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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

South America Reasserting Economic & Political Independence

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The South American continent has begun to assert its economic and political independence after decades of subservience to North America, or more properly US hegemony.

The current summit in Brasilia of the Union of South American Nations (abbreviated in Spanish as UNASUR) hosted by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva who started his new term as head of state on January 1 after regaining the Brazilian presidency in last year's election, has brought on the common platform of opposition to American imperialism, twelve countries, including Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro.

Maduro was warmly welcomed by Lula, who lashed out at US policy towards Venezuela, saying: "It is inexplicable for a country to have 900 sanctions placed on it, because another country doesn't like it."

To the horror of Washington, he vowed to boost business with Caracas and voiced his support for Venezuela's accession to a block of emerging-market nations, known as BRICS, hailing the UNASUR summit as "resumption of South American integration."

UNASUR, which was created in 2008 by Lula and Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez, had held its last meeting almost a decade ago in Quito the capital of Ecuador, before US pressures on the puppet presidents it had installed in Brazil and some other South American countries, to inactivate it.

It has now come back with a big bang and among the significant decisions so far taken at the summit was the call for establishment of a common currency for the South American region in order to reduce reliance on the US dollar.

If successful, this would be another decisive blow to the US dollar which is on a rapid decline on being scrapped from trade transactions by most major world countries, such as China, Russia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, and several others.

The strengthening of South American identity in monetary policy and trade transactions will definitely attract Latin American states outside South America, such as the seven Spanish speaking countries that form Central America as well as Mexico and the Caribbean region, especially Cuba, which for over sixty years is the target of the illegal US sanctions and crimes against humanity.

Brazil, as the largest country in the region and its main economy, is regaining its position as a global diplomatic powerhouse under the presidency of Lula. It had greatly suffered under US puppet Jair Bolsonaro who depleted the Amazon forests (lungs of Planet Earth), destroyed the health system to cause 38 million casualties and seven hundred thousand deaths (out of a population of 215 million) during the Coronavirus pandemic, and undermined the country's economy and independence.

Lula, who supports Iran's peaceful nuclear programme, last February opened its docks at the Rio de Janeiro Port (despite US objections) for Iran's 86th flotilla on its round-the-world voyage, and has renewed his earlier pledge to defend the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people.

The Islamic Republic thus fully supports the aspirations of the Latin American people and wishes success for such gatherings as the UNASUR summit, which the Free World needs for ending the hegemony of the US.

Gen. Baqeri: Iran Ready to Export Defense Products to Friendly Countries



The Defense Industry Exhibition at the venue of the Defense Industries Organization of the Ministry of Defense in August 2022.

TEHRAN -- Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Muhammad Baqeri says the Islamic Republic stands ready to export in wholesale its defense equipment to friendly countries and share its military expertise with them.

Addressing a gathering of Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and ambassadors in Tehran on Tuesday, Baqeri stressed that the foreign affairs departments can play "a major and important role" in presenting Iran's defense power.

"Introducing the Islamic Republic's defense and military capabilities and sharing them can expand the country's defense relations and strengthen deterrence," he said.

"The Iranian armed forces are fully prepared to upgrade the level of ties in various fields, including the wholesale export of defense

and military equipment as well as training, exercises, and the practical transfer of experience."

On Sunday, Defense Minister Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Ashtiani said Iran "has no restriction" on exporting military equipment to other countries, including Venezuela.

Iranian military experts and engineers have in recent years made remarkable breakthroughs in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient.

Iranian officials have made clear that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will be never open for negotiations.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Gen-

eral Baqeri underlined the importance of boosting relations with the regional and neighboring countries, an accurate policy pursued by the government of President Ebrahim Raisi.

The Iranian armed forces, he added, are ready to defend the country against any threats using indigenous strategies and policies.

The top general further said that the world order is changing and moving in the direction of weakening the opponents of the Islamic Revolution, noting that the fact is acknowledged by Westerners and Europeans.

"The future world is a different world. The new world order geometry is altering with the emergence of several new powers, particularly in Asia and in different fields," he said.

Lawyer: Sweden's Trial Staged Against Iranian Citizen

TEHRAN -- A lawyer of Iranian national Hamid Nouri, who has been illegally jailed for years in solitary confinement in Sweden on bogus allegations, has lashed out at the show trial staged against his client, insisting that the Swedish has no legal jurisdiction over a case that has nothing to do with the European country.

"This is a very strange case," said Thomas Bodstrom in an exclusive interview with Press TV on the case staged against his 62-year-old client, emphasizing: I cannot understand why we should have a trial in Sweden about what had happened in another country 35 years ago for a person who is not a Swedish person."

He said some of the witnesses introduced against the defendant have had conflict of interests in the case, underlining that Nouri should be acquitted despite the purported "evidence" propped up against him.

Nouri's attorney also blasted the Swedish judiciary for brutally holding his client in solitary confinement for over 40 months and not allowing him to have regular family visits in violation of its own laws, insisting that his client is entitled by law to have in-person visits.

"What I am most upset about it is that he is almost isolated 24 hours a day and now he has been there for more than three and a half years. This would be his fourth summer in custody," Bodstrom said.

The "worst" part, he said, is that Nouri is isolated in a seven-square-meter jail and is "treated very badly."

Nouri has now spent more than three-and-a-half-years in solitary confinement which is a "record" in Sweden, he added.

Bodstrom additionally noted that Nouri had also been denied valuable documents essential for his de-

fense due to what the court claims to be "erased by mistake."

He also noted that Nouri's lawyers have on many occasions complained about the way he is being treated in jail "but nothing happened."

Nouri, a former Iranian judiciary official, was arrested upon arrival at Stockholm Airport in November 2019 and was immediately imprisoned. He was put on trial on unfounded allegations staged against him by elements representing the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist group that has openly boasted about carrying out terrorist operations against Iranian officials and civilians perceived to be supporters of the government.

It has claimed responsibility for the murder of over 17,000 Iranians. It use to be internationally recognized as a terrorist group but Western politicians pushed for the

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Envoy: Taliban Will Never Violate Iran's Rights

TEHRAN -- The chargés d'affaires of the Afghan Taliban government in Islamabad has appreciated Iran's hospitality to millions of Afghan refugees, saying that the Taliban will never take a step to violate Iran's rights.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA's correspondent in Islamabad, Sardar Ahmed Khan Shakeeb also underscored the

importance of relations between Iran and Afghanistan.

He said the Taliban is determined to have good relations with all Countries, especially its neighbors, and in particular the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The Afghan Taliban never wants its relations with its neighbors to be affected, and according to Islamic principles, we will not take any steps to violate the

rights of our neighbor Iran," he added.

The remarks came in the wake of heightened tensions between Iran and the Taliban government in Afghanistan over the former's share of water from the Hirmand River.

Tehran says the Taliban have unlawfully restricted the flow of water from Hirmand to Iran's arid eastern regions.

The Holy Qur'an

Except those of the idolaters with whom you made an agreement, then they have not failed you in anything and have not backed up any one against you, so fulfill their agreement to the end of their term.

The Holy Qur'an (9.4)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:02
Evening (Maghreb)	19:35
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:50
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:06

Iran on Herzog's Visit to Baku:

Zionist Movements in Region Will Not Remain Hidden

TEHRAN -- Iran on Wednesday warned against Israel's malicious plots in the region, saying the occupying regime's regional provocations will not remain hidden as Iran is well aware of its intentions.

In a post on his Twitter account, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani blasted the Zionist regime for its futile efforts to draw closer to the countries in the region.

"None of the regional movements of the Zionist regime will remain hidden from the penetrating eyes of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

The spokesman reaffirmed the unreliability of the Tel Aviv regime. "The spider's web is not trustworthy."

Israel's struggle to expand its regional presence will not help mend the "shaky internal foundation of the fake regime," he added.

"The Zionist regime is hated among the nations across the world and will have no future," the said.

Kanaani's tweet came a day after Israeli President Isaac Herzog traveled to Baku and held in-depth discussions with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev about what they often purport as "Iran's threat to regional stability."

In his public remarks after the meeting, Herzog claimed that the two spoke in depth about "the entire global and regional security structure that is endangered and threatened by Iran."

The Islamic Republic is an all-time supporter of resistance movements in the region and has categorically refused to recognize the Israeli apartheid regime as a state, what the regime perceives as a threat to its temporary existence.

In March, Tehran criticized Baku for its partnership with the Zionist regime to establish a united front against Iran and urged Azeri officials to provide an explanation about the issue.

Recent estimates show that Azerbaijan has become the Zionist regime's largest supplier of oil while Tel Aviv is now responsible for almost 70 percent of Baku's military hardware.