

In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Has the US Occupation of Iraq Really Ended?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Reports from Baghdad indicate that the last American soldier has finally left Iraq 23 years after the US had invaded and occupied the country by ousting its "no longer of any use agent Saddam" on fears that the Iraqi Muslim masses would take over their homeland from the tottering Ba'ath minority regime.

The US troop withdrawal is indeed a welcome development and the people are rejoicing all over the country, but the question arises: Has Iraq really rid itself of the despised Americans?

The answer is obvious. Sadly, it hasn't. This is clear by the continued control of oil-rich Iraq's hydrocarbon resources, and more important its revenues by the crafty Americans.

Moreover, the current cabinet in Baghdad, especially Prime Minister Ali Faleh az-Zaidi, seems more inclined towards preserving the vested interests of the US than the interests and welfare of the Iraqi Muslim people.

In other words, Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, its dedicated defenders, its religious identity, and relations with age-old neighbours, especially those who saved the Land of the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates from turning into 'Takfiristan', no longer appear to of much interest to the current Chief Executive.

If this is part of the Washington-dictated agenda of Baghdad, then it is indeed a historical blunder and admittance of the continued US control of the policies of Iraq even if all American occupied soldiers have left the country.

The Iraqi Muslim masses, however, are closely monitoring the situation and will not allow the government in Baghdad to be indifferent to their interests and ungrateful to their most trustworthy ally, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The real representatives of the Iraqi people, that is, Hashd ash-Sha'bi or the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), have also not minced words when they say that any attempt to force them to handover their lawfully and legitimately weapons of defence of the country, is an American plot to dismantle the defences of Iraq and dangerously expose it to Zionist designs.

These are the facts that Prime Minister Zaidi should realize, and before it is too late (not for the Iraqi people but for his own political survival), summon up the courage to tell the murderous criminal Donald Trump to stay out of the country's affairs.

An independent Iraq should be in charge of its own resources and revenues, rather than allowing the sworn enemy of its Muslim people to control them.

Let us see how the situation unfolds, especially regarding the role of Iraq's Resistance Movement in the country affairs and the ability of the government to discern friend from foe, and that includes sincere cooperation and coordination with time-honoured and time-tested friend, Iran.

Pezeshkian: Strait of Hormuz Is 'Beating Pulse' of National Security

The Iranian president calls the Strait of Hormuz a vital artery for regional security and the global economy, urging cooperation among Persian Gulf states to protect maritime trade and stability.



TEHRAN -- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday that the Strait of Hormuz holds a special place in the security and economy of the region and the world, describing the strategic waterway as the "beating pulse" of the country's vital arteries.

In a message marking World Maritime Day, Pezeshkian said the sea is not merely a body of water for Iran but "a divine blessing and part of the history, identity and life of this land, and one of the most important capacities of the country's present and future."

"The Iranian nation has lived with the sea since ancient times, communicated with the world through it, and benefited from its capacities for trade, development and progress," he said.

"Today, the sea and the maritime industry are one of the important

pillars of economic growth, regional development, employment and connection with the world."

Pezeshkian noted that Iran, with its extensive coastlines in the north and south and its position on important regional communication routes, is one of the centers of maritime economy and navigation in the world.

"Throughout history, thanks to the high efforts of seafarers, we today have a valuable position in this industry and can transfer our experiences to others."

He stressed that security and development are inseparable. "Security of the sea, ports and transport lines provides the ground for the flow of trade and economic activity, and economic development strengthens the country's national position and power."

"The Islamic Republic, relying on

the capability and experience of its naval forces and all those involved in the maritime domain, pursues its responsibility in maintaining the security and stability of the region's waterways and ensuring the security of shipping and maritime trade with seriousness," he said.

"The Strait of Hormuz, as one of the most important maritime passages, is the beating pulse of the country's vital arteries and holds a special place in the security and economy of the region and the world," Pezeshkian said.

"Our view of this strategic waterway is responsible and based on preserving the security, stability and interests of the countries of the region."

"We believe that sustainable security in the Persian Gulf and its waterways depends, more than

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Iran Warns UAE Over Baseless Claims on Iranian Islands

TEHRAN -- Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Rezaei warned regional countries on Wednesday against making baseless claims over Iranian islands, saying hosting the "Butcher of Gaza" would not bring favorable consequences.

In an Arabic-language post on his X account, Rezaei said, "Just as hosting US military bases has not brought you security, hosting the 'Butcher of Gaza' will also not have favorable consequences".

He added, "Learn from the last war, stop igniting wars, and cease

issuing baseless claims regarding the Iranian islands".

The warning followed repeated claims by the UAE representative at the United Nations General Assembly regarding the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb.

Nasser Asadi, Iran's representative at the UN General Assembly, responded by emphasizing Iran's decisive and complete sovereignty over the islands, stating they "have always been, are, and will be an inseparable part of Iran's territory, and Iran's sovereignty over them is

not negotiable".

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi also rejected the claims on X, saying "the repetition of baseless claims about the Iranian islands, even from the podium of the General Assembly, does not change reality."

He urged Emirati officials to "adhere to the requirements of good neighborliness and the historical and legal realities of the region".

Iran's sovereignty over the three islands predates the formation of

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Two Men Involved in Martyring Four Security Forces Executed

TEHRAN -- Two men convicted of involvement in the killing of four security forces during foreign-backed January riots in Iran's northeastern city of Mashhad have been executed, Iran's Judiciary says.

According to the Judiciary's Media Center, Ali Hemmati and Majid Nik-Andish, field operatives involved in the killings, were executed early on Wednesday.

During interrogation and preliminary proceedings, Hemmati confessed to carrying out acts of sabotage.

In court, he described his actions, saying, "On Janu-

ary 8, 2026, I went with Majid Nik-Andish to a chain store, attacked it and caused damage. I lit a Molotov cocktail and set the store on fire. In Tabarsi 4 [Alley], we saw a group of people beating two Basij members. Majid and I also went there, and with a knife I was carrying, I stabbed one of the Basij members twice in the side. Majid then took the knife from me and stabbed the other Basij member twice in the side."

Hemmati also said that he stopped a truck carrying soil, unloaded its cargo into the street and blocked traffic.

The Judiciary said Nik-Andish

was carrying three Molotov cocktails during the riots. In his testimony, he said, "I took part in the unrest on January 8 and 9, 2026, and was carrying a knife. We attacked a store. I filmed the unrest and sent the footage to a number abroad."

Nik-Andish also told judicial authorities that he kicked a person who was lying on the ground, set fire to a bank, and damaged public property along his way.

He further said that he and Hemmati attacked a store, loaded merchandise into a vehicle, and took the goods to Hemmati's home.

Following Nik-Andish's statements to the prosecutor, a team of officers searched Hemmati's home and, according to the Judiciary, discovered merchandise belonging to the store.

The Judiciary said that following the investigation and court proceedings and based on the defendants' confessions, the court sentenced Hemmati and Nik-Andish to death.

The unrest began late in December last year at Tehran's historic Grand Bazaar, where a gathering of shopkeepers ignited a wave of demonstrations.

In the days that followed, the government intervened, and

direct talks between President Masoud Pezeshkian and trade guilds eased tensions, bringing a relative calm by early January.

But this quiet was short-lived. On January 8 and 9, the riots surged once more; this time, spurred by overt foreign interference, most notably statements from US President Donald Trump.

According to the Iranian Judiciary's Media Center, during the U.S.-Israeli-backed coup attempt on January 8-9, 2026, widespread damage was inflicted upon the country, and thousands of innocent citizens and security forces were martyred.

The Holy Qur'an

In front of such a one is Hell, and he is given, for drink, boiling fetid water.

The Holy Qur'an (14-16)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:54
Evening (Maghreb)	18:06
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:59
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:35

Senior MP: Missiles, Geopolitics, People Defeated Enemy

TEHRAN -- The head of the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said on Wednesday that the enemy suffered a crushing defeat in a 40-day war, citing American admissions, and that the Islamic Republic has emerged victorious in all arenas by relying on a triad of missiles, geopolitics and the people.

Ebrahim Azizi made the remarks at a conference on the experience of the Sacred Defense and Iran's new defense strategy held at Shiraz University.

Recalling recent battles and what he described as explicit American admissions, Azizi said: "The triad of missiles, geopolitics and the people prevented the enemy from achieving its goals and caused it to suffer a crushing defeat in the 40-day war, because we proved that our threats are credible."

The lawmaker, who represents Shiraz and Zarqan districts, stressed that American hostility toward the Iranian nation has not ended.

"The hostility and malice of the Americans continues, but the Iranian nation, relying on the capacities arising from the Sacred Defense, has turned every threat into a great opportunity for power production," he said.

Azizi also pointed to a shift in the perception of Arab countries in the region, saying: "These countries have realized that America is not the superior power and does not have the ability to provide security for the region, which is considered one of the great achievements of the country."

Referring to enemy crimes during the imposed war, including the chemical bombardment of Halabja and Sardasht, the head of the National Security Commission said: "The will, faith, unity and leadership of Imam Khomeini and the courageous resistance of the Iranian nation turned the war into an opportunity for power production."

"Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is recognized as a superior regional and global power by relying on its combat and military capacities," Azizi said.

He called on academics and elites to explain the power-production capacities arising from the Sacred Defense as a valuable treasure.