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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Kabul Should Guarantee Safety & Security of Joint Iranian Borders

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Calm has supposedly returned to the Iran-Afghanistan border, but at what cost?

Why did the miscreants who suddenly, without any provocation, open fire at Iran's Sasouli border police station, martyring two unsuspecting border guards and injuring some others, violated the Iran's territorial integrity.

Were the attackers drug smugglers or did they belong to the dastardly Daesh terrorist outfit which receives direct orders from the US?

We have no accurate reports yet from the other side of the border and the casualties inflicted on the attackers who fled the area when the Iranian border personnel retaliated with heavy gunfire.

Anyway we expect the Taliban militia ruling Afghanistan to provide Iran with a convincing report that the attackers who ought to be identified and punished were not its personnel and there was no ulterior motive behind the criminal incident at a time when the 1973 treaty continues to be violated by Kabul with the required flow of water from the Helmand River to Sistan-Baluchestan illegally stopped.

Tehran has made it clear that the Taliban bear responsibility for the extensive damage to agriculture, livestock, and the daily life of the people of the Iranian border area who have been deprived of their share of waters.

The Islamic Republic's request to allow a team of technical experts to visit Afghanistan to inspect the situation of the river, has not yet been given a positive, and now comes this terroristic border incident.

Senior Iranian officials, including the President, have made it clear that the Taliban bear responsibility for the lack of water flow to the Iranian border area, and have warned of dire consequences.

Any delay in this crucial matter which is negatively affecting the life of the border people will not be tolerated for long, and Iran has no other choice but to take due measures to resolve the issue, whether the Taliban like it or not.

Hopefully, the vexing issue will be resolved and the brotherly people of Iran and Afghanistan will continue their cooperation in all fields.

In the meantime, the terrorists who violated the Iranian border should be identified and punished and blood money given to the martyrs, if not Iran will be forced to take unilateral measures against what are definitely US-Zionist agents.

Border Calm, Fully Under Iran's Control After Taliban Attack



A watchtower between Afghanistan and Iran is pictured at the Milak border crossing Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

TEHRAN – Afghanistan's Taliban authorities and neighboring Iran said Sunday deadly clashes between their border security forces had subsided, with both sides engaging in talks to ease tensions.

The skirmishes erupted in the Afghan border province of Nimroz Saturday, martyring two Iranian security forces and killing a Taliban militant, officials in both countries said.

The exchange of cross-border gunfire, initiated by the Taliban, escalated Iran's tensions with Afghanistan amid a dispute over water resources.

On Sunday, the official Iranian news agency IRNA quoted a senior official as saying that "the situation is under control" in the conflict zone near the Sasouli border post in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province.

Alireza Marhamati, the deputy provincial governor, said that "local Iranian and Afghan officials have held negotiations on the cause of the clashes and agreed to continue their talks."

Alireza Enyati, the director-general for Persian Gulf Affairs at the Iranian foreign ministry, said the two sides have been pursuing the re-opening of their missions after they officially announced the resumption of ties as part of the China-brokered deal reached in April.

Meetings have been held and messages exchanged between the two sides, he said, adding contacts between the two sides are no longer via intermediaries.

"The relations have now practically resumed, but we are waiting

A spokesman for the Afghan interior affairs ministry said in a statement that his government "does not want to fight with its neighbors".

Bilateral tensions have recently escalated over the Taliban's breach of a 1973 water-sharing treaty between Tehran and Kabul by blocking water flow from Helmand River, which flows from Afghanistan to Iran's arid eastern border regions.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, during a visit to the border province, called on the Taliban to respect the treaty, which envisions shared water resources and out-lines access to monitoring of the water level. Raisi warned the de facto Afghan rulers against violating the agreement and vowed to defend Iran's water rights.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan believes dialogue and negotiation are a good path to addressing any issue," Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Enayatullah Khowarazmi wrote on his official Twitter account.

The United Nations says Afghan-

istan and Iran have suffered from a prolonged drought, and drought conditions have worsened over the past decade.

Last week, Afghan Foreign Affairs Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, responding to statements by the Iranian officials, said that Kabul was committed to the water treaty.

Analysts warned that Afghanistan and the region at large could ill afford another conflict.

Torek Farhadi, a former Afghan official, said the Taliban would avoid a standoff with Iran. He noted that Afghanistan is fragile after 40 years of war, and four million Afghans live on Iranian soil as refugees.

"Sure, skirmishes and then a war can start with Iran, but soon Afghanistan will end up as the terrain for proxy wars with Tehran," said Farhadi. "Arms and munitions will flow to Afghanistan to fight Iran, but the fighters would be Afghan youth, and the destruction will occur in Afghanistan. Not a good perspective."

(Continued on Page 7)

Iran Awaits Official Reopening of Embassies With Saudis Arabia

TEHRAN -- A senior foreign ministry official says Iran is ready for the official reopening of the Iranian and Saudi missions in both countries, after the two Persian Gulf neighbors reached a reconciliation deal.

Alireza Enyati, the director-general for Persian Gulf Affairs at the Iranian foreign ministry, said the two sides have been pursuing the

re-opening of their missions after they officially announced the resumption of ties as part of the China-brokered deal reached in April.

Meetings have been held and messages exchanged between the two sides, he said, adding contacts between the two sides are no longer via intermediaries.

"The relations have now practically resumed, but we are waiting

for the official reopening of the embassies and we hope that it will happen simultaneously or almost simultaneously between Iran and Saudi Arabia so that the circle of ties will be complete."

The official said Iran's embassy in Riyadh and consulate in Jeddah have already resumed activities in a de facto way, given the upcoming Hajj pilgrimage season.

Zelensky Seeks Sanctions on Iran for 50 Years

KIEV (Dispatches) -- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has submitted a draft decree to the parliament, proposing to impose "sectoral special economic and other restrictive measures on the Islamic Republic of Iran for 50 years".

If the bill is passed by the lawmakers, commercial activities with Iran will be completely banned, and the transit of resources, flights and transportation on the territory of Ukraine will be stopped.

Ukraine and Western countries have accused Iran of providing Russia with military drones for use in the war. Both Iran and Russia have repeatedly denied claims that Tehran has provided Moscow with UAVs to be used in the Ukraine war.

Last week, Tehran said it was

ready for talks with Kiev to clarify "baseless" claims that Iran was providing Russia with weapons and drones to be used in the war against Ukraine.

Calling the claims "baseless" and "based on false information," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani expressed "Iran's readiness for negotiation and discussion with Ukraine to resolve these accusations," a statement added.

"Claims made regarding the Islamic Republic sending weapons including military drones to be used in the Ukraine war" are "untrue," the ministry statement added.

Last Tuesday, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said he had suggested to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that

Kiev cut diplomatic ties with Iran.

Kuleba also said his country plans to submit a formal request to the occupying regime of Israel asking for immediate air defense assistance.

Iran's foreign ministry said that allegations of providing weapons to Russia were "part of the political and purposeful creation of atmosphere by the media organizations of some countries" against Tehran.

"The repetition of false claims by the Ukrainian president against the Islamic Republic is in line with the propaganda and media war of the anti-Iranian axis against Iran's government and people with the aim of securing as much arms and financial aid as possible from Western countries," Kanaani said.

The Holy Qur'an



You do not serve besides Him but names which you have named, you and your fathers; Allah has not sent down any authority for them; judgment is only Allah's; He has commanded that you shall not serve aught but Him; this is the right religion but most people do not know.

The Holy Qur'an (12.40)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:02
Evening (Maghreb)	19:33
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:51
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:08

Defense Minister: No Restriction on Military Exports

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

The Islamic Republic will help any country that remains committed to international peace, Ashtiani told Tasnim news agency, when asked about Iran's military and defense cooperation with Venezuela and the possibility of exporting Iranian equipment to the Latin American country.

"We have no restriction on supplying equipment to countries. We are in contact with all states and keep this contact with might," he said.

"We will definitely help any country that is committed to international interests, security and peace, and that considers global common security."

He also noted that the defense ministry, which is in charge of the joint economic commission between the two countries, makes necessary coordination in different fields, among them the security and defense ones.

Last June, Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year partnership agreement to expand ties in various sectors such as the military.

Elsewhere in his interview, the defense minister was asked about reports on Iran's purchase of Sukhoi-35 fighter jets from Russia and their possible shipment in the near future.

"We are a manufacturer ourselves and work in the aviation industry regarding fighters, as well as transport and training aircraft..., but if we feel the need concerning our defense power, we try to get technological facilities or equipment from any country that possesses them," he said.

"The discussions about the Su-35 fighters are mostly speculations," Ashtiani added, emphasizing that some deals may yield a result years after their signing.

He also asserted that there is no ban on Iran for buying defense equipment.

Last September, commander of the Iranian Army's Air Force Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi said the force has no plans to buy Su-30, but it has rather put on its agenda the purchase of Su-35 fighters.

In January, Iranian lawmaker Shahriar Heidari said that the Su-35 jets were to arrive in the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21.