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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

President: We Will Not Tie Iran's Progress to JCPOA



President Raisi addresses a group of martyr families in Kerman on Friday.

TEHRAN -- President Ebrahim Raisi says Iran will neither leave the negotiating table with the P4+1 group of countries on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal nor will it tie its progress to the accord.

"We will not tie the country's progress and settlement of the problems to the JCPOA (the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action). The Iranian negotiating team will not leave the negotiating table, either," he said in the southeastern Iranian province of Kerman.

Raisi said Iran's progress and economy will never be kept back on account of other people's "smiles and scowls". The negotiating team, he said, would continue its work based on "very strong" arguments.

"We will seriously address Iran's

economic and cultural circumstances regardless of the path the negotiations take and what will happen in the future."

Despite the enemies' wish, he said, Iran's affairs will be pursued with participation of the people and the elites and the country's future will be bright. "We will not let the enemies fulfill their objective, which is to paralyze production and destroy the Iranian economy and culture."

Negotiations have been held between Iran and the P4+1 group of countries – Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China – in the Austrian capital of Vienna since April last year to restore the JCPOA, which was ditched by former U.S. President Donald Trump in May 2018.

In quitting the agreement, Trump unleashed what he called the "max-

imum pressure" campaign to bring Iran to its knees. Washington also reinstated unilateral sanctions against Tehran, which had been lifted under the JCPOA. Tehran maintains that the policy has failed dismally.

Iran has cited Washington's indecisiveness as the reason behind the protraction of the talks, as a number of key issues remain unresolved, ranging from the removal of all post-JCPOA sanctions to the provision of guarantees by the American side that it will not leave the deal again.

Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said last month that it is a "necessity" for Iran to gain economic benefits from the 2015 agreement and thus wants "strong" guarantees in talks on a potential revival of the deal.

'Pawn of Empire': Iranians React to Rushdie Attack

TEHRAN -- Adviser to Iran's negotiating team in Vienna talks has reacted to reports of attack on Salman Rushdie, and assassination attempt against John Bolton, saying they are odd news.

"I won't be shedding tears for a writer who spouts endless hatred & contempt for Muslims & Islam. A pawn of empire who poses as a Postcolonial novelist," Marandi tweeted.

"But, isn't it odd that as we near a potential nuclear deal, the U.S. makes claims about a hit on Bolton... and then this happens?" he added.

Rushdie was on a ventilator after the attack during a literary event in New York state on Friday, more than 30 years after he went into hiding following late founder of the Islamic Republic

Imam Khomeini's fatwa.

"Bravo to this courageous and duty-conscious man who attacked the apostate and depraved Salman Rushdie in New York," wrote the Persian daily Kayhan.

"Let us kiss the hands of the one who tore the neck of the enemy of God with a knife," it added.

Another Tehran-based daily, Iran, said that the "neck of the devil" had been "cut by a razor".

The U.S. Justice Department claimed Wednesday that it had indicted an Iranian national over allegations he had offered to pay an individual in the United States \$300,000 to kill former White House national security adviser John Bolton.

Raisi dismissed the allegations as "fiction".

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.

"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," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani wrote in a post on his Twitter account Friday.

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

Russia, Iran to Expand Exchange of Students

TEHRAN -- Iran's Organization of Student Affairs affiliated with the Ministry of Education of Iran has expressed readiness to expand exchange of students with Russia.

Deputy head of the scholarship and foreign students' affairs department of the Organization of Student Affairs Muhammad Javad Salmanpour said on Saturday that the language of science is definitely one of the common languages, which helps develop cooperation between Moscow and

Tehran, so the Islamic Republic will welcome Russian students to Iranian universities.

Salmanpour and his colleagues in the Student Affairs Organization – Muhammad Mohammadi Masoudi and Jafar Razaghi – held talks with Dmitry Kalinichenko, the representative of the Russian cooperation organization in Iran.

Kalinichenko, for his part, thanked the Student Affairs Organization, adding that there are 300 Iranian students with

scholarships in Russia and that the number can increase in the future.

The Russian official went on to say that the Russian Cooperation Organization in Iran plans to select Iranian students to get scholarships at Russia's universities as well as to hold Olympiads and seminars.

He also said Moscow is interested in exchanging students with Tehran, expressing readiness for teaching the Persian language in Russia and the Rus-

The Holy Qur'an

When a Sura comes down, enjoining them to believe in Allah and to strive and fight along with His Messenger, those with wealth and influence among them ask thee for exemption, and say: "Leave us: we would be with those who sit (at home)."

The Holy Qur'an (9:87)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:09
Evening (Maghreb)	20:14
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	06:22
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:50

Iran, Taliban Stress Cooperation on Fighting Daesh

TEHRAN -- The Iranian special envoy for Afghanistan has hailed his meetings with the Taliban officials, saying the two sides stressed the need for close interaction in the fight against Daesh terrorists.

In a post on his Twitter account, Hassan Kazemi Qomi said he held constructive negotiations with acting first deputy prime minister of Taliban Abdul Ghani Baradar and acting minister of foreign affairs, Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Kabul.

"In the meetings, the two sides stressed the need for the promotion of positive interaction and expansion of relations in various fields, particularly the economic field, and called for the enhancement of security cooperation in the fight against Daesh and outlaws on both sides of the common border," Kazemi Qomi said.

Iran and the Taliban, he added, emphasized the need for vigilance and caution in countering the common enemies, who seek to foment friction between the great Iranian and Afghan nations.

Afghanistan has been in turmoil since the Taliban, who had previously ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, took power again in August 2021 amid a chaotic US troop withdrawal from the war-torn country.

Since then, the country has been the scene of several terrorist attacks, some of which have been claimed by the Daesh terrorist group.

Sentenced Apostates Die Many Times Before Their Death

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

"Cowards die a thousand times before their death" had said the English bard William Shakespeare in one of his plays, and the most prominent example of a scared-cat of our times is the sentenced apostate Salman Rushdie, who according to reports was severely beaten and probably stabbed in New York on Friday for his unforgivable sin, whose consequences he has been trying to avert for the past 33 years by hiding in rat-holes in Britain and the US.

He may survive with the loss of an eye, say the medics – if they manage to defer his plunge into the fires of Hell for the moment.

It is not important whether the Indian-born British author of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses" dies these days or lives for a few more years before the eventual end of his miserable life.

What is important is the courage of American Muslim, Hadi Matar, who had volunteered to be the executor of the apostate, fully aware of tasting a valiant death if the trigger-happy US policemen were to fire upon him.

They didn't and he has survived to suffer imprisonment for some years, along with torture and all sorts of accusations, some of which his captors have already labeled by tampering with his cellphone which has been inserted with sympathies for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and pictures of Martyr General Qassem Soleimani, in a vain attempt to implicate Iran in the incident at the Chautauqua Institution.

The 24-year old Matar is not of Iranian origin, neither he is on the payroll of the vengeance squads of the Islamic Republic resolved to bring to justice terrorists such as Donald Trump and Mike Pompeo, nor Tehran was aware of the existence of such a devout Muslim on American soil whose heart aspired to win a place in the hall of fame of the valiant.

Thus, it is nothing but avowed enmity of the Zionist-controlled western media to try to influence Washington's mischievous stance on the nuclear talks with Islamic Iran, which is nonetheless proud to be the place where in 1989 the Father of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA), had issued the dynamic fatwa (religious edict), after Rushdie's blasphemous book had spilled the innocent blood of at least 45 Muslims in India and Pakistan.

Here it would not be out of context to clarify the enlightened laws of the Shari'ah regarding apostasy.

An apostate, if he/she happens to be a convert to Islam, is not sentenced to capital punishment, and is given three chances to repent and return to the Islamic fold, but in the case of an apostate born of Muslim parents and brought up as a Muslim (like Salman Rushdie), execution is the only verdict and no apology is accepted, since repentance, if sincere and from the death of the heart in such a case, is a matter solely concerning Divine Mercy after death.

So "Joseph Anton" – the Anglicized name the self-confessed apostate Rushdie has used since 2012 while in hiding – should at least be brave in his anti-Islamic life and submit to justice, instead of trying to avert the end of mortal life like a coward who dies a thousand deaths out of fear of death which is inescapable.

The western regimes (the US, Britain, France, and others) are advised not to hamper the course of justice by spending hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions, of the hard-earned money of their taxpayers in trying in vain to protect sentenced apostates and unparadonable terrorists.

To sum up, let us recall the words of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who a few years ago described Imam Khomeini's irrevocable fatwa against Rushdie: "Fired like a bullet that won't rest until it hits its target."

sian language in Iran.

Razaghi, the director general of international students' affairs of the Student Affairs Organization, said Iran hosts students from about 117 countries.

According to the official, given the fact that Russia and Iran enjoy amicable ties, it is necessary to expand scientific and student exchanges.

Muhammadi Masoudi meanwhile called for creating a joint scholarship between Russian and Iranian universities.