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Son of Iranian Pilot Reveals: Zionists, U.S. Behind Grounding of Plane in Argentina

TEHRAN -- In early August, the U.S. Justice Department said it was seeking to seize a plane that was flying around South America. It was a Venezuelan 747 cargo jet, CBS News said, but it was previously owned by an Iranian airline. It had been grounded in Argentina since early June. The plane was stuck in Argentina, but some of its crew had left the country. It was already in the spotlight of various online sleuths and others.

Iranian media has now published its own account about the cargo plane. The son of the pilot has said that the occupying regime of Israel, the U.S. and Argentine Jews are behind a plot to keep the plane and its crew grounded.

The plane had been transferred from Iranian airline Mahan Air to Emtrasur, a subsidiary of Venezuela's state-owned Consorcio Venezolano de Industrias Aeronáuticas y Servicios Aéreos, or CONVIA-SA which is under U.S. sanctions.

The cargo jet had arrived in Argentina on June 6 after a flight from Mexico. It had also tried to land in Uruguay. It had a crew of 14 Venezuelans and five Iranians. Iran and Venezuela are allies. Iran has sold Caracas drones in recent years and sent ships and trade via Venezuela.

Two weeks after the reports emerged, Venezuelans protested against the grounding of the plane.

The plane was detained "with the coordination of the United States, the Zionist regime and England", the son of the plane's pilot Captain Gholamreza Ghasemi told Fars news agency.

"This incident was definitely planned because when the plane wants to fly, it must also have landing permits at the destination airport, transit permits from the route countries, and alternative airports. Having the mentioned licenses means that airport, navigation, communication, refueling, fire-fighting and radio services must be given to this plane under any circumstances," he said.

The plane had permits to fly to Uruguay and had registered a flight path.

"When the pilot flew to Uruguay, there was no problem until Uruguay did not allow the plane to land! The pilot was forced to land due to lack of fuel in Argentina, which is the backyard of the Zionists," he said.

His father, he said, had flown with many airlines in the past and had flown to Dubai, Damascus, Paris and other cities.

"It was a year ago that the Boeing 747-300 cargo plane was sold

to this country [Venezuela] due to the cooperation between Iran and Venezuela. For this reason, my father went to [Venezuela] to train the pilots on behalf of the Iranian Civil Aviation Organization to the Venezuelan crew."

Iran has expertise in flying 747s because it has a number of them that date from the pre-Revolution era. These older planes are still flying and Iranian pilots have some unique expertise in keeping them aloft and extending their abilities. "Due to his background and experience, my father was one of the two people who could teach other people the different steps and how to work with the mentioned airplane as a master pilot."

The son says that his father spent a year training the Venezuelans and he made various flights in South America.

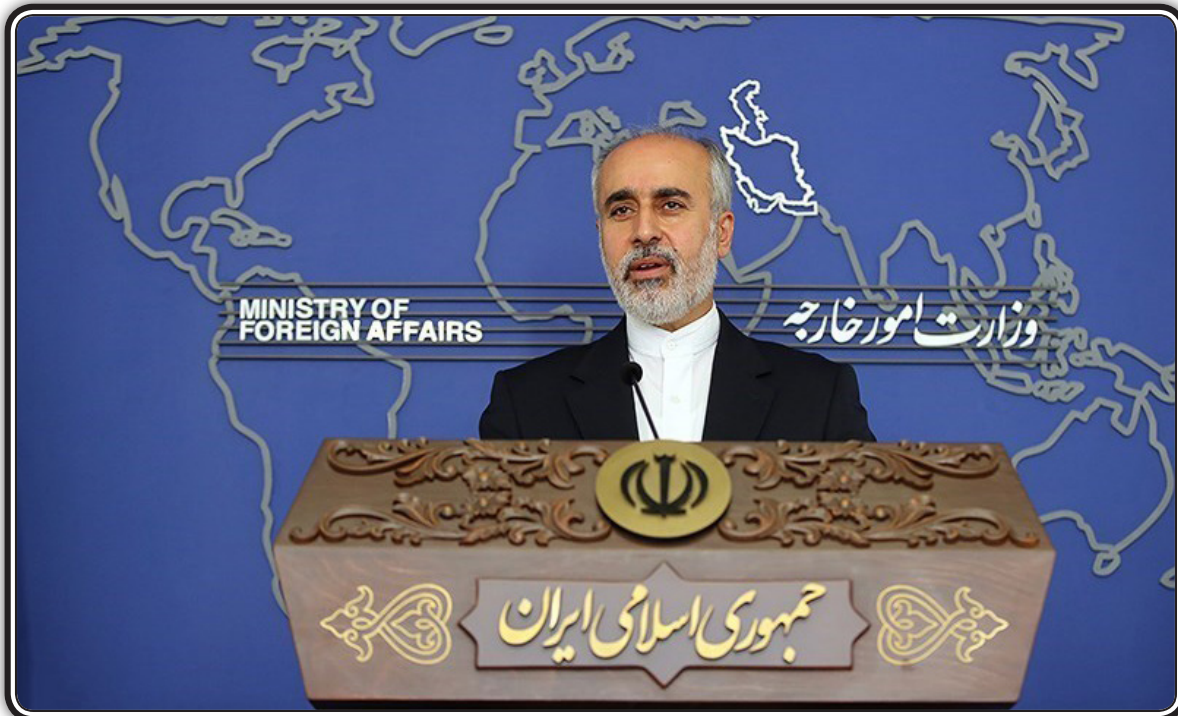
"He flew more than 100 times on different routes in Latin America. As a result, the presence of him and other Iranian crew in Latin America was not a new and strange event, and it is quite natural that when a country buys an airplane, it uses the master pilot of that country to transfer the technical knowledge of that airplane, it is a very common thing in the world."

Then something went wrong. As opposition parties and others became aware of the plane, someone made a request to Uruguay. According to reports in June, Uruguay's Interior Minister Luis Alberto Heber had said his country had received a "formal warning from Paraguayan intelligence." Iran's Fars news asserts that the occupying regime of Israel was responsible for the plane being diverted.

"During this work, all kinds of international and aviation laws were violated to make this happen," the Fars News report quotes the son as saying. "My father has both the experience of flying in the war zone in the holy defense and the experience of commercial flights in different airlines. Of course, this is a natural thing, and pilots all over the world go to commercial flights after retiring from military flights. Most of the pilots in America and other countries are military at first and after retirement, they work in different airlines, that is, like the different airlines that are around our country. In fact, no one can tell the American, British and European pilots why they were engaged in military flights before commercial flights, and they easily stay in Iran and other countries," the son said.

In the interview with Al Mayadeen (Continued on Page 7)

Iran: No Agreement Without Guarantees



Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani talks to reporters during a weekly news briefing.

TEHRAN -- Iran is seeking the closure of the UN nuclear agency's investigation of its activities based on baseless information supplied by its enemies among other guarantees, in order to revive the country's 2015 nuclear deal, a senior Iranian official said on Monday.

"Closure of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) probes is a must to have a sustainable nuclear deal," Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani told a televised news conference.

Last week, Iran sent its latest response to an EU-drafted text aimed at overcoming an impasse to revive the nuclear pact, under which it had restrained its nuclear program in exchange for relief from sanctions. Kanaani said an agreement hinges on the political will of the West. He said Tehran has acted "responsibly" to reach an agreement that secures the country's national interests.

Kanaani said Iran last week handed in its comments on a "final" text circulated by the European Union with a view to achieving a desirable outcome to the "marathon" of nuclear talks, which began in April 2021.

Iran, he said, had responded constructively to the U.S. "We believe Iran's response has been constructive, transparent and legal, and can create the grounds for a conclusion of the talks and for an agreement in a short amount of time if there is

also mutual political will," he said.

"Either way, lifting sanctions and providing economic benefits for the Iranian nation ... are among our top goals."

Russia and China, two other signatories of the JCPOA, alongside France, Germany and the United Kingdom, have supported Iran's latest comments on the text of the potential agreement.

The U.S. must now respond to Iran's latest comments, after which the back and forth dialogue could continue even as the U.S. midterms elections in November approach quickly.

Since last year, the Austrian capital has been hosting multiple rounds of talks between the signatories of the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in order to examine the prospect of the deal's revival and removal of the illegal economic sanctions.

The negotiations have seen many interruptions due to Washington's obdurate refusal to respect Iran's red lines.

The European Union, which acts as the coordinator in indirect talks between Tehran and Washington, recently came up with a draft proposal to revive the deal. Tehran offered its response, which the bloc described as "reasonable."

The United States took several weeks to offer its response to Iran's comments.

FM: Iran Wants Peace, Stability in Yemen

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian says stability and security of the war-torn Yemen have a direct effect on stability and security of the entire West Asia region and the Persian Gulf.

In a meeting here with UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg, Iran's top diplomat emphasized that the fate of Yemen should be determined by the country's people.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran wants peace, stability and security for the great nation of Yemen and believes that stability and security of this country have a direct impact on stability and security of the region and the Persian Gulf," he said.

The foreign minister said the continuation of the status quo, which has been in place following the establishment of a UN-brokered ceasefire in April, hinges on complete removal of the blockade imposed by the

Saudi-led coalition on the war-torn country.

"No one can remain indifferent to the fate of 20 million Yemeni women, children and men, who are living in difficult conditions [trying] to meet basic needs such as medicine, food and water," Amir-Abdollahian said.

He hailed efforts by the UN envoy to promote peace in Yemen, but criticized acts of sabotage impeding the implementation of the ceasefire agreement, stressing the importance of lifting the tight Saudi-led blockade on the impoverished country.

Grundberg, for his part, commended Iran's constructive measures vis-à-vis peace promotion in Yemen and said he has always sought to establish truce in the country since he took office.

The UN envoy emphasized that all the sides must take steps to help establish lasting ceasefire in Yemen.

The UN-brokered truce between

Last week, Tehran offered its opinion on the U.S. response and is awaiting Washington's reply.

Kanaani said, "The Islamic Republic tried to make the text of the agreement stronger."

He noted that receiving guarantees from the other side topped the agenda of Iran's foreign ministry in the Vienna talks.

Tehran has sought verifiable guarantees that the other parties will not again violate their obligations.

The spokesman said Iran wants guarantees that no further sanctions will be imposed after they are removed in order to safeguard Tehran's economic interests.

The Islamic Republic also wants guarantees that the International Atomic Energy Agency will refrain from politicizing the country's nuclear program.

The closure of the case of safeguard issues is of key essence to Iran, Kanaani said.

Kanaani also touched upon European calls for Tehran help to tackle the continent's energy crisis, saying that the energy resources-rich Iran has maintained its presence in the energy market despite being subjected to sanctions and is exporting oil to its partners.

He said if the Vienna talks yield an agreement, Tehran can help European countries which have been grappling with an energy crisis since the Russian operation began in Ukraine in February.

the aggressor coalition and Yemen's popular resistance Ansarullah movement first came into effect in April. The truce has since been extended twice.

Last month, Grundberg said that the extension, running from August 2 to October 2, included a commitment from the parties to intensify negotiations to reach an expanded truce agreement as soon as possible.

Yemen's Arabic-language Al-Masirah television network cited an unnamed Yemeni military official as saying on Sunday that the Saudi-led coalition forces and their mercenaries have violated the UN-brokered nationwide truce nearly 200 times over the past 24 hours.

It added that the violations included 49 flight operations with spy drones and warplanes over the provinces of Ma'rib, Ta'izz, Jawf, Sa'ada, Hudaydah, Ad Dali', Al-Bayda and border areas.

(Continued on Page 7)

The Holy Qur'an

What! do you make (one who undertakes) the giving of drink to the pilgrims and the guarding of the Sacred Mosque like him who believes in Allah and the latter day and strives hard in Allah's way? They are not equal with Allah; and Allah does not guide the unjust people.

The Holy Qur'an (9.19)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:03
Evening (Maghreb)	19:43
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	06:40
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:14

Air Force Weighs Buying Su-35 Fighter Jets

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran is weighing plans to buy Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, Air Force chief Hamid Vahedi was reported as saying by local media.

"The purchase of the Sukhoi 35 from Russia is being considered by the Air Force" of Iran, Vahedi told Borna news agency.

Both Iran and Russia are targeted by stringent sanctions — Iran after the U.S. unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world countries, and Russia since it launched a special operation in Ukraine in February.

The two countries have responded to the sanctions by boosting cooperation in key areas to help prop up their economies.

Tehran and Moscow have for years been in talks for the purchase of Sukhoi 30 jets, a prospective deal that drew a sharp rebuke from Washington.

But Vahedi said that "the purchase of Sukhoi 30s is not on the agenda."

"We hope to acquire in the future the so-called fourth generation of Su-35 fighter jets," he added.

In 2007, the two countries concluded a contract for the purchase of Russia's S-300 anti-missile system, but Moscow suspended the sale in 2010 in compliance with a United Nations Security Council resolution against Iran's nuclear program.

The deal was put on the table once again in 2015, shortly before the signing of Iran's nuclear accord.

Iran's defense ministry then confirmed in May 2016 that the Islamic Republic was "in possession of the strategic S-300 system."

On August 9, Russia launched into orbit an Iranian satellite.