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In the Name of the Most High
Viewpoint

Time to End US Military Presence in Iraq

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Is the illegal presence of US troops in Iraq about to end – almost three years after the unanimous decision passed by the Iraqi parliament for closure of al-Asad and all American bases?

It should, or else Iraq will continue to be viewed as a US-occupied country whose authorities are subservient to dictates from Washington and whose people are suffering the ignominy of a nation in thrall.

Following the recent statement of the Iraqi prime minister that his country's forces have the necessary capability to ensure security nationwide, hopes have been raised for the final end of the illegal presence of all US troops.

Mohammad Sheya as-Sudani in an interview with Qatar's Al-Jazeera TV Channel pointed out to the elimination of the macabrely murderous Daesh terrorist outfit, meaning that there is no further excuse for the American troops to remain in Iraq.

It should be noted that the US which occupied Iraq in March 2003 on the false claim of possession of weapons of mass destruction, started reducing the number of its soldiers known for their brutalities by 2007, and in 2011 had to withdraw all troops following the refusal of the then Prime Minister Nouri al-Maleki to renew any agreement for American military presence.

Washington then resorted to the devilish plot of grooming remnants of the overthrown Ba'ath minority regime as part of the takfiri terrorist outfit it had set up in neighbouring Syria by assembling criminals and murderers from several Muslim and other countries under the dubious name of 'Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)' – infamous by its Arabic acronym of 'DAESH'.

With American arms and directions from CIA and the notorious Zionist spy agency MOSSAD, the takfiri terrorists rapidly spread across northwestern Iraq, occupying towns and cities as far as Falluja – some 65 km from Baghdad.

Thanks to the mass mobilization call by Iraq's senior religious authority, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Sistani, for the defence of the nation, coupled with the arms and advisors rushed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Baghdad was saved from the onslaught of the murderous terrorists who were gradually repulsed from the towns and cities they had occupied.

The US was visibly alarmed and by duping the new government in Baghdad it began the reoccupation of Iraq in 2014 on the pretext of helping drive out Daesh, but actually tried to strengthen the position of the terrorists by dropping crates of arms on the claim of flying sorties, which instead regularly bombed the positions of Iraq's Hashd ash-Sha'bi or Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) fighting the takfiris.

The Americans miserably failed in providing any foothold in Iraq for Daesh, largely due to the brilliant strategy of Iran's Hammer of the Terrorists, General Qasem Soleimani, who in January 2020 was cowardly martyred at Baghdad airport along with his PMU partner, Abu Mahdi al-Mohandis, by the US.

Prime Minister Sudani who has made it clear that his country will never allow its territory to be used for attacks on neighbouring states, including Syria and Iran, is now asking the US to withdraw its troops.

It is time the Americans obliged and ended their occupation of Iraq, otherwise the PMU and all other patriotic forces will have no other option but to take action to close the al-Asad and other bases, even those in the autonomous Kurdish region.

The US forces are actively coordinating their acts of terrorism with the Zionist entity and the criminal elements in Syria and other parts of West Asia.

Top General: U.S., Zionists on Road to Collapse



Tens of thousands of protesters marched across the occupied territories for the 13th consecutive week to rail at a package of controversial and highly unpopular "legal reforms" proposed by Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

TEHRAN - Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Muhammad Baqeri has said that the current course of developments at regional and global levels indicate that the Zionist regime is nearing its collapse and the global arrogance is losing its power while the Islamic Republic is getting stronger.

Major General Baqeri said, "Last year was a tumultuous juncture during which Iranian Armed Forces took major steps to boost their defensive power and readiness."

The Iranian general added, "What one sees at global and regional levels ... is [indicative of] the fact that global and regional developments are weakening the global arrogance and pushing the Zionist regime toward collapse.... On the opposite, the power of our country and the resistance axis is increasing."

Baqeri emphasized that many American thinkers and even politicians have acknowledged this fact and "even the president of this

fake regime has admitted time and again that Israel is on the verge of collapse... This is exactly our Leader (Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei)'s promise that they will not see the next 25 years."

In February, Zionist President Isaac Herzog warned of what he said was imminent conflict and even potential bloodshed, saying Tel Aviv was on the verge of "societal and constitutional collapse."

His remark came as the occupied territories have been the scene of massive protests for the past 13 consecutive weeks over a package of controversial and highly unpopular "legal reforms" proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The protests have been a weekly fixture since late December, when the prime minister announced his intention to implement the changes.

Netanyahu claims that the alleged reforms are meant to redraw the power balance between the re-

gime's executive branch and the judiciary by preventing the Supreme Court from striking down the former's decisions. They also seek to give the lawmakers a bigger say in the committee that selects the judges.

Netanyahu's opponents see his cabinet's drive to pass the legislation on the so-called reforms as a threat to the Supreme Court's independence, describing it as a "legal coup." They also accuse Netanyahu of trying to use the reforms to quash possible judgments against him as he is on trial in three corruption cases.

Following weeks of protests, which at times got violent, the hawkish Israeli prime minister finally accepted to delay his infamous judicial reforms plan.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani, in a post on his Twitter account on Tuesday, said there is no way for the Zionist regime, whose existence is based

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Envoy Highlights Iran's Right to Self-Defense Against U.S., Others

TEHRAN - Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations Amir Sa'ed Iravani has warned that the Islamic Republic will take decisive measures to protect its forces and interests in Syria against any threats posed by the United States or others.

Iravani made the remark in a letter to the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the head of the Security Council, stressing that Iran's presence in Syria is totally legal and at the request of Damascus.

His remarks came after two Iranian military advisers stationed in Syria were killed in an Israeli airstrike near the country's capital Damascus last Friday. Following the attack, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) issued a stern warning to the Israeli regime on Sunday, vowing retaliation for the killing of its military advisers in Syria.

Iravani's letter also came after the U.S. ambassador to the UN wrote a letter addressed to the president of the Security Council in an attempt

to legitimize his country's ongoing violation of international law in Syria by accusing Iran of supporting the so-called non-State militia groups.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its inherent right to self-defense under international law and will take decisive measures to protect its forces, interests, and facilities from any threat or unlawful act perpetrated by the United States or others," Iravani said.

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Envoys of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria Hold Meeting in Oman

TEHRAN, - A quadrilateral meeting of the ambassadors of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria in Oman was held in the Iraqi embassy in the Persian Gulf Sultanate on Tuesday, Iraqi local media reported.

The Iraqi ambassador to Oman has reportedly said that during the meeting in Muscat, he and the other three ambassadors discussed the major chances that are awaiting the regional countries in the light of peace.

The meeting takes place less than a month after top securi-

ty officials from Iran and Saudi Arabia reached an agreement in China to restore relations after seven years.

Tehran and Riyadh severed ties in 2016 after angry protesters rushed into Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran following the Saudi execution of a prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr.

Foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia are also expected to meet within the next couple of weeks to reopen embassies in the two capitals.

The Holy Qur'an

Say: Nothing will afflict us save what Allah has ordained for us; He is our Patron; and on Allah let the believers rely.

The Holy Qur'an (9.51)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:07
Evening (Maghreb)	18:48
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:45
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:19

Official: Iran Committed to Helping Syria's Air Defense

TEHRAN - Iranian Defense Minister's Deputy for International Affairs General Hamze Qalandari on Tuesday lauded Syria for improving its capabilities to repel the air strikes launched by the Zionist regime, and reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to assisting the Arab country in the air defense industry.

Speaking to reporters in Tehran, Iranian Defense Minister's Deputy for General Qalandari said Syria was "truly a defenseless" country in the face of Zionist aerial attacks in the past.

However, the Syrian army is repelling a large number of the air strikes at present, he added.

"We find ourselves committed to helping friendly countries, like Syria, to empower their air defenses and counter the aerial targets," the general stated.

Highlighting the growing interest in the purchase of Iranian military and defense products after the removal of a UN arms embargo in 2020, the deputy minister said the Islamic Republic's "humanitarian concerns" have given a boost to its arms exports.

Pointing to Iran's plans for the export of defense-related technologies to other nations, General Qalandari added, "We have assisted many of our neighbors and friendly states not only in terms of equipment and arms, but also in the field of technology of manufacturing defense weapons."

He also highlighted the successful presence of the Iranian Defense Ministry in international

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Ramadhan Day-to-Day Supplications

14th day

اللَّهُمَّ لَا تُؤَاخِذْنِي فِيهِ بِالْإِعْرَابِ، وَاقْلِبْنِي فِيهِ مِنَ الْخَطَايَا وَالْهَفَوَاتِ، وَلَا تَجْعَلْنِي فِيهِ غَرَضًا لِلْبَلَايَا وَالْأَفَاتِ، بِعِزَّتِكَ يَا عَزَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ.

"O Allah, do not take me to task for my errors. Pardon my sins and unspeakable deeds. Let me not be the target of evil and vicissitudes through Your honour. O One Who honors Muslims."