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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Iran Needs to Work Overtime to Regain Lost Influence in Africa

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

"Africa is a continent with both human potentials and extraordinary natural potentials. The Europeans went there, killing, murdering and looting, taking advantage of uninformed people, and they even installed their own sculptures as liberators of those countries; one example was Zimbabwe... They conquered the country, exploited its resources, humiliated the people, took them as slaves, and made them miserable. They finally named the country after their own agents; to say the country is their belonging!"

These are remarks of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, when as President of Iran he had visited Zimbabwe in 1986 for the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and been given a red carpet welcome by President Robert Mugabe who liberated from the white apartheid rule of the tyrant Ian Smith his homeland which the British occupiers used to call Rhodesia, and then despite Anglo-American plots and pressures safeguarded its independence and cleared it of western vestiges, including the renaming of Salisbury as Harare.

Day before yesterday on Thursday when Hojjat al-Islam Seyyed Ibrahim Raisi broke the 13-year drought of Iranian presidential visits to Zimbabwe by landing at the airport named in honour of the Late Mugabe, he was greeted on the tarmac by his counterpart President Emmerson Mnangagwa, along with hundreds of children who saluted him by waving photos of Ayatollah Khamenei and Martyr Qassem Soleimani, and chanting he famous revolutionary anthem "Salaam Farmandeh" (Salute O' Commander) in the local language.

Raisi was greatly impressed at the respect for the Islamic Republic in Africa and the enthusiasm of African people on meeting Iranian leaders, and realized the opportunities missed by his predecessor in not visiting any African country despite 55 official visits abroad.

Earlier in Kenya and Uganda on the first two legs of his three-nation visit to Africa, the Iranian president came across several pleasant surprises, including local people well-versed in Farsi and the chanting in chorus by the exceptionally tall Maasai lion hunters of a tribute to Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) Vicegerent Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS) "Mowla Ali, Mowla Ali".

No wonder, the Iranian president after signing 21 agreements during his three-day trip (5 in Kenya, 4 in Uganda, and 12 in Zimbabwe), remarked:

"Greater work needs to be done to expand relations with African states in political, economic and cultural fields more than ever. We believe that the world is not limited to the West. Iran's foreign policy is based on engaging with the whole world."

This means the Iranian ministries and state organizations, as well as the private sector should now work overtime to make up for the negligence of the past decade, during which several world countries that used to lag behind the Islamic Republic in its ventures in Africa, have significantly established their influence in the trade and economic sectors.

Army Commander Gen. Mousavi: Armed Forces to Safeguard Every Inch of Iran



In this photo provided January 25, 2019 by the Iranian Army, soldiers take position in an infantry drill in the central Isfahan province.

TEHRAN -- The chief commander of the Iranian army says the armed forces will continue to strongly safeguard every iota of the country's territory.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi made the remarks while addressing a meeting with a number of Army commanders and deputies on Thursday in reaction to a recent joint statement issued by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Russia about three islands in the Persian Gulf.

In their statement, the foreign ministers from the Arab Persian Gulf countries and Russia called for "a peaceful solution" to the issue of the Greater and Lesser Tunb islands and Abu Musa.

They urged a resolution through "bilateral negotiations or the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the rules of international law and the United Nations Charter."

Mousavi responded to the state-

ment, endorsed by the UAE, and said, "We are very sensitive about every iota of our country's soil and whatever is said every now and then about the Islamic Republic's properties."

He urged the Army's ground, air and naval forces to remain more sensitive and vigilant in protecting territorial integrity.

"We will never neglect for a moment protecting the Islamic Republic's borders and interests, from the northernmost to the southernmost spot of the sacred land of Iran and will safeguard the country's territorial integrity with full force," Mousavi said.

The commander added that Iran enjoys great dignity thanks to national strength rooted in the Armed Forces' resolve and preparedness to protect the Islamic establishment's interests.

The three Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser

Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world.

However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid claim to the islands.

The islands fell under British control in 1921 but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

In a Persian-language tweet on Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian rejected the Russia-GCC joint statement, saying Tehran will not soften its stance over its territorial integrity.

"We do not pull any punches with any side over the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran," Amir-Abdollahian tweeted.

Prisoners Freed by UAE to Return Home Soon

TEHRAN -- Iran says 15 Iranian prisoners, who had been pardoned by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, will soon return home.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said the release followed last month's visit by Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian to the UAE, where he held consultations with high-ranking Emirati officials.

The ministry said it will seriously continue its consular and judicial support for the Iranians abroad and pursue the fulfillment of their rights, including the prisoners.

On June 22, Amir-Abdollahian visited the UAE, where he discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation in separate meetings with Emirati President

Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The trip followed stops in Qatar, Kuwait and Oman amid a flurry of diplomatic moves by the Islamic Republic to improve ties with neighbors and secure the region.

Recently, 11 Iranians were released from Kuwaiti jails and seven more from Qatari prisons.

IRGC Intel Captures Member of Terrorist Group

TEHRAN -- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) intelligence forces arrested a member of the Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group behind acts of violence in Sistan and Baluchestan in September, the Salman Base of the IRGC said Thursday.

Rogue elements, terrorists, separatists and agents of foreign spy agencies incited crowds during last year's September 30 unrest in the provincial capital of Zahedan, and played a role in disrupting unity and security, it said in a statement.

IRGC intelligence forces carefully monitored the situation, identifying the ringleaders and main elements behind the riots, including an individual identified Ali Narouei, also known as Salahuddin, it said.

IRGC intelligence forces accessed the contents of his mobile phone, and uncovered his close collaboration with anti-Iran

terrorist groups.

Salahuddin was in close contact with a high-profile member of Jaish ul-Adl terrorist group called Qader via social media platforms during the riots in Zahedan. He was instructed to supply rioters and provocateurs with firearms and live ammunition, the statement said.

Later on, Salahuddin illegally left southeastern Iran for Dalbandin city in the Chagai district of Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan, and took refuge in a hideout run by a Jaish ul-Adl terrorist named Taher Shiranzai.

Salahuddin was soon transferred along with a number of other terrorists to the Jaish ul-Adl's main training camp, where he underwent six-day training on the use of mechanical, electromagnetic and remotely-controlled bombs as well as sophisticated methods

of targeted killing.

Afterwards, Salahuddin was linked to another Jaish ul-Adl terrorist named Zaker Sheikhzadeh, better known by the alias Mullah Omar, who was responsible for spotting distinguished Iranian security and intelligence official in Sistan and Baluchestan province. Salahuddin was then sent on an assassination mission to Zahedan.

He sneaked across the border into Iran on April 5. However, he was identified and apprehended by the IRGC's intelligence forces before he could carry out any act of terror.

On September 30, 2022, terrorists launched armed attacks on several police stations and public places in Zahedan after congregational prayers in the city, martyring 19 people and injuring 20 others.

The terrorists also set ablaze a fire (Continued on Page 7)

The Holy Qur'an

And when Ibrahim said: My Lord! make this city secure, and save me and my sons from worshipping idols: My Lord! surely they have led many men astray; then whoever follows me, he is surely of me, and whoever disobeys me, Thou surely art Forgiving, Merciful:

The Holy Qur'an (14:36)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:10
Evening (Maghreb)	19:41
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:00
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:17

Envoy Summoned Over Italy's Hosting of Ringleader

TEHRAN -- Iran has summoned Italy's Ambassador to Tehran Giuseppe Perrone to protest the Italian parliament's hosting of the ringleader of the anti-Iran terrorist Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO).

Foreign Ministry's Director-General for Western Europe Majid Nili Ahmad-Abadi on Thursday called on Italy to respect its international obligations in the "fight against terrorism."

Tehran criticized the meeting between some Italian legislators and Maryam Rajavi, describing it as a "clear example of promoting and encouraging terrorism."

"The Islamic Republic does not tolerate support for terrorism in any shape by anyone and categorically censures it," the Iranian diplomat said.

The Foreign Ministry said Iran respects the national sovereignty of other countries, and recognizes (Continued on Page 7)

Lavrov Not Optimistic About JCPOA Revival

JAKARTA (Dispatches) -- Russia's foreign minister says he's not very optimistic about the revival of the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, citing the possibility of a shift in U.S. policy following next year's presidential elections there.

"It is not very realistic to expect anything now because the US is holding an election in a year. A new administration will arrive and nobody knows whether it will be Democratic or Republican. Nobody can guarantee that the new administration will not repeat the stunt of pulling out of the agreement," Sergei Lavrov said.

He made the remarks while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the Indonesian capital Jakarta on Thursday.

Lavrov said the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was simply "broken" by the U.S., which acted against the UN charter (Continued on Page 7)