

Germany Expels Two Iranian Envoys

BERLIN (Dispatches) – Iran on Wednesday expelled two Iranian diplomats in reprisal for a death sentence handed down to the ringleader of a U.S.-based terrorist group accused of committing a series of terror attacks in the country.

The Federal Foreign Office announced in a statement that Germany had declared two employees of the Iranian Embassy in Berlin “personae non gratae” and ordered them to leave the country.

The decision was made after the Iranian Judiciary sentenced Iranian citizen Jamshid Sharmahd, who also holds (Continued on Page 7)

Kayhan International



FM: Iran to Consider Plan B if Vienna Talks Fail

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- The Iranian foreign minister said Wednesday if the American side acts to impede the process in the negotiations over the revival of the Iran nuclear deal, Tehran will move to activate its Plan B and all other options.

Hussein Amir-Abdollahian on the conflicting messages sent by the U.S. through diplomatic and media channels regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of action (JCPOA) talks.

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Thursday, February 23, 2023, Esfand 4, 1401, Sha'ban 2, 1444, Price 200,000 Rials

Viewpoint

INSTC All Set to Bust US Economic Terrorism

Security in Focus as Iranian FM Visits Baghdad



Iran Basketball Team to Meet Japan, China



UN: Quakes Leave 1.5mn People Homeless in Turkey



Imam Husain the Salvager of the Prophets' Missions

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“O God, I beseech You by the right of him who was born this day, to whom martyrdom was promised before he appeared and was born, for whom the heavens wept and those who are in them and the earth and those who are in it, before he even tread its stony grounds. The slain one for whom tears flow...”

As is clear by the wordings of the above passage of the special supplication to God Almighty for the 3rd of Sha'ban, the birth of the Immortal Martyr of Karbala was not an ordinary event, because of the simple reason that Imam Husain (AS) wasn't an ordinary person.

Younger grandson of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), Divine Providence willed that he step on to Planet Earth in the year 4 AH (626 AD) after only six months in the womb of his Infalible Mother, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (SA) – the Noblest Lady of all times.

His father, the One and Only Commander of the Faithful, looked to his cousin the Prophet to name the radiant boy in view of the latter's famous statement: *“O Ali! Your position to me is that of Aaron to Moses”*

Thus, since Aaron's second son was Shubair, the newborn, following the swift descent of Archangel Gabriel with a message from the Lord Most High, was named Husain (AS) in Arabic – a year earlier the Prophet's elder grandson was named Hasan, the Arabic equivalent of Aaron's firstborn, Shabar.

It is obvious the grandfather and the parents of the baby born this day welcomed him with tears in view of what God Almighty had already informed the Prophet.

The tears were definitely not of sorrow, but were a form of thanksgiving to the Source of Life for having bestowed to the child the exalted honour of martyrdom in his middle age.

To be more precise, Imam Husain (AS) was destined to offer the Greatest Sacrifice the world would ever see, for salvaging the dynamism of Islam, the purity of the Sunnah (practice) and Seerah (behaviour) of the Prophet, the clarity of Fatema Zahra's (AS) sermon of Fadak to expose imposters in their true colours, the blueprint of the model government of social justice of Imam Ali (AS), the throwing away of the caliphate by Imam Hasan (AS) to unmask hypocrisy, and the gargantuan efforts of all prophets of the past in the face of the tyranny of Nimrod, Pharaoh, etc – all of which stood imperiled by the Godless Yazid's demand to swear allegiance to him as the caliph of God.

Now we understand why we hail Imam Husain (AS) as the Successor of the Prophets Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Muhammad (SAWA) and of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS), while saluting him in the ziyarah known till this day *“Ziyarat-al-Wareth”*.

That is the reason God decreed the continuation of imamate in the lineal descent of Imam Husain (AS), the last of whom will be the Qa'em al-Mahdi (AS) the Promised Saviour of mankind who will reappear in the end times, not just to avenge the innocent blood of the Martyr of Karbala, but also to rid Planet Earth of oppression and corruption by establishing the global government of peace, prosperity and justice – as is clear from the following supplication which the faithful recite on this day:

“The Imams are from his descent, curative is the soil of his shrine, and triumph will be with him and the legatees of his line at his return, after their “Qa'em” and his (lengthy) occultation, until they take vengeance and avenge the blood of the martyrs, pleasing God and being the best of helpers... O Allah, bless Muhammad and his descendants and gather us at resurrection in his fold and settle us with him in the abode of dignity and permanence.”

No wonder, the very mention of the name of Husain (AS), even if it swells our eyes with tears, it grants us peace of mind, tranquility of heart, succour to the spirit, and solace to the soul, while infusing our whole body and existence with the determination to stand firm against social injustice, deviation from Islamic values, threats of attack, and the devilish designs of the dastardly terrorists.

Imam Husain (AS) made blood triumph over swords, and by adhering to his legacy, we have acquired a distinct identity that makes us indomitable in the face of the heaviest odds even if it means the end of our transient life in this mortal world.

This is the reason his birthday is marked in the Islamic Republic as *“Rouz-e Pasdaar”* or the Day of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) for the heroism of this selfless force in defending Islam, Iran, the Iranian people, the oppressed people of the world, and humanitarian values against terrorists and terrorism of all kinds, including the state terrorism of the US, the Zionists and reactionary regimes.

I end this brief newspaper column by quoting here two more passages from the special supplication for the blessed 3rd of Sha'ban that are self-explanatory:

“O Allah, just as You honoured us with our knowledge of him, honour us also with nearness to him, grant us his companionship and precedence. Appoint us to among those who submit to his command, invoke much blessings on him when he is mentioned, as well as on all his successors and his elect, made by You twelve in number, the bright stars and Your testaments to all mankind.

“O Allah! Confer on us the best of gifts today, and grant us success in whatever we seek, just as You gave Husain to Muhammad, his grandfather. The Angel Futrus sought refuge by Husain's cradle, and we seek shelter by his tomb. Being present at his graveside, we await his return. Amen, O Lord of all the worlds.”

At Least 10 Palestinian Martyred in Israeli Raid

Carnage in Nablus



A Palestinian hurls rocks at an Israeli armored vehicle in Nablus, the occupied West Bank, on Wednesday.

NABLUS, West Bank (Dispatches) -- Israeli troops martyred 10 Palestinians and wounded over 100 others during a raid on a flashpoint city in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, witnesses and medical officials said.

The Zionist regime's military confirmed the aggression in Nablus, where troops attacked with the aim of detaining Palestinians suspected of planning imminent attacks.

Those martyred were identified as Adnan Sabe' Baara, 72; Muhammad Khaled Anbousi, 25; Tamer Minawi, 33; Musab Owais,

26; Hossam Isleem, 24; Muhammad Abu Bakr, 23, Muhammad Abdel-Fattah Abdel-Ghani, 23, Walid Riyad Hussein Dakhil, 23, and Abdel-Hadi Abdel-Aziz Ashqar, 61.

Palestinian resistance movement Islamic Jihad said two of its Nablus commanders had been encircled in a house by Israeli troops, triggering a clash that drew in other resistance fighters. Explosions sounded and local youths pelted armored troop transports with rocks.

Massive confrontations broke

out after raid. Zionist troops blocked off all entrances to the city, before surrounding a home belonging to Palestinian resistance fighter, Hossam Isleem.

The Lions' Den armed group said in a statement that it engaged in clashes with Zionist forces alongside the recently announced Balata Brigades group.

Ahmed Jibril, director of ambulance and emergency services at the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Nablus, said Israeli forces prevented medical staff from reaching the besieged area.

Palestinian sources said the two Islamic Jihad commanders were martyred along with another fighter. The fatalities also included at least three civilians, among them a 72-year-old man and a 14-year-old boy. Medical officials said 102 Palestinians were wounded, six of them critically.

Nablus and nearby Jenin have been a focus of raids that the occupying regime of Israel has intensified over the last year following a spate of retaliatory Palestinian attacks.

Sixty Palestinians, including resistance fighters and civilians, have been martyred in 2023, the Palestinian health ministry said. Ten Zionists died in Palestinian attacks in the same period, according to Israel's foreign ministry.

Israeli forces launch raids on cities across the occupied West Bank almost on a daily basis under the pretext of detaining what the regime calls “wanted” Palestinians. The raids usually lead to deadly confrontations with residents.

The United Nations marked 2022 as the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank in 16 years.

“We condemn the occupation's raid into Nablus and we call for an end to the continued attacks against our people,” said Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesperson for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Hamas, another Palestinian resistance (Continued on Page 7)

Iran Summons UK Envoy, Announces Sanctions

TEHRAN -- Iran has called in Britain's envoy in Tehran to protest after London alleged Tehran had made “threats” to the lives of UK-based journalists, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

The tit-for-tat move came as Iran's charge d'affaires in London Mehdi Hussein Matin was summoned to hear a British protest over the alleged threats that forced Persian-language TV network Iran International to announce last week that it was relocating from London.

“Following the continued baseless accusations from England against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mrs Isabelle Marsh, temporary chargee d'affaires of that country's embassy in Tehran, was summoned to the foreign ministry on Tuesday,” it reported.

British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said on Tuesday he was “appalled” by alleged threats to the lives of UK-based journalists “and have today summoned its representative to make clear this

will not be tolerated”.

Iran's foreign ministry said Cleverly's comments were a continuation of Britain's “Iranophobic policy” and called for an “end to this hostile approach.”

Last month, after Iran executed Alireza Akbari for spying for Britain, London launched a flurry of vitriolic accusations against the Islamic Republic.

On Monday, Britain imposed sanctions on eight senior Iranian figures, including judges, members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and regional governors, alleging that they were responsible for “horrific human rights violations.”

The head of the West Europe department of the Iranian Foreign Ministry denounced the sanctions as politically motivated.

“A country that allows the most severe discrimination and atrocities against immigrants and Muslims and forcibly transfers refugees to Rwanda in violation of international law is not in a position (Continued on Page 7)

Ex-Palestinian Ambassador Laid to Rest in Tehran

TEHRAN -- A group of Iranian activists and officials joined a funeral procession also attended by ambassadors based here for former Palestinian ambassador to the Islamic Republic Salah al-Zawawi, who was laid to rest in Tehran Wednesday.

Zawawi, a seasoned Palestinian diplomat and an intrepid campaigner for Palestine's liberation from the Zionist occupation, passed away in Tehran on Monday after a prolonged illness. He was aged 85.

In a communique, the Palestinian embassy in the Iranian capital said the former ambassador died a hospital “due to illness”.

Zawawi served as the Palestinian ambassador to Tehran for 42 years (1980-2022) and retired in February last year due to failing health. He was the second Palestinian envoy to Iran after the revolution, succeeding Hani al-Hassan.

One of the founder members of the Palestinian Fatah resistance movement, Zawawi was the longest-serving foreign diplomat in

the Islamic Republic of Iran after the 1979 revolution, which earned him the title of Moghaddam al-Sofara, meaning the senior-most foreign diplomat.

Before Iran, he also served as the Palestinian ambassador to Algiers, Brazil and Kenya.

His daughter, Salam al-Zawawi replaced him as the new Palestinian ambassador to Iran in February last year, submitting her credentials to President Ebrahim Raisi nearly a month after her formal appointment.

Zawawi, who commanded great respect from both Iranian officials and foreign diplomats in Iran, was accorded a fitting farewell by Iran's foreign ministry after his superannuation on February 28 last year.

Speaking at the event, in the presence of Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian, the veteran diplomat said the goal was clear: establishing a Palestinian state from the river to the sea and accepting nothing less than that.

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