

TEHRAN -- An Iranian official said Monday Taliban rulers in Afghanistan have rejected a request for an Iranian technical team to inspect the Kajaki Dam on the Helmand River, amid efforts to resolve an ongoing water dispute between the neighboring countries.

"Iran has requested the visit of its technical experts to the Kajaki reservoir, but Afghanistan has not granted permission for this," Muhammad Javanbakh, the deputy minister of energy for water affairs said at a press conference. "Efforts to secure Iran's rightful water share will continue," he added.

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Kayhan International

TEHRAN -- Iran on Monday welcomed a UN operation to transfer oil from a decaying supertanker off Yemen's Red Sea coast to avert a potential environmental disaster, expressing hope that the move would be a prelude to addressing Yemen's humanitarian crisis.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Iran had announced three years ago it was prepared to remove oil from the rusting Safer tanker, anchored north of the port of Hudaydah for more than 30 years, under the supervision of the UN and Yemeni authorities.

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Tuesday, August 15, 2023, Mordad 24, 1402, Muharram 28, 1445, Price 300,000 Rials

Iran-Made Military Equipment on Show at Moscow Expo



North Korean Leader Urges 'Drastic Boost' in Missile Production



Iran Earn 2nd Straight Victory in FIBA Women's Asia Cup



Yemen: Saudi War Killed Over 8,000 Children Since 2015



Officials: Full Hawaii

Apocalypse Toll Not Yet Known

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — As Hawaii residents mourned those killed in ferocious wildfires, officials warned that the full human and environmental toll was not yet known and the recovery only just beginning.

Twenty dogs and dozens of people will make their way through neighborhoods reduced to ash, searching burnt out cars and homes for the dead. With the toll at 96, this is already the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. Two fires have not yet been completely contained, including the one that demolished the historic town of Lahaina, according to an update from Maui County late Sunday.

Even where the fire has retreated, authorities have warned that toxic byproducts may remain, including in drinking water, after the flames spewed poisonous fumes. And many people simply have no home to return to — so authorities plan to house them in hotels and vacation rentals.

The blaze that swept into centuries-old Lahaina last Tuesday destroyed nearly every building in the town of 13,000, leaving a grid of gray rubble wedged between the blue ocean and lush green slopes. That fire has been 85% contained, according to the county, while the Upcountry fire has been 60% contained.

"There's very little left there," Gov. Josh Green said, holding up a map of the area titled "Buildings Damaged in Maui Wildfires Lahaina Area."

Crews with cadaver dogs had covered just 3% of the search area, Maui Police Chief John Pelletier said Saturday.

When teams "do come across scenes in houses or businesses, it is very difficult for them because they know, ultimately, they will be sharing with our people that there have been more fatalities. I do expect the numbers to rise," Green said.

The cause of the wildfires is under investigation, and Green said authorities would also examine their response. One fire, for instance, was thought to be out but later flared again.

In the hours before a wildfire engulfed the town of Lahaina,

Maui County officials failed to activate sirens that would have warned the entire population and instead relied on social media posts. Power and cellular outages further stymied communication efforts.

Fueled by a dry summer and strong winds from a passing hurricane, the flames on Maui raced through parched brush — one moving as fast as 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) every minute, according to Green.

"With those kinds of winds and 1,000-degree temperatures, ultimately all the pictures that you will see will be easy to understand," he said.

The fires are Hawaii's deadliest natural disaster in decades, surpassing a 1960 tsunami that killed 61 people. They also surpassed the 2018 Camp Fire in northern California that left 85 dead and destroyed the town of Paradise.

Maria Lanakila Church in Lahaina was spared from the flames that wiped out most of the surrounding community, but with search-and-recovery efforts ongoing, its members attended Mass up the road on Sunday. The Bishop of Honolulu, the Rev. Clarence "Larry" Silva, presided.

Taufa Samisoni said his uncle, aunt, cousin and the cousin's 7-year-old son were found dead inside a burned car. Samisoni's wife, Katalina, said the family would draw comfort from Silva's reference

to the Bible story of how Jesus' disciple Peter walked on

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Number of Martyrs Rises to Two

Iran Captures Terrorists Linked to Shrine Attack



Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi is visiting Shah Cheragh shrine in Shiraz on Monday following a terrorist attack.

TEHRAN — The chief justice of Fars province on Monday announced the martyrdom of one of those injured in the terrorist incident in the holy shrine of Shah Cheragh.

"Unfortunately, Muhammad Jahangiri, one of the injured in the terrorist incident last night in Shiraz, achieved martyrdom due to the severity of his injuries," Kazem Mousavi said.

"With the martyrdom of this 29-year-old young man, who was wounded in the chest and abdomen, the number of martyrs increased to two."

Iranian officials said Daesh was behind the second attack in less than a year on a major shrine in southern Shiraz and arrested a group of foreign nationals for the assault.

"The motivation of this Daeshi individual was to take revenge for the executions of the two ter-

rorists of the previous incident," said the governor of the province of Fars, where the shooting occurred.

Iranian media also pointed out that Daesh-K, the Khorasan affiliate of the terrorist group, had last month appeared to threaten Iran for the execution of two of its operatives.

Speaking on Monday, Ramezan Sharif, the spokesperson of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), said: "The goals of Daesh and other terrorists against the national interests and people of Iran are intertwined," and vowed that "we will give a decisive response to the terrorists".

A lone gunman, identified as Rahmatollah Nowruzof from Tajikistan, entered the Shah Cheragh Shrine on Sunday evening and opened fire on pilgrims and staff, martyring one and injuring several others.

Several people were taken to the hospital in critical condition, with at least one person falling into a coma, reports have said.

The shrine, one of the holiest in Shia Islam, was also breached on October 26, 2022, when an armed terrorist entered the compound with an assault rifle, martyring 13 and injuring 40 before being shot dead.

For that attack, which Iranian officials also called a "terrorist" operation, two men from neighboring Afghanistan were convicted of being Daesh agents and executed in early June.

Three more men were also tried and given prison sentences ranging from five to 25 years for working with the armed group, which claimed responsibility for the attack, and was also responsible for coordinated attacks in Tehran in 2017.

Sunday's shooter was appre-

hended at the scene by members of the shrine's staff and security personnel.

The Tasnim news agency on Monday quoted Fars chief justice Mousavi as saying that 10 people have so far been arrested on suspicion of being involved in the shooting, all of whom were foreign nationals.

"The safe house of the terrorists has also been discovered," he said without elaborating.

After travelling to the shrine on Monday, Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said the assailant was being directed from abroad "as part of a network".

The minister castigated international organizations and so-called rights advocates for remaining silent on the attack, saying their silence fuels terrorism.

"Last year, we witnessed a similar incident in the holy shrine, where a group of our loved ones were martyred. All international bodies and the countries claiming to be advocating human rights remained silent. Their silence promotes such terrorist acts," Vahidi told reporters.

"We will wait to see their reaction to this terrorist incident. Of course, it is predicted that they will remain tight-lipped about the terrorist act and will not show a reaction."

Vahidi blamed the assault on Iran's "sworn enemies," who wrongly think that they can endanger the country's security and stability with their "cowardly" acts.

The minister pledged severe punishment against those who cooperated, supported, and participated in the attack.

Parliament speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf said the nation expects the judiciary to swiftly punish the perpetrators of the horrible crime.

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South American Anthropologists Declare Support for Palestine

RIO DE JANEIRO (Middle East Monitor) -- Participants at the Mercosur Anthropology Conference in Rio de Janeiro have declared their solidarity with the Palestinian people and the necessity to raise awareness of the crimes against the indigenous population of Palestine since the 1948 Nakba.

The conference brought together anthropologists from countries across Latin America at the Fluminense Federal University, south of Rio de Janeiro, earlier this month under the theme "Reconnections and challenges from the global south".

The participants shared research experiences and professional anthropological practices from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and other countries.

"We affirm the commitment to remember the damage caused by ethnic cleansing in the 20th century, and declare our solidarity with the Palestinian people," they said.

"This is a public and academic commitment to the fight against racism. The construction of walls, checkpoints and everyday means of occupation and the subordination of autochthonous populations

represents a perverse 21st century repetition of apartheid's heinous practices."

Debate at the conference focused on decolonization of societies taxed by permanent war, suffering the processes of dehumanization wherein there is a "constant threat" to dignity and life.

This was the fourteenth such gathering of anthropologists under the banner of the South American trade bloc known as Mercosur. The conference sought to celebrate and strengthen the ties between people, groups and institutions and was attended by anthro-

pology researchers, students and professionals from Brazil and other countries across Latin America.

"New connections have also become necessary to overcome the existing 'walls' between the academic community and society in general," it was pointed out, "in addition to the exchange of knowledge and experiences between academics, public managers and social movements."

Ever since its creation in 1991, Mercosur's main objective has been to promote a common space that generates business and knowledge

through the competitive integration of national economies into the international market. As a result, it has established multiple agreements with countries or groups of countries. The "Southern Common Market" between Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay make up 76 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Latin America.

The anthropological study of the relationship between society and nature in Brazil has been revitalized.

Brazil says it is a multicultural society and most citizens are

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