

TEHRAN -- Iran plans to commission three more versions of a satellite launched this week by Russia, Tehran's government spokesman said Friday.

TEHRAN -- The European Union's proposals to revive the 2015 nuclear deal "can be acceptable" if they give assurances that Iran's key demands on various issues are met, an informed Iranian diplomat said Friday.

Viewpoint
China to Teach Pelosi an Unforgettable Lesson

Iran Ready to Help Establish Peace in Caucasus

Iranian Wrestlers Win 5 Gold Medals at Islamic Countries Competitions

UN Rights Chief: Killing of Palestinian Children 'Unconscionable'

Mideast Prime Target: U.S. Has Waged 400 Wars

WASHINGTON (Middle East Eye) -- A major new study has concluded that U.S. military interventions "increasingly" target the Middle East and Africa, making up more than a quarter of the country's campaigns throughout its history.

From its founding in 1776 to 2019, the U.S. has undertaken almost 400 military interventions, with more than a quarter occurring in the post-Cold War period, the report also found.

The first major study of its kind, titled Introducing the Military Intervention Project: A New Dataset on U.S. Military Interventions, 1776-2019, also found the post-9/11 era resulted in "higher hostility levels", with U.S. military adventures becoming "overwhelmingly commonplace".

"The cumulative impact of what we discovered from our data collection effort was indeed surprising," said Sidita Kushi, an assistant professor at Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts, and one of the study's authors. "We hadn't expected both the quantity and quality of U.S. military interventions to be as large as revealed in the data," Kushi told Middle East Eye.

Following the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, the U.S. emerged as the dominant military power globally. However, this did not translate into a decrease in military interventions.

"The post-Cold War era has produced fewer great power conflicts and instances in which to defend vital U.S. interests, yet U.S. military interventions continue at high rates and higher hostilities," the report concluded. "This militaristic pattern persists during a time of relative peace, one of arguably fewer direct threats to the U.S. homeland and security."

Following the end of the Cold War, U.S. humanitarian military interventions were increasingly justified under the banner of human rights.

During the post-9/11 U.S. "Global War on Terror" (GWOT), it should not be surprising that Washington chose to use military force to "solve its problems", said Monica Duffy Toft, professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Tufts University, also in Massachusetts.

"The GWOT is, in fact, emblematic of the way in which the U.S. came to solve problems in this period: war," Toft, co-author of the study, told MEE.

The study found that the end of the Cold War unchained U.S. military global ambitions. Even as U.S. rivals reduced their military intervention, Washington "began to escalate its hostilities", resulting in a "widening gap between U.S. actions relative to its opponents".

Today, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute puts the cost of the U.S. military at more than \$800 billion annually, account-

ing for almost 40 percent of global military spending.

"The U.S. continues to dramatically prioritize funding of its Department of Defense while limiting funding and roles for its Department of State," said Toft, adding that "currently, the United States has U.S. special forces deployed in more countries than it does ambassadors".

U.S. military interventions have also become more obscure. Gone are the days when Washington threw the full might of its army into a conflict, as it did in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, remote military bases, such as the \$110 million Agadez airfield in Niger, conduct drone strikes away from the public eye across much of the Sahel.

Earlier this year, the Biden administration expanded the U.S. military footprint in Africa by reversing a decision by former U.S. President Donald Trump to pull troops out of Somalia, thereby establishing a permanent military base in the country.

'Violence Tends to Beget Violence'

America's global military footprints "might be surprising to Americans. Unfortunately, they are hardly surprising to the rest of the world," Kushi told MEE, adding that "U.S. legitimacy has seriously suffered, largely as a result of its now decades-long hyper-interventionist stance".

While for much of its history, the U.S. looked at its use of military force as a last resort, recent decades have upended that tradition, warns Kushi, and with it, a "lot of respect for the United States, even among our allies".

A swift course correction by America's elite, who have become conditioned to seeing a military solution to so much of the country's perceived global problems, is unlikely in the near term at least, said Toft.

"Violence tends to beget violence, and even a smart return toward a multi-factor foreign policy - a foreign policy which relies on allies' wisdom, which engages diplomacy, trade and aid first, and force last - can take years to bear fruit," added Toft.

Given that America's adversaries have also become inured to U.S. military interventions, they can be "forgiven for their skepticism" and for not believing that the country's foreign policy elite could have a change of heart. On foreign policy, at least, the Democratic and Republican parties have mainly held a consistent line, which more or less advanced U.S. military interventions abroad.

"Given the current landscape of interventions, and inertia, we expect to see a continuing upward trend on U.S. interventions in both MENA and Sub-Saharan Africa," warned Toft.

Ayatollah Khamenei's Letter to Ziad al-Nakhala: Islamic Jihad Rubbed Enemy's Nose to the Ground



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei listens to Islamic Jihad Secretary General Ziad al-Nakhala in this undated photo.

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has hailed the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement, saying it proved that any segment of the resistance front can rub the Zionist regime's nose to the ground.

Ayatollah Khamenei, in a Thursday letter to Secretary General of the Gaza-based movement Ziad al-Nakhala, said the heroic perseverance of the group elevated its status among other Palestinian resistance

factions.

"The usurping enemy is getting weaker, at the same time that the Palestinian resistance front is getting stronger," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Earlier this week, Nakhala wrote to Ayatollah Khamenei about the presence of Palestinian fighters throughout the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank in a united front against the Israeli aggression.

In his letter, the Islamic Jihad

chief had stated that Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip vigorously withstood the latest Israeli aggression on the besieged enclave.

"We dubbed the recent bout of violence 'Wahda al-Sahat' (Unity of the Fields) to emphasize the unity of our nation against the enemy, which is trying to wreck it through all available means and conspiracies," Nakhala wrote.

"I received your solemn and aus-

picious letter. May God give you noble reward and bring the final victory of the proud and oppressed Palestinian nation near," Ayatollah Khamenei responded.

"The recent incident doubled the honors of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement and elevated the position of the Islamic Jihad in the glorious resistance movement of the Palestinian nation.

"With your brave resistance, you neutralized the deceitful policy of the usurping regime. You proved that each part of the resistance bloc alone can rub the enemy's nose to the ground," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also praised Islamic Jihad for uniting anti-Israeli resistance in the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip.

"By linking the struggle in Gaza with the West Bank and other resistance forces with their support for the jihad movement, you were able to display the integrity of the Palestinian nation's jihad against the evil and deceitful enemy."

Ayatollah Khamenei said all the efforts of the Palestinian groups throughout Palestine should go towards maintaining this unity.

"The usurper enemy is getting weaker and the Palestinian resistance is getting stronger, and there is no power but from God," the Leader said, reiterating that "by God's will, we are still with you" and Iran's vows in support of the resistance is intact.

Criminal U.S. 'Fabricating Stories' Around a Terrorist

TEHRAN -- Iran on Friday derided the U.S. government's fabricated story that an Iranian national plotted to assassinate former notorious U.S. national security advisor John Bolton, saying it will not help Washington whitewash its crimes.

"Fabricating stories around a politically bankrupt element, a known terrorist & a coup plotter against independent states, is a U.S. deceptive bid to escape from int'l responsibilities," Kanaani wrote in a post on his Twitter account.

"Such fanfares won't whitewash U.S. regime's image, but makes Iranians & the world more resentful of it," he added.

The U.S. Department of Justice on Wednesday charged a man identified as Shahram Poursafi with trying to arrange the killing of Bolton in retaliation for the U.S. assassination of Iran's legendary anti-terror commander Lieutenant Gen. Qasem Soleimani in Iraq in January 2020.

Bolton has been a staunch supporter of the assassination of the top Iranian general. He also

endorses the anti-Iran terrorist group, Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), which is infamous for fabricating scenarios in Europe and the U.S. to incriminate Iranian officials.

In the latest scenario, Poursafi has been cited as a member of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps who attempted to pay individuals in the United States in October 2021 a reward of \$300,000 to carry out the plot in either Washington, DC, or Maryland.

In an earlier reaction, Kanaani said on Wednesday that "the spinning of these threadbare and baseless fictions is becoming a recurring custom in the American judicial and propaganda system".

"Continuing their endless accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and their failed Iranophobic policy, the American judicial authorities, in a new yarn spinning, have raised accusations without providing valid evidence and necessary documentation," he said.

"Such baseless claims are made with

Trump Likely Hid Classified Nuke Docs in His Home

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- FBI agents were looking for secret documents about nuclear weapons among other classified material when they searched Donald Trump's home on Monday, it has been reported.

The Washington Post cited people familiar with the investigation as saying nuclear weapons documents were thought to be in the trove the FBI was hunting in Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort. They did not specify what kind of documents or whether they referred to the U.S. arsenal or another country's.

The report came hours after the attorney general, Merrick Garland, said he had personally authorized the government request for a search warrant and revealed that the justice department had asked a Florida court for the warrant to be unsealed, noting that Trump himself had made the search public.

The justice department motion referred to "the public's clear and powerful interest in understanding what occurred in its contents".

Trump later released a statement saying he would not oppose but

rather was "encouraging the immediate release of those documents" related to what he called the "un-American, unwarranted, and unnecessary raid and break-in ... Release the documents now!"

On Friday morning, Trump further stated, via his social media platform Truth Social, that he believes the "nuclear weapons issue is a hoax", comparing it to other investigations he has called hoaxes in the past, including the Mueller investigation into allegations of collusion between his 2016 election campaign and the Russian government and his historic double impeachment.

"Some sleazy people involved," he said, adding "planting information, anyone?"

Garland's announcement followed a furious backlash to the search from Trump supporters who portrayed it as politically motivated. On Thursday a man who tried to breach the FBI's Cincinnati office was shot and killed by police after he fled the scene.

The details in the Post report

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued on Page 7)