

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States has targeted three Iranian security officials under human-rights related sanctions, the U.S. Treasury Department said on Wednesday.

The coercive measures are similar to those adopted recently by the European Union which targeted 29 individuals and three entities with asset freezes and travel bans for their alleged role in Iran's response to the recent spree of foreign-backed riots in the Islamic Republic.

TEHRAN -- An Iranian deputy foreign minister criticized Western governments for using human rights as an instrument to fulfill their political interests.

The ambassadors and heads of political missions of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states held a meeting with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Baqeri who pointed to the potential for cooperation among Asian countries. He said ASEAN has a proper capacity to promote economic cooperation.

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Viewpoint

Excellent Job by Sana'a to Prevent Theft of Yemen's Oil

Raisi Calls for Iran-Belarus Partnership to Foil Sanctions



Iran Weightlifter Runner-Up in Turkish Tournament



UN Envoy Seeking Renewed Truce in Yemen, Says Situation Alarming



Comparison of Rights of Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Modern Western Liberal Countries (2)

By: Dr. Shervin Sherma

On the whole, this grim situation in the US and in Europe further reduces their income if a working woman becomes mother and takes care of her child during employment.¹

In this unjust gender biased pay-gap system against women in Western countries where many are single mothers, while others live in cohabitation² or marriage. Employed mothers have to struggle hard to keep their job to earn and attend to family responsibilities. This often leads to reduced employment hours and their expulsion from the paid workforce completely. Having children may also reduce a mother's access to material resources and the psychosocial benefits of paid work with potentially deleterious impacts on their health and well-being.³ Many women in the postpartum period experience poor mental health including anxiety, depression and insomnia as well physical illness. Symptoms such as backache, headache, fatigue, sex-related concerns, perineal pain, and gastrointestinal problems are common. Recent research suggests that longer duration of maternity leave of 6 months significantly leads to better health and provides time for mothers to rest and recover from pregnancy and childbirth, reduces intimate partner violence, improves infant attachment and child development, decreases infant mortality and mother and infant re-hospitalizations and allows timely administration of infant immunizations.⁴

Contrary to the notions of the extremist Wahhabi cult and its various versions practiced in the name of Islam in certain countries and communities that forbid education of girls and strictly impose overall suppression of women in society, the Islamic Republic of Iran has elevated the status of women based on the original teachings of Islam as bequeathed by Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and his progeny the Ahl ul-Bayt (AS). As a result, women in Iran's Islamic society are more active in almost all spheres, ranging from highly technical fields to politics. The social and cultural climate of the modern Iranian society supports women to pursue higher education in any field. In fact, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country that has developed a complete system of laws and practices for women on the basis of the teachings of Islam.

In the Islamic Republic Iran, according to the Islamic laws, women are paid salary and benefits equal to men at all levels – in sharp contrast to their discriminated situation in the US and in Europe. In addition, 9 months fully paid leave is given to expecting mothers, while in case of twins or more, it is 1 year and they are also given daily 2 hours to breastfeed their child for 1 year; followed by 1 hour daily until two years. The father is also given paid leave for 10 days on birth of their child and in case of twins or more it is until one full month.⁵

In modern societies, the rights of women are trampled in the name of Western liberal or Eastern traditional culture, manmade laws, old style rigid mindset and customs and cruel norms. There are several "Hadith" (narrations) of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) and his blessed Ahl ul-Bayt (AS) in respect to and praise of the feminine gender. "Ayahs" of Holy Qur'an and "Hadith" clearly mention high status and role of husband and wife in Islamic family life. While so-called equality of the male and female genders is a common slogan in the liberal Western societies, the scientific research published in peer reviewed journals prove gender differences from various aspects from genetics to psychology and even gender related medical disorders. These articles and internationally published scientific books prove that females and males are not equal but mostly different from all aspects and so fully justify the reason for gender-specific laws, teachings and practices of Islam.

Based on Islamic "Ijtihad" (rational reasoning on the basis of the Holy Qur'an and Hadith), the Islamic Republic of Iran has interpreted and implemented the guidelines about women's rights in its modern revolutionary and progressive society. Women are empowered based on their talents, interests, roles, responsibilities and rights. They have a very high status culturally, socially and legally in present day Iran. The rights and status of women according to the teachings of Islam as implemented in the Islamic Republic of Iran ought to be an eye-opener for many west-toxicated modern intellectuals living in mostly developing countries that are culturally, socially, politically and militarily dominated by the West, as well as those living in Western societies where women are suffering from 'modern enslavement' in the name of liberal lifestyle.

To sum up, modern western lifestyle has led to disastrous consequences for women where women's physical features and nudity are used in advertisements, movies and media to run businesses and sell commodities, where sexual crimes against women and sexual harassment are skyrocketing everywhere, where cohabitation is preferred over marriage, where illegitimate birth, illegal abortions, teen pregnancy and single parent family are considered normal, and where discrimination against women in employment conditions, bullying workplace environment, unjust salary, oppressive maternity leave conditions and very low benefits are a part of the society's cultural and legal system. (Concluded)

⁹ Aitkena, Z. et al: *The Maternal Health Outcomes of Paid Maternity Leave: A Systematic Review - Social Science & Medicine*, 2015; 130: 32-14.

¹⁰ Living with a male partner without marriage: Male partner has legally no responsibility to financially support mother and child.

¹¹ Ibid: Ref. # 6

¹² G. Kaufman: *Fixing Parental Leave: The Six Month Solution* - New York University Press (2020).

¹³ Islamic Research Center of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis); for more details about laws, see: <<https://rc.majlis.ir/fa/news/show/1660022>> (last accessed: 1/10/2022) (Endnotes)

Corrigendum

Please read "Dr. Shervin Sherma" instead of "Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer" in the byline of the first part of the above article, printed on the front page of our newspaper, yesterday (Wednesday, November 23, 2022). The inadvertent error, due to a technical fault, is regretted.

FM Amir-Abdollahian: Plot to Stoke Civil War, Partition Iran Failed



Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian addresses a press conference in Tehran on November 23, 2022.

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said Wednesday that the conspiracy to split up the country and foment terrorism and civil war in recent months has failed.

At a press conference attended by local and foreign journalists, the top Iranian diplomat responded to questions on Iran's foreign policy as well as recent unsavory developments in the country.

He further rejected human rights claims made by some Western countries, stressing that

the West's "dark history" does not allow it to make such claims.

"We do not need America and Europe, who have a long history of violating human rights and have registered a dark history with regard to exploiting nations and countries, to be claimants of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran," Amir-Abdollahian said.

The comment was in reference to incendiary statements made by some Western officials after

deadly foreign-backed riots in Iran in recent weeks.

The E3 (Germany, France, and UK), America, and Zionists do not have a correct understanding of the developments and incidents and thus made "meddlesome remarks", he hastened to add.

Respecting the rights of people and human rights lies in the "religious and national teachings of the Islamic Republic of Iran" as well as in the heart and soul of

every Iranian, the top diplomat said, adding that it has been emphasized repeatedly by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

"I clearly told European officials who claim to defend human rights that the police in Iran exercised strategic patience and restraint during recent riots," Amir-Abdollahian remarked.

"The fact that more than 50 security forces were martyred by rioters with hot and cold weapons and thousands more of the defenders of our security were injured demonstrate security forces' adherence to human rights and restraint," he added further.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Iran's foreign minister referred to the recent surge in the activities of armed terrorist groups and mercenaries in the Iraqi Kurdistan region and attempts to ship weapons into Iran to foment unrest.

"Seventy-six terrorist and anti-revolution centers in the Iraqi Kurdistan region became active and Israeli and American weapons entered the country," he said.

High-ranking security officials of Iran and Iraq had held two rounds of meeting in the past eight weeks, he said, adding that the Iraqi government committed Tehran to keep terrorists away from Iran's borders and disarm these groups.

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Twin Blasts in Occupied Al-Quds Shake Zionists

TEHRAN -- Two separate explosions rocked two bus stations at the entrance of occupied Al-Quds on Wednesday, killing at least one Israeli and wounding several others.

The explosions occurred on Shaari Street in the morning. The Jerusalem Post said one Israeli died and 18 others were injured, a number of whom were in critical condition.

The first explosion occurred near the Central Bus Station close to the main entrance of Al-Quds at 7 a.m. local time and a second blast hit shortly after 7:30 a.m. at the Ramot junction, another entrance to the Israeli-occupied city.

Television footage showed debris around the blast scene, which was cordoned off by emergency services.

The occupying regime's media quoted police as saying that the second explosion took place on a bus that was empty in the nearby neighborhood of Ramot, with several suffering small wounds due to shrapnel.

Police said they had closed off the Route 1 highway following the first blast.

Reacting to the blasts, Islamic Jihad spokesman Tarek Ezz el-Din said the operation was a natural response to the Israeli occupation and its terror and criminal practices against the defenseless Palestinian people.

It is a clear message to the Israeli apartheid leaders that their criminal policies will fail to protect the regime or its settlers in the face of the Palestinian resistance, he said.

"All Judaization operations, incursions into sanctities, and attacks on our people in Al-Quds, Al-Khalil, Jenin, and Nablus will not go unpunished," Ezz el-Din added.

Hamas spokesman Muhammad Hamadeh said "the Palestinian people are determined to teach the occupation multiple lessons in response to the violent acts it has been taking against the Al-Aqsa Mosque."

He asserted that the Palestinian people have chosen to take action to defend themselves in face of Israeli aggressions.

"The Hamas movement blesses has

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Multiple People Fatally Shot at Walmart in Virginia

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) — A Walmart manager opened fire on fellow employees gathered in the break room of a Virginia store, a witness said Wednesday. Six people died in the country's second high-profile mass shooting in a handful of days.

The gunman, who apparently killed himself, was dead when police found him, said Chesapeake Police Chief Mark G. Solesky said. There was no clear motive for the shooting, which also left four people in the hospital.

The store was busy just before the attack Tuesday night with people stocking up ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, a shopper told a local TV station.

Employee Briana Tyler said that workers had gathered in the store's break room as they typically did ahead of their shifts.

"I looked up, and my manager just opened the door and he just opened fire," she told ABC's "Good Morning America," adding that "multiple people" dropped to the floor.

"He didn't say a word, he didn't

say anything at all," she said. Solesky confirmed the shooter, who used a pistol, was a Walmart employee but did not give his name because his family has not been notified. He couldn't confirm whether the victims were all employees.

"I am devastated by the senseless act of violence that took place late last night in our city," Mayor Rick W. West said in a statement posted on the city's Twitter account Wednesday. "Chesapeake is a tightknit community and we are all shaken by this news."

A database run by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University that tracks every mass killing in America going back to 2006 shows this year has been especially bad. The U.S. has now had 40 mass killings so far this year, second to the 45 that occurred for all of 2019. The database defines a mass killing as at least four people killed, not including the killer.

The attack at the Walmart came three days after a person opened

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