

IRGC Intercepts Ship With 4 Million Liters of Illegal Fuel

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said Wednesday its Navy seized a ship carrying 4 million liters of smuggled fuel in the Persian Gulf. Brig. Gen. Gholamshahi, commander of the IRGC's First Naval Region, said that the vessel, crewed by 16 non-Iranian personnel, was preparing to leave Iranian territorial waters when it was intercepted. He said the ship had received fuel from smaller vessels and intended to transfer it to larger ships outside the Persian Gulf. "The vessel engaged in organized fuel smuggling," Gholamshahi said, adding that the ship and crew had been referred to judicial authorities for further investigation. He said the seized fuel would be handled according to legal procedures. Gholamshahi stressed that the IRGC Navy prioritizes cracking down on fuel smuggling and protecting national resources, and any attempts to bypass regulations would be met with swift action.



Kayhan International

Tehran Welcomes Saudi-Yemeni Prisoner Exchange

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Wednesday welcomed the prisoner exchange agreement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. He praised Oman's role in facilitating talks between the Yemeni parties and expressed hope that the deal would pave the way for resolving remaining issues, achieving peace and stability across Yemen, and preserving the country's unity. The exchange addresses one of the most sensitive issues in the Yemen crisis and is seen as a test of parties' readiness for broader political and humanitarian solutions.

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Viewpoint

More Churches in Iran Than Jesus' Birthplace

Jesus in the Holy Qur'an

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

Today happens to December 25, celebrated in the Christian West as the birthday of the Virgin-born Messiah, although they know that it is not the day when Jesus (peace upon him) was born – almost four centuries before pagan Europe was converted to Paul the Hellenized Jew's version of Trinitarian Christianity – we wish a merry Christmas to all devout celebrants.

We bring to the notice of our readers the facts and realities of one of God Almighty's Five Greatest Messengers – unfortunately turned into a godhead with his monotheistic message badly distorted.

Here are some of the numerous Ayahs of God's final revelation to the human race, the Holy Qur'an, regarding the real Jesus:

"And when Allah will say, 'O Jesus son of Mary! Was it you who said to the people, "Take me and my mother for gods besides Allah?"' He will say, 'Immaculate are You! It does not behove me to say what I have no right to [say]. Had I said it, You would certainly have known it: You know whatever is in myself, and I do not know what is in Your Self. Indeed, You (O' God) are Knower of all that is Unseen.

"I did not say to them [anything] except what You had commanded me [to say]: "Worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." And I was a witness to them so long as I was among them. But when You had taken me away, You Yourself were watchful over them, and You are witness to all things." (5:116 & 117)

This is what the One and Only God, Who is too glorious to have kith, kin, or partners, says in *Surah al-Ma'edah* of the universal scripture for guidance of all, which also states in clear words:

"And for their saying, 'We killed the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the Prophet of Allah' – though they did not kill him nor did they crucify him, but so it was made to appear to them. Indeed those who differ concerning him are surely in doubt about him; they do not have any knowledge of that beyond following conjectures, and certainly they did not kill him." (4:157)

This Heavenly Book, which unlike the tampering the Torah and the Evangel have underwent, has remained remarkably intact without the least blemish ever since God Almighty revealed it to His Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), has preserved a most important tidings of the Messiah:

"And when Jesus son of Mary said, 'O Children of Israel! Indeed I am the Messenger of Allah to you, to confirm what is before me of the Torah, and to give the good news of the Messenger who will come after me, whose name is Ahmad." (61:6)

"Ahmad" or "Muhammad", which mean the "Highly Praised One" is Arabic for "Hmda", the Hebrew/Aramaic word used by Prophet Jesus (AS) and which was translated as "Paraclete" in the Greek version of the Gospel and retranslated to "Comforter" in the English translation of St. John's Gospel.

Interestingly, in Islamic texts, as well as in the Gospel of St. Barnabas – banned and concealed by the Church Fathers – preserves the monotheistic message of the Messiah, as is evident by the following passages:

"O Jesus, I am your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers. My name is One, and I am the Unique Who created everything individually. Everything is My made and everything will be returned to Me.

"O Jesus, you are the Messiah according to My order. You create (things) from mud on My permission and enliven the dead on My words. Long for Me and fear Me. You will not find anyone that protects you from Me, except Me.

"I declare that you are My servant and the son of My she-servant. Offer to Me the nafilas (prayers in addition to the obligatory ones). Trust in Me and I will protect you. Do not follow anyone other than Me, lest I disappoint you."

These words of Almighty Allah speak about the Virgin-born Messiah with whom the 25th of December has been wrongly associated ever since Christianized Rome which had no clue to the real identity of Jesus (AS), decided to replace the Bacchanal depravities of this day with what it started calling "Christmas".

The various versions of the Gospels that are in circulation amongst the myriad sects that form Christianity today do not claim that Jesus was sent to other than the Israelites who had long deviated from the message of Prophet Moses (AS).

The holy Qur'an, which presents the true account of the Son of Mary, says his to the ever-rebellious Israelites had explicit instructions to reprimand them for their erring ways and to give tidings of the Last and Greatest Messenger.

Here I present a couple of passages referring to God's commandments to the Messiah in this regard:

"O Jesus! Say to the unjust Israelites: You have cleaned your faces but sullied your hearts. Are you deceived against Me? Or are you challenging Me? You are odorizing yourselves for people of this world while your interiors are same as stinky carrions, as if you are dead people!"

No wonder the Israelites – I mean those who rejected the mission of the Messiah and became Zionists – continue to slander Prophet Jesus (AS) and his chaste mother, Mary (SA), whose spotless purity the holy Qur'an confirms.

In view of these facts, it is rather strange for the Christian World to kowtow to the despicable Zionists and the illegal entity called Israel, while indulging in the most absurd phobia against Islam and Muslims, as is evident by the US-supported genocide in Gaza, the almost daily bombing of Lebanon, and last June's 12-day war imposed on Iran.

It seems, depravity has deprived minds in the West of any of spirituality and moral values – obvious from their Bacchanal celebration of Christmas.

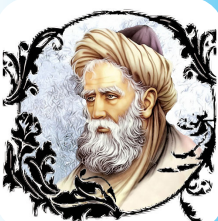
It will not be out of context to cite here some more passages about God's commandments to Jesus from the Gospel of Barnabas, but completely erased from other versions of the Bible.

"O Son of Mary, that you bring news to the Children of Israel of the Master of the messengers and My beloved, who is Ahmad, having a red camel and a face like the moon, who is a shining light, a pure heart, courageous, venerably modest. Indeed, he is the mercy to the worlds, and master of the children of Adam on the day of his meeting Me, the most honored of the foremost, and the last of My messengers. (He is) an Arab, a trustworthy person, one committed to My religion, one patient for My sake and one who struggles by his hand against the idolaters for the defence of My religion. Order them to affirm him, believe in him, follow him and help him."

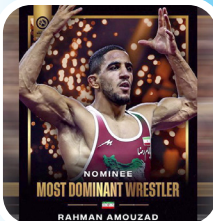
Of course, many of the Israelites did accept the truth of Islam, became Muslim, and even Arabized, while a fraction of a minority continues to indulge in the most satanic ways.

Prophet Jesus (peace upon him), will return in the end times to assist Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA), 12th and Last Infallible Heir, Imam Mahdi (AS), in the global government of peace and justice.

Remembering Where Persian Poetry Begins



Rahman Amouzad Named World's 'Most Dominant' Freestyle Wrestler of 2025



Hamas Rejects Disarmament, Calls for Stronger Ceasefire Guarantees



Files of Shame: Epstein Papers Rock Trump White House



A statue featuring President Donald Trump and Jeffrey Epstein dancing, titled 'In Honor of Friendship Month,' appears on the east end of the National Mall in Washington on Sept. 23, 2025.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The latest release of the Jeffrey Epstein files by the U.S. Department of Justice on Tuesday, has once again thrust the disgraced financier's network into the national spotlight, igniting a storm of scrutiny, political maneuvering, and social media sleuthing.

The trove, consisting of nearly 30,000 pages of documents, images, and video clips, details the tangled social connections, flight

records, and personal interactions of Epstein and his associates—prompting renewed attention on figures who once moved comfortably in his orbit, including President Donald Trump.

Unlike previous disclosures, this batch has revealed more direct references to Trump, including subpoenas sent to Mar-a-Lago and flight logs documenting his use of Epstein's private jet.

Among them are records show-

ing Trump flew on Epstein's plane at least eight times in the 1990s, sometimes with Epstein confidante Ghislaine Maxwell on board.

One flight reportedly included only Epstein, Trump, and a 20-year-old woman whose name was redacted, while other flights included women who may have been witnesses in Maxwell's federal sex trafficking case.

Trump's reaction has been consistent with his longstanding ap-

proach to controversy: deflection, indignation, and public grievance. On Monday, speaking to reporters about the files, he dismissed the ongoing scrutiny, insisting, "I thought that was finished," and framing the release of documents as a distraction from his policy agenda.

He also sought to redirect blame, claiming that a "lot of people are very angry that pictures are being released of other people that really had nothing to do with Epstein."

Yet, the backlash is hardly aimed at the individuals depicted in the documents; it is directed at the Department of Justice for failing to meet a legal deadline imposed by a new transparency law passed in November 2025. That law required full disclosure of the files by December 19.

While Trump's administration had previously resisted public release, citing national security and privacy concerns, the Biden-led Department of Justice ultimately moved forward to comply with the statute, releasing the files—albeit with extensive redactions meant to protect victims.

The contrasting approaches of key figures could not be more stark. Former President Bill Clinton, another individual who had social ties to Epstein, issued a statement through his spokesperson calling for full transparency.

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'Dictation, Not Negotiation': Iran Rejects U.S. Call for Talks

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday reacted sharply to recent statements by U.S. officials claiming Washington is ready to begin negotiations, rejecting those claims and describing the U.S. approach as coercive rather than diplomatic.

In a statement published in English, Araghchi addressed a new U.S. definition of diplomacy, saying: "A new definition of diplomacy by the U.S.: 'We are ready for a meaningful negotiation but forget about your internationally recognized rights.'"

He continued: "This is dictation and not negotiation, let alone a meaningful one."

Referring to recent developments, Araghchi stated that "the world witnessed how we were negotiating when the U.S. opted to open fire on our people and torpedoed diplomacy."

He added: "We did what we always do: resist and confront those who assault us, and make sure they regret it."

Araghchi also rejected U.S. claims of pursuing diplomacy through military pressure, stating: "'Extending the hand of di-

plomacy" does not entail sending bombers and then crow about their failure as a success.'

He concluded his remarks by urging Washington to change course, saying: "Try real and honest diplomacy instead of attempting to deceive the world."

Separately, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei also responded to remarks made by the U.S. representative to the United Nations and claims about "extending a hand of diplomacy."

He said the rhetoric used by the American side was "merely a propaganda game aimed at misleading public opinion," adding that unlike the United States, Iran has consistently remained committed to "meaningful diplomacy."

The United Nations Security Council held a session Tuesday morning to review the twentieth report of the UN Secretary-General on UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses and monitors the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

During the meeting, the Security Council chamber was divided

between supporters and opponents, with representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Russian Federation, and China explicitly opposing the inclusion of a resolution whose lifespan, according to the JCPOA text, has already expired.

During the session, U.S. representative Morgan Ortagus repeated claims regarding the causes of the stalemate in negotiations over sanctions relief.

She said: "The United States remains ready for official talks with Iran—but only if Tehran is prepared for direct and meaningful dialogue."

Ortagus went on to reiterate demands that "no enrichment should take place inside Iran," describing this as a fixed U.S. principle. She also claimed that "in both administrations, President Trump extended a hand of diplomacy toward Iran," without referencing the U.S. policy of maximum pressure during Donald Trump's first term, the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, or military action against Iranian territory during Trump's second term.

In response, Baghaei told IRNA:

"What the American representative said is neither a 'proposal' nor a diplomatic action; rather, it is a repetition of excessive demands that have no basis or logic in international law or the non-proliferation regime."

He emphasized that Iran is a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and that its right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including enrichment, "is an undeniable right."

Baghaei added that the U.S. statements represent an attempt to evade responsibility, stating that Washington must be held accountable for its "clear violation of the law and its attack on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities."

Baghaei reiterated that American talk of diplomacy is "nothing more than a publicity stunt designed to deceive public opinion." He contrasted this with Iran's position, saying:

"Unlike Iran, which has always been committed to 'meaningful' diplomacy, the United States has shown that it has neither goodwill nor seriousness."

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