

Envoy Slams Int'l Community Over Failure on Afghan Burden

NEW YORK (IRNA) – Iran's Ambassador to the UN Amir Saeid Iravani on Wednesday criticized the international community for its failure to support the Islamic Republic in bearing the burden of Afghan refugees as a result of years of U.S.-led occupation of the country.

Iravani said the mass exodus of Afghans following the 2021 U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan has put a heavy burden on Tehran, where more than six million Afghans are now living in Iran, imposing an annual cost of over \$10 billion.

Kayhan International

Sunni Politician Named Governor of Iranian Kurdistan Province

TEHRAN — Arash Zerehtan, a Sunni politician, has been appointed as the new governor of Iran's western province of Kurdistan, according to the government spokesperson.

The 39-year-old politician of Iranian Kurdish ethnicity was an MP in the Iranian parliament between 2020 and 2024. Yadollah Rahmani has been appointed as the new governor general of Iran's southwestern province of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad.

VOL NO: LV 12347 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Thursday, September 19, 2024, Shahrivar 29, 1403, Rabi al-Awwal 15, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Time to Weed Out the Zionist Cancer

Pezeshkian: Israeli Cyberterrorism Source of Shame for West



Madrid Kick Off Champions League With Win



UN to Demand Israel End 'Unlawful' Presence in Palestine Within 12 Months



The Excellent-Ever Exemplar

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"In the Prophet of Allah, certainly there is for you an Excellent Exemplar, for those who look forward to Allah and the Last Day, and remember Allah greatly." (Holy Qur'an 33:21)

We are on the eve of one of the grandest day in the history of civilization. It is the 17th of Rabi al-Awwal the day the Almighty Creator of the universe decided to bring into the world His Last and Greatest Messenger – Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

It would be repetitive to say that he was born in the monotheistic Bani Hashem Clan descended from Prophet Ishmael (AS), the firstborn of that great iconoclast, Prophet Abraham (AS)

A detailed account of the noble ancestors of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) is outside the scope of this brief newspaper column. However, I cite here a famous hadith, narrated by our Sunni brethren as well, and which quotes the Prophet himself as saying:

"(The Archangel) Gabriel told me: I turned over the easts and the wests of the Earth but did not find anyone superior to Muhammad, then [again] I turned over the easts and the wests of the Earth but did not find any clan superior to the Bani Hashem."

It is clear from the wordings of this hadith that the Messenger of Mercy was neither born among the polytheists of Arabia nor in any uncouth, ill-mannered, and unprincipled Arab household.

In other words, terrorism and violence were alien to the nature of the posthumous son of Abdullah; the orphan of the pious lady, Amena bint Wahb; the grandson of the Leader of the Quraish, Abdul-Muttaleb; and the nephew of the Shaikh al-Bat'ha (Elder of Mecca) Abu Taleb.

The reason I have cited these few names is to emphasize the pure and pristine nature of the Best of God's creation, who says of his creation: "I was constantly transferred from the loins of the pure ones to the wombs of the pure ones."

Now we understand the phrase in the "Ziyarah" or standard form of salutation to Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) that reads:

"I bear witness that you were (descended) through pure loins and chaste wombs."

Another point worth stressing here is that, the person prophesied by such great Messengers of God, as Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and others in different ages and various lands, was not just the greatest of them all, but was the offspring of a long line of "Awsiya" or Legatees, of Ishmael.

Entrusted by God with the universal message of Islam, his mission was to bring hearts closers by removing differences and doubts, and to help build the morally sound and peaceful society, where everybody including those that were not yet Muslim and still adhered to what they believed as the ways of the other prophets, should live in peaceful co-existence. His invitation to the People of the Book, and his debates and accords, for instance, with the Christians of Najran, indicate these facts.

Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) was thus the finest example of the perfect-ever person in every sense of the term. He was a paragon of virtue and the most Excellent Exemplar for the human race. The Almighty distinguished him from all others by instilling in his sublime personality such fine qualities as modesty, truthfulness, kindness, patience, loyalty, honesty, courage, bravery, generosity, magnanimity, wisdom and the like.

By studying his lofty characteristics and the amazingly simple life that he led with his household, companions, wives and others, we are able to learn valuable lessons from his conduct and accordingly mould our own lifestyle.

Our society could never be an Islamic one unless we sincerely tread the footsteps of Allah's final Messenger to all humanity, heed his sayings, and emulate his practice and behaviour (Sunnah & Seerah), as the faithful among his companions did.

This means to desist from whatever he has forbidden, and obey whatever he has bequeathed to us, especially his last and final public proclamation on God's commandment at the memorable gathering of Ghadeer-Khom regarding the prime position after him of his dear cousin, ward, son-in-law, and vicegerent Imam Ali (AS).

To be more precise, since Prophets are infallible and immune from sins and faults, so shall be their legatees – untainted by vices and idolatry.

As the one and only Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS) has said in record as saying: "By Allah, neither my father Abu Taleb ever worshipped idols, nor my grandfather Abdul-Muttalib, nor his father Hashem, nor his father Abd Munaf. They prayed facing towards the Ka'ba and followed the religion of Abraham."

No wonder, it is highly recommended to visit the shrine of Imam Ali (AS) in Najaf or to salute him from afar on the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), in view of the undeniable fact that since Prophets are the emissaries of God, their Vicegerents should also be Divinely-designated.

It is also crystal clear that the advent of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) was foretold in the Evangel, the Torah, and the previously revealed heavenly scriptures, as well as in the religious texts of the Zoroastrians, the Hindus, and others – parts of this prophecy is still preserved in spite of the tampering by interlopers that these books have gone through.

For instance, in Deuteronomy (18:15) we read the prophecy to Moses:

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren (Ishmaelite Arabs), like unto thee, and will put My Words into his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto My Words which he shall speak in My Name."

In the Gospel of St. John (18:7-14) we find the following prophecy of Jesus:

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. How be it when he, the Spirit of truth (the Comforter), is come, he will guide into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

The Holy Qur'an confirms these prophecies. For instance, Ayah 6 of Surah Saff quotes the tidings of Prophet Jesus (AS) to his followers, some six centuries before the birth of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA):

"O Children of Israel! Indeed I am the Prophet of Allah to you, to confirm what is before me of the Torah, and to give the tidings of the Prophet to come after me, whose name is Ahmad."

In short, since we are celebrating the birth of the Best of creation, we should scientifically probe the exemplary life of the Best of Creation; the legacy he left, for whom, and did those who claimed to be the political representative of the Prophet of peace, follow his advice and formula for unity, especially the following hadith:

"I am leaving behind among you the Thaqalayn (Two Weighty Things); the Book of God (Qur'an) and my progeny the Ahl al-Bayt; hold fast to them and you will not go astray, for the two never separate with each other even when they return to me at the Fountain (of Kowthar on Resurrection Day)."

Second Wave of Israeli Cyberterrorism Hits Lebanon Hezbollah Vows 'Difficult Reckoning for Criminal Enemy'



Mourners attend the funeral for 9-year-old Fatima Abdullah in the Lebanese village of Nabi Sheet in Bekaa Valley on Wednesday after she was martyred in a pager explosion in her home.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Hezbollah on Wednesday carried out a series of missile and drone attacks against Israeli settlements in the northern parts of the occupied Palestinian territories as more handheld radios detonated across Lebanon, in the latest cyberterrorism by the Zionist regime.

According to Shahab news, sirens were heard in different parts of the northern occupied lands, especially in Kiryat Shmona.

The retaliatory operation came as walkie-talkies and solar equipment exploded in Beirut and multiple parts of Lebanon in an

apparent second wave of attacks targeting electronic devices a day after hundreds of pagers blew up, state media and Hezbollah officials said. At least nine people were martyred and more than 300 people wounded in the second wave, the Health Ministry said.

The cyberterrorist attacks, which were widely believed to be carried out by the occupying regime of Israel, have hiked fears that the simmering conflict could escalate into all-out war.

Speaking to Zionist troops on Wednesday, Israeli war minister Yoav Gallant said, "We are at the

start of a new phase in the war."

In Wednesday's attacks, several blasts were heard at a funeral in Beirut for three Hezbollah members and a child martyred by exploding pagers the day before. In the southern coastal city of Sidon, a car and a mobile phone shop were damaged after devices exploded inside of them. A girl was hurt in the south when a solar energy system blew up, the state news agency reported.

The new blasts hit a country still roiling with anger after Tuesday's terrorist bombings, which caused many civilian casualties. Tues-

day's bombings martyred at least 12 people, including two children, and wounded some 2,800 others.

The second wave also deepened concern over the indiscriminate casualties caused in the attacks, in which hundreds of blasts went off wherever the holder of the pager happened to be — in homes, cars, at grocery stores and in cafes, often with family or bystanders nearby.

While the pagers were claimed to be used by Hezbollah members, there was no guarantee who was holding the device at the time of the blast. Also, many of the casualties were not Hezbollah fighters, but civilians mainly serving Lebanon's mix of Shia, Sunni and Christina communities.

At least two health workers were among those martyred Tuesday. Doctors, nurses, paramedics, charity workers, teachers and office administrators had pagers.

The Associated Press said Israel briefed the U.S. on the exploding pagers after they went off.

The UN human rights chief, Volker Turk, called for an independent investigation into the mass explosions. "The fear and terror unleashed is profound," he said in a statement, urging world leaders to step up "in defense of the rights of all people to live in peace and security."

Russia said the blasts are intentionally designed to "provoke a major war in the Middle East".

(Continued on Page 7)

International Outcry Mounts Over Indiscriminate Carnage Iran Condemns U.S. Mischaracterization of Israeli Terrorism

LONDON (Dispatches) -- The Iranian Embassy in London on Wednesday condemned the U.S. characterization of the mass explosion of pagers in Lebanon, saying the attack by the Israeli regime was an "act of terrorism" not an "incident".

"Assassinations and killings of civilians in Lebanon is not an incident, it's an act of terrorism," the embassy said in a post published on social media platform X, after U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller called it an "incident".

"If the Israeli regime assassinates political figures such as a country's ambassador, or children and civilians, it is termed an 'incident', but if the same is done by the other side, it is labeled terrorism, necessitating a legitimate defense," it said.

Meanwhile, condemnations poured in, with Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib saying the terrorist bombings could be an omen of a wider con-

flict in West Asia.

Lebanon's top diplomat warned of the gravity of the attack, "because it comes after Israeli threats to expand the focus of the war with Lebanon, which would plunge the region into a larger cycle of violence, and signal a wider war."

In Amman, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said Israel is pushing the whole West Asia to the brink of regional conflict by maintaining a dangerous escalation on several fronts.

"We stand by Lebanon's security, sovereignty, stability, and the safety of its citizens. And we condemn any action that threatens Lebanon's security, sovereignty, independence and the safety of its citizens."

He made the remarks after an Islamic and Arab ministerial contact group met in Amman to lobby for a Gaza ceasefire.

"About a year after this war, the international community failed to play its role, the Security Coun-

cil failed to carry out its duties to maintain security and peace.

"Israel continues to challenge the entire world and endanger the interests of the entire world because it is pushing towards a regional war that violates the credibility of international law and shows that there are double standards in the application of international law and international humanitarian law as a whole. Therefore it harms the whole international system," Safadi said.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty said in a press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken that his country is in full solidarity with Lebanon.

Ending Israel's aggression on Gaza through a ceasefire is paramount to deescalating tensions in the region, the minister said.

Syria also strongly condemned the attacks, saying the atrocity reflected the regime's warlike and bloodthirsty nature.

In a statement, the Syrian foreign ministry denounced the

"terrorist aggression and the new bloody crime committed by the Israeli occupation against civilians in Lebanon."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed sadness in a phone call with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati. He said Israel's attempts to escalate the war on Gaza to the wider region is dangerous and that efforts to stop Israel will continue.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that the European Union wants to avert an all-out war because it would have "heavy consequences for the entire region and beyond."

"Even if the attacks seem to have been targeted, they had heavy, indiscriminate collateral damages among civilians, including children among the victims."

"I consider this situation extremely worrying. I can only condemn these attacks that endanger the security and stability of Lebanon, and increase the risk of escalation in the region," Borrell said.