

Algeria Foils Zionist Plot

ALGIERS (Reuters) -- Algerian security forces foiled a plot to carry out an armed attack by separatists aided by "the Zionist entity" and a North African country, Ennahar TV said on Wednesday.

The broadcaster said it would air confessions by members of what it called a "terrorist cell" relating to the plot later on Wednesday.

U.S. Again Threatens Iran With 'All Options'

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- The United States is ready to consider all options for how it would deal with a world in which Iran were not willing to return to the constraints of the 2015 nuclear deal, U.S. Special Envoy for Iran Rob Malley said on Wednesday. "We will be prepared to adjust to a different reality in which we have to deal with all options to address Iran's nuclear program if it's not prepared to come back into the constraints," of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with six major powers," he said in a virtual appearance at a Washington think tank.

Viewpoint

Eventual Fate of Enemies of Humanity

Iran, Pakistan Discuss Expanding Security Ties



Iran's Foolad Advance to Asian Club Volleyball Championship Semifinals



Amazon, Google Employees Demand Firms Cut Zionist Military Contracts



Untimely Martyrdom

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"The heart of an ignorant is his mouth, and the mouth of a wise person is inn his heart."

Food for thought indeed; this mind-stimulating statement is from none other than the person whose martyrdom anniversary we commemorate every year on the 8th of Rabi al-Awwal.

He was forced to leave the mortal world at the young age of 28 years due to a fatal dose of poison that was stealthily mixed in his meagre food, while under virtual house arrest in the city of Samarra in Iraq in the year 260 AH (874 AD).

His assassin was Mo'tamad, the self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, whose plot was to cut the life of his victim in the prime of youth before he could become a father so as to belie Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) famous hadith of Twelve Infallible Successors, of whom the last would rise as Qa'em al-Mahdi (AS) to cleanse the world of all vestiges of oppression and corruption by setting up the global government of peace, prosperity, and justice.

Mo'tamad, thus exposed himself as an infidel by trying to disprove God Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, whose every word, as the holy Qur'an testifies in the opening Ayahs of Surah Najm, is Divine Inspiration.

The identity of the person, to attend whose funeral the merchants of Samarra had closed their shops, and in memory of whom we have been holding mourning ceremonies for the past 1183 lunar years ago, to offer our heartfelt condolences to his orphaned son who was born in secrecy five years before his martyrdom, ought to be crystal clear by now.

He was than Imam Hasan al-Askari (AS), the Prophet's 11th Infallible Heir and the father of the Imam of our Age for whose reappearance we eagerly wait.

Born in 232 AH in Medina, Imam Hasan Askari (AS) was a picture of perfection regarding faith and morals. He inherited all the merits of his Infallible Ancestors whom God had bestowed with virtue and knowledge. As historians and narrators of hadith have testified, he was the most excellent person of his age. Even non-Muslims have acknowledged his excellence.

For instance, Bakhtshou, the Christian physician of those days said to his disciple Batriq (Patrick) about the 11th Imam: "He is the most knowledgeable of all those under the sky in our days."

Alas, if the Abbasid usurpers had not subjected the Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt to persecution and confinement, the Righteous Successors of the Prophet would have filled the world with their knowledge and sciences, and humanity would have long ago achieved heights of intellectual development and spared of the catastrophes that it has gone through over the past centuries.

The Abbasids knew that if they did not prevent the people from association with the Infallible Imams, the masses would become enlightened, not only in the fields of sciences but also in the political and social arenas, thereby exposing the caliphs in their true colours as imposters.

Imam Askari (AS), as the paragon of patience and forbearance, always kept his emotions under control and treated even those who wronged him with kindness and forgiveness.

Despite intermittent bouts of imprisonment by the regime, which vainly tried to implicate him in the uprisings in various parts of the vast Islamic realm from Khorasan till North Africa, he proved to be a person of indomitable will and courage.

No one was more generous than him during his lifetime. He appointed representatives in most of the Muslim lands for providing welfare to the poor and the deprived.

The 11th Imam's lofty morals had profound effect on some of his opponents, and they turned to be his loyal followers. Once when he was imprisoned during the reign of Mutawakkil, who was the bitterest enemy of the Ahl al-Bayt, the jailors were ordered to be harsh and severe with the Imam. But when the jailor observed the high morality and piety of the prisoner, he was confounded and showed the utmost respect to him.

Ahmad bin Obaydollah bin Khaqan, a senior official of the Abbasid state, has said about the 11th Imam: I have neither seen nor known in Samarra, a descendant of the Prophet like Hasan bin Ali (AS), nor have I heard the like of his guidance, faith, chastity, nobility, and generosity among all the Hashemites.

Even the father of this Ahmad, who was named Obaydollah, is on record as saying: If the caliphate is taken away from the Abbasids, no one from the Hashimites will deserve it except this man - that is, Imam Hasan Askari (AS).

The Imamate is one of the most important pillars on which civilization, safety, public welfare, and amity among members of the society are built. It provides people with the ideal life they desire on the basis of faith. Under the blessings of Imamate, there are no racial or other superficial differences amongst human beings. The Imamate is a gift of Allah for all creatures.

This is what Imam Askari (AS) proved to the Ummah during the 6 years of his Imamate by ably discharging his duties in awakening the conscience of the people and guiding them towards perfection.

Once when someone wrote to him asking for a supplication, the 11th Imam replied: Pray Allah in this manner:

"O You the Best Listener of listeners, the most Perceptive of seers, the best of lookers, the promptest of Reckoners, the Most Merciful of the merciful, the Wisest of judges, send blessings on Muhammad and on the progeny of Muhammad, and increase my livelihood, prolong my age, favour me with Your mercy, make me from those who defend Your religion, and do not replace me by other than me...!"

When asked about the hadith that "The earth will never be void of the Hujjat (God's Proof), and anyone who dies without acknowledging the Imam of the Age dies the death of ignorance," he replied: "Yes, indeed the matter is as clear and real as daylight."

When asked about the Hujjat and the Imam after you, he said: "After me the Hujjat and the Imam will be my son Muhammad."

"... God will keep him in occultation and then He will cause him to emerge so that he will fill the earth with justice and equity."

Imam Askari (AS) knew what havoc would be played with the shari'a by imposters and charlatans during the absence of his Heir from the society. For this reason, during the long period of occultation of his son and successor, he made it obligatory for the followers of the Ahl al-Bayt to "follow the qualified jurist, who refrains from committing wrong, emphasizes his faith, opposes carnal desires, and obeys Allah's command."

Multi-Layered Anti-Missile Defenses Tested



Photos from the Iranian Army office show anti-aircraft missile launchers firing salvos during a joint military exercise between the army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

TEHRAN -- The Iranian military said Wednesday it has successfully tested anti-missile defenses for "sensitive" sites during war games in central Iran, after Israeli and U.S. threats against its nuclear program.

The military unveiled new home-grown air defense systems, which operated flawlessly to intercept and destroy cruise missiles fired at them, on the second day of large-scale aerial maneuvers.

"The country's air defenses are perfectly prepared to protect sensitive and vital installations through a multi-layered defense system," said

General Amir-Qader Rahimzadeh, commander of Hazrat Khatam al-Anbiya air base in Semnan.

The exercises, begun on Tuesday, combined the army's "Majid" defense system with the "Dezful" system of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) to destroy incoming cruise missiles.

Iran's central region is home to the Natanz enrichment plant and other nuclear sites.

"A solid and multi-layered defense against cruise missile attacks was one of the objectives of the joint air defense exercises that were carried

out successfully," Rahimzadeh said.

He said the Army's indigenous Joshan and Khatam air defense systems, used for the first time in military drills, also shot down their targets.

The Joshan defense system is an upgraded version of the Khordad 15 defense system, which uses a passive radar.

Official news agency IRNA said radars and electronic surveillance systems were also deployed in the operations.

Among them was the Quds radar which is capable of locating targets

at a range of over 500 km and an altitude of over 90,000 feet.

It features tactical and single-vehicle capabilities, homegrown software, the ability to deal with electronic warfare using various techniques, the ability to distinguish between friends and foes, and the ability to link with defense systems.

During the first day of the exercise, domestically-developed, air defense missile systems, radars, reconnaissance equipment, electronic warfare devices, communication systems and a visual surveillance network were put to test.

"What we perceived during this exercise was a modern and advanced display of every aspect of air defense operations in the face of unpredictable scenarios," IRGC chief Major General Hussein Salami said on Wednesday.

"By God's grace, all the targets that entered the area were struck by the systems' first shot," he said.

"The reason for this is that the IRGC's Aerospace Division and the Army's Air Defense Force have acquired cutting edge technology for their very modern and advanced systems," he added.

General Rahimzadeh stressed that Iran's armed forces will not hesitate, even for a moment, to strengthen their defense capabilities.

"Accurate assessment of perceived threats in the airspace has driven us to develop defense systems commensurate with those

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Wheat Burden of Former Administration for Iran

TEHRAN -- Iran needs to buy a record 8 million tonnes of wheat in the current season, Iranian industry sources said, after its domestic crop was hit by drought, while the jump in imports will coincide with high global grain prices adding to pressures on the country's finances.

Bread is a staple in Iran and any shortage would be another blow. Iran's economy has been hit hard by sanctions imposed by former U.S. President Donald Trump as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, making it difficult for Iran to pay for food and medicine.

Higher freight rates are adding to challenges faced by the new administration of President Ebrahim Raisi.

The big increase in wheat imports, from an annual average of about one million tonnes during the last five years, is needed to ensure bread supply as Iran's wheat crop is expected to be some 30% lower this year, industry sources

familiar with the matter said.

The country suffered its worst drought in 50 years during the 2021 growing season, leading international trade house sources to raise their expectations for imports.

Kaveh Zargaran, chairman of the Grain Supplying Association of Iran, a trade body whose members are involved in importing grains, told Reuters the country will need to import about 8 million tonnes of wheat in the March 2021-March 2022 year. He said about 2 million tonnes had already been unloaded at the country's ports.

Ferial Mostofi, president of the Center of Investment and Consultancy Services at Iran's Chamber of Commerce association, said separately the country's overall wheat harvest was estimated to be between 10 to 11 million tonnes, falling short of the annual average of 15 million tonnes.

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Revealed: UK Supply of Repression Tools to Authoritarian Regimes

LONDON (Middle East Eye) -- The British government has authorized exports of tear gas to numerous authoritarian states in the Middle East over the past decade, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Oman, new research reveals, despite several of the countries being on its own human rights priority list.

Since 2008, the British government has approved licenses for tear gas to 70 countries, according to data compiled by British NGO Action On Armed Violence (AOAV).

Six of them - Bangladesh, Bahrain, Egypt, Maldives, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka - are listed as "Human Rights Priority Countries" by the UK foreign office.

Details of the deals are scarce. The UK export system gives little information on the value of each sale, whether they actually go through, and when they are delivered.

But the data do show that the

United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Oman have all been approved for multiple exports of tear gas, despite documented examples of it being used for internal repression, while Saudi Arabia and Egypt have both been approved once for such shipments.

"There is much talk about a post-Brexit Global Britain, but such global trade is also in weapons that have been used in repressing and undermining democratic protest," said AOAV's executive director, Iain Overton.

"So, when we are exhorted to Build Britain Back Better, should this involve not selling armaments that seem only to make things worse?"

Britain's Department for International Trade describes its licensing system as "one of the most comprehensive export control regimes in the world".

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