

## 'U.S. Lacks Moral Ground to Comment on Rights'

TEHRAN -- Iran said Saturday the United States and Europe lack the legal, judicial and moral ground to comment on human rights-related issues in other countries.

"Instead of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries and trying to portray a humanitarian face, Western politicians had better heed the grievances of their own citizens and spend time on their own human rights and citizenship demands," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said.

# Kayhan

## International



## IRCG Says Monitored USS Paul Hamilton

TEHRAN -- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Saturday confirmed that its forces have been monitoring the moves of the commanders of the U.S., British and French navies transiting the Strait of Hormuz aboard the USS Paul Hamilton.

Commander of the IRGC Navy's First Zone Brigadier General Abbas Gholamshahi said drones and vessels had been engaged in a precision mission in that regard. Gholamshahi said the IRGC Navy monitors the movement of vessels in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf "round-the-clock."

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### Viewpoint

## Has the Arab World Finally Recognized its Common Enemy?

## Iranian Flotilla to Go to Antarctic for First Time



## Iranian Female Climber Scales Mount Lhotse



## Thousands Commemorate Palestinian Martyrs in Gaza



## Greetings to Our Munificent Lady of Qom

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

Today, the 1<sup>st</sup> of Zil-Qa'dah, is the birth anniversary of a very noble lady, who despite the passing of centuries remains an inspiration for all virtuous women.

Her birthday is celebrated in the Islamic Republic of Iran as the **Day of the Virtuous Daughters**, and today all roads lead towards her blessed shrine in the city of Qom, where pilgrims from the various cities, towns, and villages of Iran, as well as from other countries have flocked to pay their sincere respects.

She is none other than **Fatema Ma'soumah (SA)**, the exemplary daughter of **Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS)**, the 7<sup>th</sup> Infallible Heir of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger to mankind with the universal mission of Islam, **Prophet Muhammad (SAWA)**.

No wonder, the overwhelming majority of Iranian girls and women adhere to the values preached by this Excellent Model of Feminine Virtues, as is evident by their piety and patriotism, including their decent dressing within the framework of the freedom of the Hijab.

Since this eleventh month of the Islamic lunar calendar is one of the four sacred months of the year, its sanctity is observed by the faithful with acts of worship, both personal and public, such as prayers, fasting and arranging of charities for the have-nots of the society. There are several hadith from the Prophet and the Infallible Imams encouraging us to increase our goodness, benevolence, philanthropy, and munificence in this month.

This is reason, the Iranian people begin Zi'l-Qa'dah with the **"Dah-e Karamat"** (Ten Days of Munificence) in honour of the birthday of **Hazrat Ma'soumah (SA)** – the **"Karima-e Ahl al-Bayt"** or the **Munificent Lady of the Prophet's Household** – with celebrations reaching climax on the 11<sup>th</sup>, the birth anniversary of her illustrious elder brother, **Imam Reza (AS)**, who reposes in peace in the grand mausoleum in Mashhad. Indeed, these two blessed birth anniversaries have added to the significance of the month of Zi'l-Qa'dah.

This virtuous lady was born in 173 AH (789 AD) in the holy city of Medina. **Imam Kazem (AS)**, although blessed with several children, including his eldest son and heir, **Imam Reza (AS)**, regarded the birth of this radiant daughter as a boon from the Almighty Creator. He named her **"Fatema"** in honour of his Infallible Ancestress, the **Noblest Lady of all times, Hazrat Fatema az-Zahra (SA)** – the **Immaculate Daughter of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA)**.

As she grew up she acquired the bezels of wisdom from her father. In the absence of the 7<sup>th</sup> Imam, because of intermittent periods of imprisonment by the tyrannical caliphs of the usurper Abbasid regime, she imbibed knowledge from her beloved brother, **Imam Reza (AS)**, who was 25 years her senior.

On one occasion, while her father was away and her brother was also not present, her God-given qualities came to the fore when a group of pilgrims from Iran happened to knock at the door of Imamate in Medina with a list of questions regarding various religious issues. To their surprise, the queries they had were answered on paper from behind the curtain by a little girl.

Feeling satisfied, the Iranian pilgrims started their journey back home and chanced to meet **Imam Kazem (AS)** on the way. When they showed the answers provided to their questions by his little daughter, the Imam remarked in appreciation **"Fidaha Abuha"** – an Arabic phrase meaning "may her father be sacrificed for her".

Without the least doubt, the group of Iranians on reaching their homeland, may have briefed their friends and families on the virtues of the little girl of the Prophet's Household, who unknown to them was destined to find her permanent resting place, over twenty years later in their midst in the desert city of Qom, which would one day achieve global fame with scholars coming from all over the world to acquire genuine knowledge about Islam.

With such impeccable knowledge and wisdom beyond years, it was but natural for the talents of this child prodigy to flower. She was to shine resplendently from the land of Iran, and her radiance was destined to enlighten people from all over the world.

While in Medina, the little girl suffered separation from her father when he was forcibly taken to Basra and thence to Baghdad on the orders of **Haroun ar-Rasheed**, the self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime. When she reached the age of ten, this separation became permanent, as news reached home of the martyrdom of **Imam Kazem (AS)** in the dungeon of Baghdad through a fatal dose of poisoning in the year 183 AH.

As she grew up, so did her nearness and proximity to God Almighty. So great was her piety that her brother **Imam Reza (AS)** conferred upon her the epithet **"al-Ma'soumah"** which means "The Innocent", and which became synonymous with her name. Like the **Virgin Mary (SA)**, the mother of **Prophet Jesus (AS)**, she attained such lofty degrees of virtue that no person was considered worthy of her blessed hand.

In 201 AH, after **Imam Reza (AS)** was forced to leave Medina for the distant land of Khorasan by the crafty Abbasid tyrant **Mamoun**, the sister decided to journey to northeastern Iran in the company of several of her siblings to meet her brother.

When the caravan neared **Saveh** (120 km west of modern day Tehran), it was attacked by the enemies of the **Ahl al-Bayt**. As a result some of her brothers and kinsfolk were martyred, while she sustained injuries and turned towards the city of Qom, which was noted for its attachment to the cause of the blessed **Ahl al-Bayt**. She was accorded a warm welcome by the people of Qom and the elders of the city came out to receive her. She stayed for 17 days in the city which her grandfather, **Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS)**, had hailed several decades ago as **"the sanctuary of us, the Ahl al-Bayt"**. From here her soul flew to the ethereal heavens, making Qom the staircase to paradise – in fulfillment of the Prophet's saying that of the 8 Gateways to Paradise, one opens through Qom.

Today her shrine, as the second most holy spot in Iran (after her brother's shrine in Mashhad), beckons pilgrims from all over the world, granting boons for all those seeking the proximity of the One and Only Creator of the universe.

Numerous miracles have taken place at the shrine of **Hazrat Ma'soumah (SA)** and many persons have seen their problems solved and have been cured of fatal diseases, as confirmed by medics who had lost hope in the health of the patients. These miraculous powers, coupled with the spiritual aura of the shrine, have made many non-Muslim visitors, including those from Europe, the Americas, and Africa, embrace the truth of Islam.

Since it is the Will of the Almighty Creator that the grave of the **Infallible Fatema Zahra (SA)** in Medina remains concealed till the reappearance of the Prophet's 12<sup>th</sup> and Last Successor, **Imam Mahdi (AS)** and establishment of the global government of peace, prosperity and justice, it is Qom and the shrine of **Ma'soumah (SA)** that bestow the same rewards on the pilgrims desirous of paying homage to the Prophet's Daughter.

Here is a passage worth pondering upon from the **"ziyarah"** or standard form of salutations for Our Innocent Lady of Qom:

**"Peace unto you, O daughter of Musa the son of Ja'far! May Allah shower His mercy and blessings upon you! May Allah grant your companionship in Heaven, and place us in your group, and lead us to the Prophet's Fountain to quench our thirst from your grandfather's own cup, in the hand of Ali. May Allah bless you all! I ask Allah to grant us, through you, happiness and ease, and to place us and you into the group of your ancestor, Muhammad. May Allah bless you all! Truly, He is the Guardian and is All-Mighty. I seek nearness to Allah through my devotion for you, and through my enmity for your enemies... O Fatema! Intercede for me, so that I enter Heaven, for indeed you have a great status in the Sight of Allah!"**

### Ayatollah Khamenei Outlines Foreign Policy Principles

# Proper Positioning of Iran in New World Order



Ayatollah Khamenei addresses senior officials of Iran's foreign ministry and ambassadors and representatives of the Islamic Republic in other countries, in Tehran on Saturday.

TEHRAN -- **Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei here on Saturday hailed the current Iranian administration's policy to communicate with neighboring countries, describing it as a correct and important measure.**

Addressing the minister and senior officials of Iran's foreign ministry and ambassadors and representatives of the Islamic Republic in other countries, the Leader said foreign hands are actively at work to create problems

between Iran and its neighbors. "You should not allow this policy to be realized. Contrary to the enemies' desires, you should continue having relations with our neighbors, Islamic countries and countries whose policies are in line with that of the Islamic Republic," he said.

The Leader said it is important to maintain relations with like-minded and Islamic countries, even if they are far away.

"Today, the cooperation and alignment of some big and impor-

tant countries of the world with the Islamic Republic of Iran in some processes and fundamental lines of international politics is an unprecedented phenomenon, and we should appreciate this opportunity and strengthen the relations with those countries."

Ayatollah Khamenei expounded on the meanings of the three keywords "honor, wisdom, and expediency" in Iranian foreign policy.

"Honor is negating the diplomacy of imploring, both in words and in content and avoiding to pin

hopes on the words and decisions of foreign officials," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said wisdom means acting prudently, sensibly and considerably in all bilateral and multilateral interactions, and steering clear of derogatory, scathing and disparaging comments.

"All measures in foreign policy must be logical and well thought-out. Uncalculated decisions and actions have inflicted harm on the country at certain junctures."

Abstaining from unwarranted trust in other parties is another concept of wisdom, the Leader said.

"Of course, not everything should be regarded as a lie in the world of politics, because there are truthful and acceptable words as well, however, not everything that is said should be trusted," the Leader said.

Expediency in the sense of having flexibility in places where it is necessary to bypass hard and rocky obstacles in order to continue a path is another important keyword, the Leader said.

"Being flexible does not mean you should ignore principles. Of course, a few years ago, when I mentioned the term, 'heroic flexibility', it was misunderstood both inside and outside the country, because expediency means finding a way to overcome difficult (Continued on Page 7)

## U.S. Destroys Passports of Sudanese Fleeing War

KHARTOUM (Middle East Eye) -- **The United States embassy in Khartoum has destroyed the passports of Sudanese and "other third country nationals" who were in the process of applying for visas and passports there.**

The move leaves those affected unable to leave Sudan, which has been in a state of turmoil since 15 April, when war broke out between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Alhaj Sharaf, a Sudanese software engineer, had been accepted into a master's degree program in computer science at Maharishi International University in Fairfield, Iowa. He was supposed to start courses on May 2.

In order to study in the U.S., Sharaf's passport had been submitted to the embassy in Khartoum for non-immigrant visa processing. The visa had already been issued when the fighting began, but the passport had not been returned. Sharaf was at his family home

in Khartoum North when the conflict broke out not far away. He moved to his cousin's home in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city, because it was safer there.

The would-be student immediately emailed the U.S. embassy. His plan was to go north to Egypt and from there on to the U.S. But he needed his passport. The embassy responded to say that it was closed temporarily.

Ibrahim Khalid, a friend of Sharaf's, was in the same situation. He was heading to the United States to study, but his passport had been held at the embassy since January 31. As his city became engulfed in flames, there was no way out for him either.

On April 22, the U.S. embassy in Khartoum suspended its operations and its staff were evacuated. Official documents were destroyed, but so too were the passports of Sudanese citizens applying for American visas.

It wasn't until May 17 that Sharaf found out that his passport (Continued on Page 7)

## U.S. Gives Russia Warns of 'Colossal Risk'

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- **Western countries will be running "colossal risks" if they supply Ukraine with F-16 fighter jets, TASS news agency quoted Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko as saying on Saturday.**

Grushko was responding to a question about the implications of providing the jets, which Ukraine has been requesting from NATO countries.

It has not yet won commitments to deliver the planes, but U.S. President Joe Biden told G7 leaders on Friday that Washington supports joint allied training programs for Ukrainian pilots on F-16s, senior U.S. officials said.

"We see that Western countries are still adhering to the escalation scenario. It involves colossal risks for themselves," Grushko was quoted as saying.

"In any case, this will be taken into account in all our plans, and we have all the necessary means to achieve the goals we have set."

The agreement to provide more sophisticated weapons to Ukraine shows the U.S. has once again buckled under pressure from European allies and Ukraine's leaders.

Ukraine has long begged for the sophisticated fighter to give it a combat edge. And this new plan opens the door for several nations to supply the fourth-generation aircraft and for the U.S. to help train the pilots. Biden laid out the agreement to world leaders meeting in Hiroshima, Japan, on Friday, according to U.S. officials.

So far, however, the U.S. has provided no details and said decisions on when, how many, and who will supply the F-16s will be made in the months ahead while the training is underway. Details on the training are equally elusive.

Still, with this decision, the Biden administration has made a sharp reversal, after refusing to approve any transfer of the aircraft (Continued on Page 7)