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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Sheikh Zakzaky's Efforts to Prevent Internecine War in West Africa

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Most world countries are divided by imaginary lines on the political maps by the colonial powers, including several West African states, especially Niger and Nigeria, which the US and France are now plotting to embroil in an unwarranted war whose casualties will be the Muslim people sharing the same ethnicity and language, such as Hausa, in order to tighten the Paris-Washington hold on the rich natural resources of the region, particularly uranium, gold, and petroleum. This was the gist of the latest message released by Nigeria's leading Islamic scholar, Sheikh Ibrahim az-Zakzaky, in warning to war designs by certain neighbouring countries following the recent ouster in Niamey of a Western-sponsored president whom the overwhelming majority of the people of Niger do not want to be reinstalled.

"It is clear that this is not our war; it is a war [waged by] the US and France," said the prominent scholar on Saturday while addressing Islamic Seminary students in Abuja.

He pointed out that although Niger has closed its airspace, French aircraft still pass through, noting that they also maintain terrorist camps across the country that are the source of attacks waged by the Boko Haram Daesh-linked terrorists.

Sheikh Zakzaky said the terrorists on behalf of the western powers launch attacks and steal mineral resources (gold and uranium) to be subsequently shared by the stakeholders.

He also expressed concerns about the potential employment of such terrorists to launch assaults on Nigeria and make it look like the new rulers in Niger are responsible.

This means, any military action on the borders of the two countries will be the handiwork of France and the US – not Nigeria, and not Niger.

The IMN Leader, who is known for his foresight, said the two colonialist powers could trigger a 'tribal' conflict within Niger, just like they have already done in Sudan, among various ethnic groups there.

On July 26, a military coup in Niamey supported by the people, toppled President Mohamed Bazoum who is in detention since then and is facing trial for committing treason against Niger.

A group of pro-western West African states, known as ECOWAS, have hinted at military intervention in Niger to try to reinstall Bazoum, while Mali and Burkina Faso which also share borders with Niger, have denounced foreign intervention and announced support for the new rulers in Niamey.

The two countries reportedly dispatched warplanes Friday to Niger in a show of solidarity against possible military intervention by the ECOWAS and its NATO backer, the US and France.

Meanwhile, the people of Niger continue to hold rallies in various cities in support of the military rulers and their promise to soon facilitate the forming of an elected civilian government.

In such a situation any war launched by any neighbouring state on Niger will be disastrous for the whole of West African and will clearly be seen as a Paris-Washington bid to pit the mostly Muslim people against each other, as part of the plot to steal the rich natural resources of the region.

Raisi, Modi Agree to Speed Up Chabahar Development



TEHRAN -- President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have discussed the ways to enhance bilateral relations, mutual cooperation and the realization of the full potential of Chabahar port.

In a phone conversation, Raisi said Iran and India should specifically expand cooperation in the fields of transit and energy security.

The Iranian president underscored more interaction on the North-South Corridor.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to strengthen regional convergence and develop economic relations with all countries across the globe, particularly those in Asia, in this regard," Raisi said.

The president said Tehran and New Delhi both enjoy experiences in history that make for proper grounds for the expansion of ties at various levels.

The Indian prime minister, for his part, condemned the terrorist attack on the Shah Cheragh shrine in the Iranian city of Shiraz and extended his sympathy with the Iranian gov-

ernment, nation and the bereaved.

On August 13, a gunman started shooting at people at the Shah Cheragh holy shrine, killing at least two people and injuring several others. He was arrested at the scene and handed over to investigators for interrogation.

Modi hailed long-term cooperation with Iran and said the implementation of the joint project of Chabahar Port and turning it into a connectivity hub would lead to the region's development. He said India was ready to finalize the documents pertaining to the completion of the project.

Muhammad Jamshidi, the Iranian president's deputy chief of staff for political affairs, also posted a message on X social platform, formerly known as Twitter, with respect to the talks between Raisi and Modi.

"They agreed to quicken developing the Chabahar Port as a symbol of bilateral cooperation," the official tweeted.

And India's Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release that Raisi and Modi discussed matters

of bilateral and regional importance.

According to the ministry, the Indian prime minister said the relationship between Tehran and New Delhi is "underpinned by close historic and civilizational connections, including strong people-to-people contacts."

The two sides also exchanged views about cooperation at multilateral forums including expansion of the BRICS grouping of emerging economies ahead of its summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 22-24.

Iran is looking to join BRICS, the influential group of developing economies consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

According to South Africa, some 40 nations have shown interest in joining, either formally or informally, including Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Egypt.

The South African and Iranian foreign ministers recently signed a cooperation deal in Pretoria ahead of the BRICS summit.

'Coups Recurring Elements of U.S., UK Policies'

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday supporting dictators and organizing coup d'états in other countries are among the recurring themes of the foreign policies of the United States and United Kingdom.

"70 years ago, a national government in Iran was ousted by a coup backed by the U.S. and UK," Nasser Kana'ani wrote in a post on his X account, marking the anniversary of the 1953 Iranian coup, which was organized by American

and British spy agencies against the then-government of Prime Minister Muhammad Mosaddeq.

"Supporting dictators, meddling in domestic affairs, suppressing libertarian movements, and orchestrating coup d'états are recurring elements of American and British policies."

In August 1953, the British intelligence agency MI6 and its American counterpart CIA initiated the coup by the Iranian military, setting off a series of events, includ-

ing riots on the streets of the capital Tehran, which led to the overthrow and arrest of Mosaddeq.

The coup, which was followed by the temporary rule of CIA- and MI6-approved General Fazlollah Zahedi, enabled the monarch, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's return from exile in Italy. It also consolidated the monarch's rule for the following 26 years until the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, led by Imam Khomeini.

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Chinese Ambassador Visits West Azarbaijan Province

TEHRAN -- Chinese Ambassador to Tehran Chang Hua said Saturday his country's cooperation with Iran is at its best in various fields, voicing hope that both sides will further improve ties.

In a meeting Governor of West Azarbaijan province Muhammad Sadeq Motamedian, Chang said there are ample opportunities for cooperation in the areas of international trade with Europe, mining and the exchange of experience in the environmental protection.

The diplomat said a document has been signed to boost China's trade with Europe via Iran, noting that the capacities of West

Azarbaijan province and the Silk Road can be used in this regard.

He said Beijing and Tehran can also expand their cooperation in tourism given Iran's great tourist attractions.

Motamedian, in turn, said the West Azarbaijan province has "very considerable" capacities in the field of international trade and can be regarded as Iran's gateway to Europe.

The governor explained that the existence of a railway network in West Azarbaijan leading to Turkey and Europe can be used for the transfer of commodities from East Asia to Europe.

He said the Chabahar corridor to

Maku can be used to transfer the Chinese goods to Europe which would consequently reduce costs and the transportation duration.

The West Azarbaijan province has also the "best access to Europe, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea" which can be used to optimize trade cooperation, Motamedian emphasized.

"Several rich mines and agricultural and tourism capacities are among the other advantages that can be used to enhance cooperation with China," the governor said.

China is Iran's largest trade partner. Both countries are subject to

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The
Holy
Qur'an



How, seeing that if they get an advantage over you, they respect not in you the ties either of kinship or of covenant?

With their mouths they entice you, but their hearts are averse from you; and most of them are rebellious and wicked.

The Holy Qur'an (9:8)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:08
Evening (Maghreb)	19:07
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:27
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:56

Saudi Arabia Plans Long-Term Cooperation With Iran

TEHRAN -- Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian says Saudi Arabia has directed the launch of preliminary steps towards devising a "long-term cooperation agreement" with the Islamic Republic.

Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman ordered his Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan to take preliminary measures towards devising the framework of the long-term cooperation document between the countries, the top Iranian diplomat told reporters on his return from a two-day visit to Riyadh.

Upon completion, the document would be signed by the countries' high-ranking officials, Amir-Abdollahian added.

His visit, the first one to be made by an Iranian foreign minister to the kingdom in more than a decade, marked a milestone in the countries' relations.

Their ties were severed by Saudi Arabia in January 2016, after Iranian protesters, angered by the execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr by the Saudi government, stormed the Saudi Embassy in Tehran.

Back in March, however, the two sides clinched a reconciliation deal after several days of intensive negotiations hosted by China, and three months later, each side appointed a new ambassador to the other's capital.

Detailing his talks during the trip with the Saudi crown prince, the foreign minister said the two met for "90 minutes, more than 70 percent of which was focused on bilateral issues."

"Because we are of the opinion that all-out and sustainable relations should take shape between Tehran and Riyadh," Amir-Abdollahian noted.

The Iranian foreign minister said Saudi Arabia strove during the visit to emphasize that it had adopted a "new attitude" compared to the past.

The Saudi authorities, he noted, tried to display their readiness for opening up "a new page in the countries' relations."

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