sanctions on Tehran.

Khatibzadeh said, "If the aim was to limit Iran's nuclear capability, I have to say that on the contrary, all the centrifuges that went out of order due to the incident were of the IR1 type, and they are being replaced with more advanced ones."

"If the goal was to disrupt the removal of oppressive sanctions against the Iranian nation, they would certainly not achieve this goal, and no one would fall into the cunning trap they designed," he said.

"However with this action, the occupying regime of al-Quds tried to avenge the patience and wise behavior of the Iranian people in the course of removing the sanctions," the spokesman said.

Israel "should know that Iran will exact revenge on this regime in the right place at the right time", Khatibzadeh added.

The Washington Post said the escalation of a shadow war between the Zionist regime and Iran could threaten what both Washington and Tehran have said is modest progress in the negotiations. The occupying regime is staunchly opposed to the nuclear accord.

An explosion last week that damaged an Iranian ship in the Red Sea occurred just hours before Iran and other countries launched the Vienna talks. In July, a mysterious explosion at the Natanz facility was also described by Iran as sabotage.

U.S. Protests Flare: Another Black Man Killed



People run as police attempt to disperse the crowd at the Brooklyn Center Police Department, April 11, 2021, in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. (AP) — A Black man died after being shot by police in a Minneapolis suburb during a traffic stop and crashing his car several blocks away, sparking violent protests that lasted into the early hours Monday as officers in riot gear clashed with demonstrators and the man's mother called for calm.

The man was identified by family as 20-year-old Daunte Wright, and he died Sunday in a metropolitan area already on edge and midway through the trial of the first of four police officers charged in George

Floyd's death. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz tweeted he was praying for Wright's family "as our state mourns another life of a Black man taken by law enforcement."

Police didn't immediately identify Wright, but protesters who gathered near the scene waved flags and signs reading "Black Lives Matter." Others walked peacefully with their hands held up. On one street, written in multi-colored chalk: "Justice for Daunte Wright."

Demonstrators gathered shortly after the shooting and crash, with some jumping on top of police cars

and confronting officers. Marchers also descended upon the Brooklyn Center police department building, where rocks and other objects were thrown at officers, Minnesota Department of Public Safety commissioner John Harrington said at a news conference. The protesters had largely dispersed by 1:15 a.m. Monday, he said.

Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott announced a curfew in the city that expired at 6 a.m. Monday. In a tweet he said, "We want to make sure everyone is safe. Please be safe and please go home."

Saudi Military Sites, Aramco Refineries Hit in Retaliation

SANAA (Dispatches) -- The Yemeni military said Monday it launched retaliatory drone operations against Saudi Arabian energy giant Aramco's facilities, amid a surge in fighting with Riyadh-backed mercenaries in the war-torn country.

Military spokesman General Yahya Saree said in a statement carried by Al Masirah television that the operations took place overnight, in retaliation for the six-year military campaign led by Saudi Arabia in Yemen.

He said the Yemeni army targeted Aramco refineries in the western Saudi city of Jeddah and in Jubail in the east, with 10 drones launched at dawn.

He also said Yemen hit "sensitive military areas" in the southern cities of Khamis Mushait and Jizan, with five drones and two ballistic missiles.

On Sunday, Saudi Arabia claimed it had intercepted and destroyed Yemeni drones targeting Khamis Mushait and Jizan.

Yemen has struck Aramco facil-

ities in the past, underscoring the vulnerability of Saudi Arabia's expensive and strategically vital oil infrastructure.

Last November, the Yemeni army hit an Aramco plant in Jeddah with a Quds-2 missile, tearing a hole in an oil tank and triggering an explosion and fire, the company said.

Jeddah Airport Shut Down: Report

Earlier Monday, an international airport in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah was temporarily closed due to a military activity in the vicinity of the city, an aviation news website said, with Yemen warning that the kingdom uses its airports for military purposes.

Simple Flying reported that flights due to arrive in King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah were being diverted to other airports around Saudi Arabia.

Yemeni troops on Sunday carried (Continued on Page 7)

Acts of Terrorism Rise Against Muslims in France

PARIS (Dispatches) -- A second mosque in France has been attacked ahead of the holy month of Ramadan days after the French Senate approved an amendment to another Islamophobic bill by the lower House, sparking fierce outrage on social media outlets.

Vandals defaced the walls of Avicenna Islamic Cultural Center in the northwestern city of Rennes with Islamophobic graffiti, local officials declared just days after the Arrahma mosque in the western city of Nantes was set on fire on Thursday destroying its main door.

A caretaker and members of the local Muslim community in Rennes discovered the graffiti early Sunday on the walls of the Islamic center, which included tags insulting Islam and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), as well as references to resuming the Crusades and a call for Catholicism to be made the state religion.

Also on Friday, a 24-year-old

"neo-Nazi" was charged for making threats against a mosque in the city of Le Mans -- also in western France, local media reported.

The wave of anti-Islam incidents came amid what many Muslims in the European country have described as surging hostility against their community, incited by the French government's increasing Islamophobic policies that seek to vilify Islam and dictate to Muslim residents and institutions how to practice their religion.

The attacks also coincided with France's latest legislative move to ban the wearing of hijab in public by Muslim girls under the age of 18, drawing fierce condemnation on social media platforms with widespread use of the hashtag #HandsOffMyHijab.

The French Senate's move against the hijab -- a widely diverse headdress worn by practicing Muslim women -- came last Wednesday as part of a persisting push by Paris

(Continued on Page 7)