

# Kayhan International

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In the Name of the Most High  
**Viewpoint**

## INSTC All Set to Pay Rich Dividends for Iran

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*The strategic geo-political location of Iran, which straddles the trade routes of Asia and Europe, with a further extension to parts of Africa, is all set to pay rich dividends.*

*The Islamic Republic, which borders Central Asia with its six landlocked countries as well as the Caucasus region, and shares marine borders in the Caspian (the world's largest inland sea) spread across northern Asia and eastern Europe, is the most safe, secure and shortest transit route to the countries on the rim of the vast Indian Ocean.*

*To be precise, Iran is the main link of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) – the 7,200-km ship, rail, and road route for moving cargo from Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russia, and several European countries to its east, to the Persian Gulf littoral states, the Subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and also east African states.*

*This vital link makes costs and routes shorter, cheaper, and safer than the long and circuitous shipping lane through the narrow Suez Canal and Europe.*

*Moreover, the Iran land bridge is secure from the illegal and extraterritorial sanctions of the sworn enemy of the Free World, the US.*

*In view of these undeniable facts, countries of the said regions have paid special attention to Iran's economic potential, especially transit and the implementation of the Ashgabat Agreement – a multimodal transport deal signed in the Turkmenistan capital, aimed at easing the transportation of goods by developing the international transport and transit corridor between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.*

*It is worth noting that the past year has witnessed the visit of Iran's President Hojjat al-Islam Seyyed Ibrahim Raisi, to Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, and the visit of prominent officials of all Central Asian countries, including the Presidents of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan and the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, to Iran.*

*The six Central Asian countries, along with the Caucasus Republic of Azerbaijan, as well Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, are linked to Iran as part of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).*

*Thus, Iran has spared no efforts to provide transit and access for Central Asian countries to high seas, in addition to cooperation in oil and gas exports and swaps, the provision of electricity, minerals, and agricultural products, while maintaining and further developing trade links with the Persian littoral states, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Indonesia.*

*It is a win-win situation for all involved except the perpetual losers – the US and its sanction-loving clients of Western Europe.*

## Iran Defends Confiscation of U.S. Oil Tanker



Authorities in U.S. reportedly redirected ship of Iranian oil bound for China, prompting retaliation from Tehran.

TEHRAN -- Iran said Monday Iran will not hesitate to take all necessary measures to defend its national interests after the country's army confiscated a U.S. oil tanker in the Persian Gulf.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Iran has proved that its hands are not tied up if its national interests are threatened.

U.S. authorities ordered a tanker of Iranian crude oil to redirect towards the U.S. in recent days, in a move that was the trigger for Iran's decision to capture the U.S.-bound tanker on Thursday, the Financial Times reported.

The paper said the U.S. had intervened to reroute a ship loaded with Iranian crude, originally destined for China.

The U.S. Department of Justice seized the tanker, the Suez Rajan, with cooperation from at least one company involved with the vessel, after it took on board a cargo of Iranian oil, it added.

"The previously unreported U.S. action towards the Suez Rajan shines a new light on Iran's decision to capture the Advantage Sweet, a U.S.-bound tanker of Kuwaiti crude that was chartered by Chevron," the FT said.

A U.S. official said Thursday's "seizure appears to be in retaliation for a prior U.S. seizure of Iranian oil".

Iran has a history of seizing tankers in retaliation for western countries targeting its crude oil shipments. In 2019, Iran seized two British-flagged tankers shortly after the UK had impounded an Iranian vessel that had stopped at Gibraltar en route to Syria.

Last year, Iran also took two Greek-flagged vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, after Greece had allowed the U.S. to drain the cargo of an Iranian tanker in Greek waters.

The Hormuz strait, a narrow channel that separates Iran from Oman and the United Arab Emirates, is one of the world's most important

shipping lanes for oil.

The Advantage Sweet Suezmax tanker that Iran seized was operating under a short-term charter for Chevron, one of the largest U.S. oil companies. Its crew, all Indian nationals, are now being held by Iran. It was taken in the Gulf of Oman east of the Hormuz strait, according to U.S. Central Command.

Vessels and crew seized by Iran in the past have eventually been released.

Kanaani also spoke about Iran's lawsuit against the U.S. at the International Court of Justice over the freezing of Iranian assets by Washington.

He said any negotiations with the U.S. will be within the framework of the ruling of the ICJ. He said as per the ruling of the court, the verdict must be honored within 23 months.

Kanaanisaidgiven that the U.S. has been convicted by the international body, Iran insists that the ruling

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## MKO-Linked Network Dismantled in Mazandaran

TEHRAN -- Iranian intelligence forces have disbanded a sabotage team affiliated with the terrorist Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) in the country's northern province of Mazandaran over involvement in foreign-backed riots that broke out in mid-September last year.

The commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Babolsar, Mostafa Bazvand, made the announcement on Monday, saying the team was operating in the northern Iranian city with the aim of deceiving young people.

Bazvand added that the ringleaders of the team were in direct contact with foreign-based groups and were involved in acts of sabotage and terrorist attacks.

Ever since the unrest erupted in the country, the team fed anti-Iran Persian-language television networks based in the United States and Britain with video footage and other materials, and deceived the youth, the IRGC commander noted.

The terrorists were detained by Iranian intelligence units, and their social media accounts were suspended.

Iran has also arrested members of a network, comprising elements with records of links to Marxist counter-revolutionary groups, the MKO, and French spies, Fars news agency reported.

All of the detainees, it said, had previously been arrested and released under pardons issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The detainees had converged to design and coordinate stoking tensions in workers' and teachers' gatherings and leading them to nationwide strikes, as well as bringing up again the fake poisoning projects at schools, the report added.

Maryam Assadollahi (nicknamed Anisha) and Reyhaneh Ansari were among those arrested. They were taken into custody last year for their connection and cooperation with two French spies.

The French spies had entered the country last year prior to Workers' and Teachers' Day in order to organize riots and provide money to their agents. They were arrested by Iranian intelligence forces after they were identified and watched for a while to identify their domestic affiliates.

The detainees had gathered at the house of a former ringleader of an illegal self-proclaimed trade union. Guided by foreign elements, the meeting was held under the guise of visiting prisoners' families.

Riots broke out in Iran in mid-September last year when 22-year-old woman Mahsa Amini died in a hospital in the capital Tehran, three days after she collapsed at a police station. An investigation later attributed Amini's death to her pre-existing medical condition, rather than alleged beatings by the police.

The MKO has carried out numerous terrorist attacks against Iranian civilians and government officials over the past three decades. Out of the nearly

17,000 Iranians killed in terrorist attacks since the victory of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, about 12,000 have fallen victim to the acts of terror carried out by the MKO.

The group was viewed by the EU as a terrorist organization until January 2009, when the EU Council lifted the designation under immense pressure from political lobbies. The decision was followed by the United States in September 2012.

## Probe Into Kadhimi's Role in Assassination

TEHRAN -- The head of Iraq's public prosecution office has ordered an investigation into former Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi's role in the U.S. assassination of Iran's top anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani.

Shafaq News reported that official documents, issued by the head of the public prosecution's office on April 4 but unveiled on Sunday, showed that the prosecutor general ordered the Federal Court, which specializes in investigating all crimes, to take legal proceedings over a complaint filed against al-Kadhimi and inform the office of the results.

The court is ordered to look into a complaint filed by the head of "Harakat Huqooq," or Rights Movement, Hussein Monis against al-Kadhimi as a for-

**The Holy Qur'an**

O Prophet! strive hard against the unbelievers and the hypocrites and be unyielding to them; and their abode is hell, and evil is the destination.

**The Holy Qur'an (9.73)**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:0
Evening (Maghreb)	19:11
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:12
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:38

## IRGC Chief: No Retreat From Path of Progress

TEHRAN -- The IRGC commander said Monday that the enemies are doing what they can to stop Iran's progress, stressing that the Islamic Republic will not retreat from the path of progress it has stepped on since the 1979 revolution.

Major General Hussein Salami made the comments at a ceremony held here to appoint the new commander of IRGC Khatam al-Anbia Construction Base.

"Today, the enemy has brought all the pieces on its political chessboard altogether with all its might against the holy Islamic Republic of Iran and the glorious Revolution. The pieces are all working together and this means that this nation has grown very strong and resistant," he said.

General Salami said all plots designed by the enemy have failed.

"None of the enemy's dreams against us came true and what it thought about us returned to itself. The Iranian nation has shone and this shining continues," he added.

The IRGC chief called for independence and relying on internal resources instead of looking toward the West, saying since the Islamic Revolution, Iran has relied on its own capabilities and this path will continue with might to gain more achievements.

mer intelligence chief. Harakat Huqooq is the political wing of Iraq's anti-terror group Kata'ib Hezbollah.

Al-Kadhimi, who served as the prime minister of Iraq from May 2020 to October 2022, faces charges of "negligence" that led to the U.S. assassination of General Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), as well as their companions, on January 3, 2020.

The two anti-terror commanders were admired across the region for their instrumental role in fighting and decimating the Daesh terrorist group in the region, particularly in Iraq and Syria.