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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Iran to Abort US-Zionist Meddling in Zangezour

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Would the Islamic Republic, whose legacy is firmly based on Islam and the indisputable historical inheritance of the Iranian people from the past millennia, remain a passive spectator to the dangerous meddling near its northwestern borders by a rank outside power, the US, which has a history of disturbing the peace and stability of regions around the world wherever it sets foot?

This is a million dollar question circulating amongst the patriotic and pious sectors of the Iranian society, following an audacious accord forced by the villain of the piece, Donald Trump, on heads of state of a seemingly helpless Armenia and an Azerbaijan Republic serving the vested interests of the avowed enemy of Islam and Muslims, the illegitimate Zionist entity.

According to analysts, if the Zangezur strip of Armenia's Syunik Province were to become a US-NATO corridor linking the Azerbaijan Republic to the autonomous region of Nakhchivan, it would constitute an occupation of Armenian land and cut Armenia off from direct land access to its important southern trade partner, Iran.

Many wonder how such adverse developments occur in a region where the Azeri people living across the political borders of modern Iran regard themselves as followers of Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) Blessed Household, the Ahl al-Bayt, and are proud to be an inseparable part of Iranian culture, history, and society – along with the Armenians, though Christians, but linked to the heritage of Persia.

How come Zangezur, which along with the rest of the Caucasus where "Pax Persiana" prevailed for almost two thousand years in the face of incursions by the Romans, the Arabs, the Turks, and the Mongols till its occupation in 1813 AD by Tsarist Russia through the humiliating Treaty of Golestan forced upon the decadent and incompetent Qajar regime of Tehran, has turned into an American-Zionist enclave against the two century long interests of even Moscow itself?

Yes, Iran and the Iranians as well as the Armenian nationalists and the devout Azeri Muslims are fully resolved to abort the US-Israeli incursion into the region, no matter if some weak and unprincipled leaders plan to sell their countries to outsiders.

The most rational and decisive response in this regard was from by Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, the doyen of Iranian diplomacy, who said "the southern Caucasus is important to Iran's security and not a no man's land for Donald Trump to lease as a real estate agent."

He warned that "such a corridor will become a graveyard for Trump's mercenaries, not a route owned by the US president."

Dr. Velayati is currently the senior adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and for 16 long years had served as the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic from the crucial years of the 8-year US imposed Iraqi war to post-war progress in Iran when the cold war ended between Washington and Moscow with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

He said about the supposed 99-year lease of Zangezur to the US: "The Caucasus is one of the world's most sensitive regions. Iran has always opposed the creation of the Zangezur corridor, as it would alter the region's geopolitics, redraw borders, and lead to Armenia's disintegration; hence the Armenian people strongly oppose it."

Saying Iran will prevent the creation of an American corridor in the Caucasus with or without Moscow, he pointed out that "the Zangezur corridor is not a mere trade route, but a political plot against Iran and other neighbouring states, since NATO would meddle in this region and lie between Iran and Russia like a viper."

In view of these timely warnings, Iran which a decade earlier had flexed its military muscles on its northwest borders to abort a similar plot, has every right to take precautionary measures to keep away NATO since prevention is better than treatment – similar to Russian President Vladimir Putin's repeated warnings that Moscow will take action if Ukraine intends to join NATO.

Pezeshkian: No Action Without Leader's Approval



President Pezeshkian, flanked by his cabinet members, speaks to reporters on the occasion of Journalists Day after a session on Sunday.

TEHRAN — President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday underscored the unwavering centrality of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in Iran's governance, emphasizing that no government initiative would proceed without full alignment with his guidance.

"Any action contrary to the Supreme Leader's opinion should not be done, and I will not do it," Pezeshkian told media executives gathered to mark Journalist Day. "Every action will be done with the satisfaction and coordination of the Supreme Leader."

The president used the platform to clarify his administration's guiding principles: full institutional cohesion, deference to religious authority, and national unity.

Describing Ayatollah Khamenei as "the pillar and foundation of the system," Pezeshkian stressed that "no policy in international rela-

tions and negotiations is pursued without coordination with the Supreme Leader. This is not rhetoric but the basis of national cohesion and the foundation of the government's action."

Pezeshkian's remarks come as Iran continues to navigate a complex internal landscape marked by economic strain and political diversity, as well as a fraught regional and international environment. The president acknowledged these pressures while reinforcing his vision for a unified front built upon revolutionary principles and Islamic values.

"Iranian society is diverse. People hold different views — even in my own family," he said, reflecting on personal experiences. "My children were present during the hardest moments, including bombings and the 12-day war, yet on some issues they hold different views. We all have our own perspectives, and

this difference is natural."

However, Pezeshkian drew a clear line between acceptable diversity and deviation from core values. "The important thing is that we believe in the principles — if someone does not believe in the principles, it is a different matter."

Those principles, he explained, are rooted in the Islamic Republic's ideological foundation. Disagreement on minor or secondary issues is inevitable — and even healthy — but the nation must remain united on its fundamentals.

"If the foundations and framework of national cohesion are damaged, the country will be harmed," he warned, recalling efforts by foreign adversaries to destabilize Iran during periods of crisis. "During the war and bombings, the enemies hoped to create riots and divisions, and today they still hold hope for this."

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Official Calls for Careful Approach to Foreign Influence in Caucasus

TEHRAN — Mehdi Sanai, senior political advisor to President Masoud Pezeshkian, expressed Iran's cautious stance on Sunday regarding the recent agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan to establish a transport corridor near the Iranian border.

While Sanai welcomed peace efforts and the reopening of regional transit routes, he emphasized Tehran's concerns over the involvement of extra-regional powers in the South Caucasus.

"Iran supports peace among its neighbors and has no objection to lifting blockades on transit routes," Sanai said in a post on the social media platform X. "However, we are sensitive to

plans that bring foreign powers and organizations into the security and geopolitical framework of the historical Caucasus region and warn against the risk of escalating tensions through such maneuvers."

Sanai's remarks come in the wake of comments made on Saturday by Ali Akbar Velayati, senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who strongly condemned the so-called "Zangezur corridor" project. The corridor, intended to link Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhchivan through Armenia, was granted to the United States under an agreement signed in Washington last week.

Velayati warned that the plan poses a serious threat to regional security, saying, "The security in the Southern Caucasus is at stake with the implementation of this plot. Iran has stressed that with or without Russia, it will act to preserve stability in the region."

He further criticized the initiative as a vehicle for expanding U.S. and NATO influence near Iran's northern borders and dismissed former U.S. President Donald Trump's characterization of the corridor as a peace-building effort as "meaningless." Velayati also argued that the corridor could lead to Armenia's fragmentation and is opposed by many Armenians.

Terrorists Eliminated, Police Officer Martyred in Southeast Iran

TEHRAN — At least one police officer and three armed terrorists were killed in a confrontation in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan on Sunday, local officials confirmed.

The incident occurred when a group of terrorists attempted to storm a police station in Saravan city but were met with a swift and decisive response from Iranian security forces. The fallen officer was iden-

tified as Khodadad Bagheri, a devoted father of four.

Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Es'haghi, chief of police for Sistan and Baluchestan, reported that security forces killed three assailants, apprehended four others, and confiscated two vehicles along with firearms including a Kalashnikov rifle and a handgun.

"The police force remains steadfast in confronting the

malicious activities of traitorous bandits and is committed to safeguarding the safety and security of our citizens," Brig. Gen. Es'haghi said.

The province, which shares borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, has been a persistent hotspot for violent clashes involving Iranian security forces, takfiri terrorist groups, and drug trafficking networks. Iranian authorities have con-

sistently maintained control over the border regions, successfully repelling numerous attacks orchestrated by foreign-backed terrorist groups.

The militant group Jaish al-Adl, operating from bases in Pakistan, has claimed responsibility for multiple attacks targeting both civilians and security personnel in recent years within Sistan and Baluchestan.

The Holy Qur'an

And from among those who are round about you of the dwellers of the desert there are hypocrites, and from among the people of Medina (also); they are stubborn in hypocrisy; you do not know them; We know them; We will chastise them twice then shall they be turned back to a grievous chastisement.

The Holy Qur'an (9.101)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:10
Evening (Maghreb)	19:18
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:20
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:47

Israel Detains Soldier Accused of Spying for Iran

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) — Israeli police and the internal security agency Shin Bet have announced the arrest of a soldier accused of collaborating with Iranian intelligence and carrying out security missions on their behalf.

The detained soldier is alleged to have maintained contact with Iranian intelligence services during his military service.

Israeli authorities claim that the individual executed several missions at the request of Iranian operatives. Security officials in Israel described the incident as "a matter of serious and dangerous dimensions."

In recent months, Israel has reported multiple arrests of individuals suspected of spying for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Last November, Israeli media disclosed that, due to an increasing number of detainees suspected of espionage for Iran, the Israeli prison system designated a special wing for high-security inmates involved in such cases.

This specially designed section aims to enhance security measures and manage high-risk political prisoners, reflecting the prison authority's response to the heightened challenges of detaining security-sensitive individuals amid ongoing regional tensions.