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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Christmas Ought to Jolt Pro-Zionist Christian Conscience

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

This year's nativity ceremony in the Vatican, the seat of the Catholic sect of Christianity, features a baby Jesus draped in the Palestinian "Kafiyah" head covering both to signify his birthplace and the genocide underway in Gaza by his Zionist slanderers – ironically with the full support of the supposedly Christian regime of the US.

Pope Francis reportedly shed a few tears as he summoned up the courage to denounce the crimes against humanity of Israel.

He, however, failed to do full justice to the sufferings of the modern compatriots of the Virgin-born Messiah by not condemning the unchristian policies of the US and West European regimes, who have lauded Israel's destruction of churches, and Christian-run hospitals and schools, as well as the targeted killing of priests.

A glance at the land where Jesus lived, that is Palestine, shocks our hearts. The sufferings of the people of Palestine at the hands of the tormentors of Jesus, the Israelites, make us question as to why the Christian West does not object to the crimes against humanity of the Zionist usurpers of Palestine.

Today we witness the fatality toll of children, men and women in the Gaza Strip has exceeded 46,000 so far with over a hundred thousand others injured (most of them maimed for life), while there is no sign of ending the holocaust.

Hundreds of thousands of others in Gaza suffer from cold and hunger. To add insult to injuries, the US and European regimes that claim to be followers of the Virgin-Born Messiah, side with the Zionists against the oppressed Palestinians.

Is this what the Prophet of Peace taught? Are those claiming to be Christians really following the teachings of Jesus and his mother, the Virgin Mary (peace upon them)? Where is Christian conscience? Why does the Christian world side with the Zionists – the slanderers of Jesus and Mary and the heirs of the despicable Israelites that betrayed the Messiah to the Roman pagans?

These questions flash across our minds. The occasion of Christmas provides us an opportunity to contemplate on the message of Jesus by sifting facts from fiction.

To sum up, unless the leaders and politicians of the Christian World repent and return to the path of Jesus, pandemics, miseries, wars, bloodshed, and genocide will never end.

O Christians wake up. The Messiah is definitely displeased at your frozen conscience and has long disassociated with all those supporting the murderous Zionists while shamelessly claiming to be his followers.

Official: Iran's Capabilities Vast; Enemy's 'Maximum Pressure' Policies Failed Miserably



Head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations (R) Kamal Kharrazi speaks with Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network on Dec. 23, 2024.

TEHRAN - Head of the Islamic Republic's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Kamal Kharrazi has described the Islamic Republic's capabilities as extensive, noting how the United States and the country's other enemies' "maximum pressure" policies have failed in the face of its power.

"Our capabilities are vast, and our adversaries are well aware of our potential, both latent and active," Kharrazi told Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network on Monday night.

"These 'maximum pressure' campaigns have all failed miserably," he said, referring to how the former U.S. administration of Donald Trump would try to force the country into doing Washington's bidding under duress by taking it under sanctions and other coercive measures.

Kharrazi underlined the importance of strength and deterrence as essential components of Iran's response to such conspiracies, noting, "Since the country's Islamic

Revolution's inception, our path has always been one of resistance and empowerment."

The official, meanwhile, pointed to the Zionist regime's actions targeting the Islamic Republic simultaneously with the U.S. as a means of Tel Aviv's trying to adversely affect the country's nuclear energy activities and supposedly curtail its regional influence.

Alongside Washington, Tel Aviv has long been trying to "overthrow" the Islamic Republic, including through threatening the country's nuclear energy program and territory, he said.

Kharrazi was also asked if Tehran viewed the threats seriously, to which he said the concept of a joint American-Zionist plot aimed at targeting Iran was neither new nor surprising.

"These threats remain consistent, and we must resist them. We possess the capability to confront and respond to such threats, as we have done before," he underscored.

The official, however, warned that continuation of such hostile efforts entailed "natural response" on the part of Iran.

"Iran is targeted, it is natural for us to respond, as we have consistently done so far."

The official referred to the United States and the Zionist regime's push that resulted in the Syrian government's ouster earlier this month, citing Tel Aviv's intense bombings of the Arab country in the run-up to its overthrow as a case in point.

In addition, Washington's eagerness to see the Syrian government go was "evidenced by American officials' immediately heading to Damascus to meet with [the Arab country's new] opposition leaders and even canceling the bounty placed on the capture of Abu Mohammad al-Julani," head of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham militant group that ousted the Syrian government on the back of Israeli strikes and American support.

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Talks Underway to Reopen Iran, Syria Embassies

TEHRAN - The Iranian government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani has expressed Tehran's readiness to reopen its embassy in Damascus, amid challenges facing Syria two weeks after Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) militants took over the Arab country.

During a press conference on Tuesday, Mohajerani stated that Iran would pursue the matter through diplomatic channels.

"Our approach to reopening embassies is diplomatic, as it always has been, and we stand ready for this," she said.

"They are also prepared, and we are currently engaged in diplomatic talks for the reopening of embassies," she added.

After HTS militants seized control of Syria on December 8, which brought an end to Bashar al-As-

sad's 24-year presidency, the country continues to face significant challenges on both national and international fronts.

Syria's stability and future are threatened by various factors, including Israel's illegal occupation of Syrian territory, driven by its expansionist policies, and the persistent presence of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which are backed by the US, in the country's northern regions.

Additional challenges stem from the perpetration of human rights violations against minority groups by HTS militants, as well as escalating humanitarian crises, such as Syria's worsening food insecurity.

Mohajerani, echoing previous statements by other Iranian officials, stressed the importance of a Syrian government based on

the popular vote of its citizens, describing it as a key concern for Iran.

"Iran prioritizes safeguarding Syria's territorial integrity as a critical issue," she said.

Another critical concern, she noted, is preventing the rise and expansion of terrorism, as it significantly impacts both Syria and the entire region.

"Iran's objective is to protect Syria from the adverse effects of terrorism while ensuring that neighboring countries remain unharmed," the spokeswoman highlighted.

During a weekly press briefing in Tehran on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei also emphasized the Islamic Republic's unwavering commitment

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Ministry Rejects 'Absurd' Claims Iran Using Children as Proxies in Europe

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei has rejected claims that the country is using children as proxy forces to attack targets in Europe.

In a weekly press conference on Tuesday, Baghaei called the claims, which were first

raised in a report by Bloomberg over the weekend, as "absurd, shameful, and immoral".

The spokesman said the claims showed that making accusations against Iran had entered a new phase which he described as "preposterous and ridiculous".

"We have never had a proxy and do not need a proxy. Iran is Iran," said Baghaei.

Bloomberg claimed in a report on Saturday that Iran-affiliated groups have been recruiting local criminals, including minors, to target Jewish and Israeli institutions in Europe this year.

The Holy Qur'an

O ye who believe! take not for protectors your fathers and your brothers if they love infidelity above Faith: if any of you do so, they do wrong.

The Holy Qur'an (9:23)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:05
Evening (Maghreb)	17:17
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	07:12
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:42

Army Aviation Self-Sufficient in Making Modern Chopper Parts

TEHRAN - Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari says Iran Army Aviation has achieved remarkable progress in various fields, such as self-sufficiency in producing modern equipment and repairing different types of helicopter machinery. During a visit to assess the combat readiness, equipment, and operational capabilities of the first combat aviation base in Kermanshah on Tuesday, the commander stated that Iran Army Aviation of the Ground Forces has brought honor to the Army and holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Iran.

He continued that although the enemy has come to war with Iran with all its might, they could not make the slightest aggression against the sacred soil of the country. Brigadier General Heydari continued that the Ground Forces of Army Aviation have achieved remarkable progress in various fields, such as attaining self-sufficiency in producing modern equipment and repairing various types of helicopter machinery.

Envoy: Iran Attaches Great Importance to Ties With Iraqi Kurdistan

TEHRAN - The head of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Nechirvan Barzani, received Faramarz Asadi, the new Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Erbil.

During the meeting, Nechirvan Barzani promised full support from relevant Kurdistan Regional authorities to facilitate the consul general's mission, local Iraqi Kurdistan media reported.

For his part, Asadi expressed his pleasure at taking up his diplomatic position in the Kurdistan Region and stressed that "the Islamic Republic of Iran views its long-standing relations with the Kurdistan Region with great importance."

He also conveyed his country's desire to improve bilateral relations across all sectors.

The meeting also entails talks about the latest regional developments and their potential repercussions.

The diplomatic meeting highlights the enduring importance of the Kurdistan Region in wider regional politics.