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US confirms Hezbollah stockpiles weapons and explosives in Europe

Nathan Sales, US State Department's Coordinator for Counterterrorism, has called on Europe to take a tougher stance on Hezbollah and Iranian-backed militias.

The claim, that Hezbollah is transporting and stockpiling ammonium nitrate throughout Europe, came 6 weeks after the explosion of a warehouse full of ammonium nitrate in the port of Beirut, which led to a massive destruction of large parts of the Lebanese capital.

According to British newspaper, The Guardian, the US has accused Lebanese Hezbollah of storing weapons and ammonium nitrate, in recent years, for use in explosives throughout Europe, with alleged aim of preparing for Iranian-planned future attacks.

"I can reveal that Hezbollah weapons caches have been transported via Belgium to France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Switzerland," Sales said. "I can also reveal the discovery or destruction of large caches of

ammonium nitrate in France, Greece and Italy."

"Why does Hezbollah store ammonium nitrate on European soil?" Sales added. "The answer is clear. It can conduct major terror attacks whenever its masters in Tehran deem it necessary."

"We have reason to believe that this activity is still going on," he added. "Since 2018, suspicions remain of the presence of ammonium nitrate caches within Europe, possibly in Greece, Italy and Spain."



Hezbollah militia parade

Putin's most prominent opponent discharged from hospital

Berlin's Charité Hospital said that poisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has left after recovery. The hospital stressed in a statement that Navalny

has been discharged 32 days after his entry into a coma, noting that the opposition leader spent 24 days of that period in intensive care. The statement pointed out

that Navalny's condition had improved sufficiently for him to be discharged from acute inpatient care adding that doctors, based on Navalny's progress and current condition,

have confidence that full recovery is possible, noting that it remains too early to gauge the potential long-term effects of his severe poisoning.

Amnesty International: "horrific" violations against Iranian detainees in 2019

Javed Rahman, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, has reported violence in Iran as unprecedented and disturbing, describing Iranian authorities «violent repression» practiced during protests in November 2019.

A new report issued by Amnesty International revealed that the Iranian regime has practiced various types of torture and committed «horrific human rights violations against detainees in the gasoline protests last November.»

In a report entitled "Crushing Humanity," the human rights organization addressed the topic of "widespread arrests, forced disappearances, and torture since the November 2019 demonstrations in Iran," noting that it had collected testimonies from dozens of detainees, out of about 7,000 men, women and children who were arrested, according to its estimates, in the aftermath of those demonstrations.

It is noteworthy that the protests, erupted in Iran last November, came after a sudden decision by the Iranian government to raise gasoline prices by a very high rate. Demonstrations had spread to most provinces in the country. However, it was suppressed by force, amid a complete cut off the Internet at the time, and reports of hundreds of deaths as well.

A coup within the MB... Its founders write the end

Rasha Ammar

“The group is in a state of clinical death, hanging in the balance between life and death since July 2013; its performance, after the January revolution, has lacked political imagination and the courage to take initiatives to reform the situation internally, while its leadership kept looking under its feet. Its performance after the resounding fall in Egypt in June 2013 has been disastrous, and continues to be so.»

This is what Khalil Al-Anani, an Associate Professor of Political Science at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, and a close friend to the organization, said in an interview in one of the group’s websites. He confirmed the truth that MB leaders have been denying for about seven years. He confirmed beyond any doubt that the group has surpassed the dark tunnel to the inevitable end and complete disintegration. This time not by the words of one of its opponents, but a statement closer to a clear and explicit confession that «Hassan Al-Banna’s organization has ended at the hands of its leaders.»

The end of Egypt’s Guidance Office In a blatant defiance, Munir rushed to take several decisions that provoked the group and led to the defection of hundreds of its members. The most prominent of which was cancelling the position of Secretary-General and forming a new committee to handle the group’s affairs from abroad under his chairmanship. The Committee members include: Muhyiddin Al-Zayit, Helmy Al-Jazzar, Mahmoud Hussein, Ahmed Shousha, Muhammad Abdul-Mu’ti Al-Jazzar, Medhat Al-Haddad and Mustafa Al-Mughayer. The committee is chaired by Muhyiddin Al-Zayit in the absence of Munir.

Egyptian Islamic thinker, Tharwat Al-Kharbawi says that it is the first time that the Guidance Office in Egypt has been declared non-existent, describing the scene as a historical



Muslim Brotherhood supporters

internal coup in the Brotherhood, and a complete change in its organizational structure, because Munir has cancelled the position at the top of the organization’s hierarchy and put in place a new structure for the Brotherhood against its historical constants.

Since the group’s inception in 1928, the Guidance Office, formed in Egypt, has taken over the management of the group’s affairs entirely. The guide is chosen from among its members. He is responsible for taking all important and decisive decisions. It consists of 116 members, 114 of whom are from inside Egypt and two from the Brotherhood abroad.

Al-Kharbawi wonders about the organizational body that appointed Ibrahim Munir as acting leader, and whether the members of the Guidance Office agreed to that. It seems that he has made that decision alone, which makes what happened within the organization an explicit coup by leaders against each other.

Ibrahim Munir belongs to MB’s first-generation, he was a companion of Sayyid Qutb, in the famous 1965 case. He was sentenced to death, but due to his young age at the time, the sentence was reduced to ten years. After his release, he immigrated

to the UK, where he joined Saeed Ramadan, the son-in-law of Hassan Al-Banna in establishing the international organization and serving as an official spokesman for the group abroad, then as a secretary general of the international organization.

A failed attempt to heal the rift

In a speech delivered by Ibrahim Munir to the group’s members in Egypt, he spared no effort in trying to mitigate what he did. He tried to invoke the character of Mahmoud Ezzat in calling for unity and cohesion. However, Munir does not have the tools nor can he replace Ezzat in the hearts of MB members, which meant that his speech was like pouring gas on fire. He was rejected by the group’s members and leaders. They even went out to attack him publicly.

Essam Talima, member of the Muslim Brotherhood’s Shura Council and former director of al-Qaradawi’s office, attacked Munir’s speech, “Munir was chosen as a deputy, so that his name would be placed on all decisions taken against opponents of the leadership within the group, whether inside or outside Egypt, as the arrest of Ezzat was not taken into account. Hussein sees himself as the one entitled to the

position now, and if Hussein’s and Munir’s health did not help them, it would hinder the task. The actual head of the organization remains al-Ibbiari.

It is hard for MB members to accept someone they do not know, who has no significant history with them in the presence of other leaders who are more famous and have a longer history, even if they were not in positions, such as Professor Muhammad Al-Buhairi’s and others. However, the obstacle of age and health will also be an issue. It is an ongoing battle among these parties about who has the right to lead. So, will Hussein decide to be an acting guide in form and deed? Or will it be in the interest of Munir in form, while the actual management goes to Hussein in partnership with al-Ibbiari, as is the case now?

Misfortunes never come single The organization is facing severe blows regionally, especially with the escalation of the anti-Brotherhood protests in Tunisia and the decline in the popularity of its political arm, Ennahda Movement, and the classification of its leader, Rashid Ghannouchi, as the worst figure in his country for the sixth time in a row in opinion polls that took place over the past two months.

Europe vs Jihadists arriving from the Middle East

In parallel with the drastic developments that haven't unfolding in the Middle East, concurrent changes are reshaping the old European continent. Europe has been witnessed the biggest scale of consequences of the stormy turmoil in the Middle East for several years. Thousands of jihadists have moved from Europe to countries like Syria and Iraq where they became a major tool of intimidation and criminality, influenced by political Islam organizations that seek power. A leadership that uses religion and outdated populist discourse that eliminates anyone who dares to think differently.

More than 8,000 individual on terrorism watchlist in France

On 31 August, Gérald Darmanin, Minister of the Interior of France said that France had a terrorism watchlist of 8,132 potentially violent individuals. He stated that French security authorities were monitoring suspects in order to prevent violent acts of a terrorist nature, warning of the growing threat of supporters of radical Islam.

"The threat of terrorist attacks remains extremely high in the country," and that "combating terrorism is a priority for the government. We must always give it all our attention," the French Minister indicated.

"The threat of planned terrorist operations on the territory is the most significant and the strongest. It is fed by the propaganda of terrorist groups, inspired by veterans of Jihad, but also by the hold that supporters of radical Islam strive to have in some of our neighbourhoods," Darmanin went on saying, considering that "the threat represented by individuals followers of radical Islam was becoming a growing challenge for the intelligence services which are

now monitoring 8,132 individuals registered with the FSPRT."

ISIS ideas inside a union of Muslim communities in Italy

The Islamic Cultural Centre in Italy, the only Islamic body officially recognized by Rome, has criticized recent statements of UCOII about Judaism and Christianity. Officials in the Islamic Cultural Centre have expressed "bewilderment and contempt for the unjustified and unacceptable statements of Yassine Baradai, the Secretary General of UCOII, who describes Judaism and Christianity as a heresy that must be corrected."

On 2 September, Islamic Cultural Centre of Italy mentioned issued a statement that said: "we must emphasize that Judaism and Christianity are two divine Abrahamic religions and that believing in the Torah and the Bible as sacred texts is an integral part of the Islamic belief," and stated that "Muslims respect and honour all God sent messengers from Adam to Abraham, and from Moses to Solomon, David and Jesus. To Muslims, they are all predecessors of prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon them all."

The recognised Islamic body in Italy stressed that the statements of UCOII

prove that the limits of religious extremism are not tied to geography, nor to extremists' characteristics. It is the same ideology of ISIS and Al Nusra that gives them the right to kill, abuse, and seize the assets and land of anyone who thinks differently. Just like what happened in 2014, when the stronghold of the Yazidi minority in the town of "Sinjar" in Mosul, Iraq, was attacked. Thousands of women were taken captive and children were kidnapped, many of whom are still missing.

Therefore, by embracing such extremist ideology UCOII may provide resources that feed extremism and religious militancy, which, if not directly calling for killing and maiming, in fear of persecution under Italian law, may justify or support the actions of organizations such as «ISIS», «Al-Nusra» and groups linked to the «Muslim Brotherhood» group.

The Belgian list of 700 "dangerous" extremist

On 3 September, the head of the risk assessment body in Belgium, Paul van Tegelt, confirmed in statements he made on a local radio that the terrorist threat had not disappeared and the "jihadist" ideology had not died, despite the dismantling of a

large part of the violent networks.

Van Tegelt pointed out that the relentless terrorist threat still hangs over European countries, including Belgium.

He said: "we can say that what is known as the ISIS organization is unable to send jihadists to Europe, but this does not mean that its belief has disappeared."

Tegelt, based on official data, indicated that militant groups continued to expand in the world, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and Afghanistan.

"The extremists pose the greatest danger to Europe today, as it is easy to manipulate their ideas and push them to launch attacks," he said.

In response to a question about the number of Belgian fighters abroad, Tegelt replied that 150 out of 420 left the country for Syria and Iraq years ago. He also hinted that there are 700 Belgian citizens living inside the country and they are classified as "dangerous", among them are ex-combatants.

It is noteworthy that the expansion of extremist ideologies draws the attention to regional leaders in the Middle East, who exploited jihadists and their massive destruction of countries, like Iraq and Syria. They are the same leaders who consider themselves to be the patrons of Muslims. They would not spare a chance to speak in their names; they fund thousands of mosques in sovereign European countries, which are supposed to be able to finance their religious affairs on its own.

Those leaders exploit their close political and economic ties with European countries to keep Muslim communities entwined with their agendas and guarantee their loyalty in every conflict. Just as they did, when they threatened to flood Europe with refugees and warned to return ISIS militants who were in their custody.



Between a brain-dead NATO and a European-French alliance

Ankara has a habit of attacking its opponents then crying foul before the world. The tone of Turkish leaders' statements tend to fluctuate depending on the extent of external pressure. However, there is one thing that never change in Turkey's foreign policy; it keeps pushing the country towards more internal and external crises. Instead of focussing on its domestic front and seeking solutions to calm down the turmoil at home, Ankara has not stopped making new enemies in the region, especially those its perceived historical foes, like Greece.

The moment Ankara eased its aggression against residents of northern Syria, it embarked on a new a new venture on the western side of its borders. The conflict broke out with Athens and Cyprus over Ankara's claim to what it calls 'Blue Homeland'. As if Turkey alone has 'Blue homeland' and that gives its generals the right to draw its borders. Those were the same generals who have disregarded the sovereignty of other countries in the region.

Denying expansion all the way The conflict has witnessed Ankara repeatedly trying to flex muscles and

intimidate neighbouring countries, forgetting that it is facing powerful states with sovereignty in the Mediterranean, not broken societies trying to pull themselves together like in northern Syria.

On 27 August, Turkish fighters intercepted 6 Greek warplanes Type «F-16». Hulusi Akar, Turkish Minister of National Defence, stated that everyone should know that his country had become a real player on the international arena. He claimed that "Turkey does not desire any country's land or sea."

It is no longer a secret that what Ankara denies in public is what it is, effectively, plotting to do. Some have even started to interpret those claims to be nothing but clear declarations of Ankara's future plans. Meanwhile, Turkish Ministry of Defence played a video on the eve of what Turks call "Victory Day," to remind Athens of its historic defeat; he declared that "Anatolia will remain for Turkey, which has proved to be strong."

The video touched on battles that took place between the towns of "Malazgirt" and "Damlupinar», when Turkey won and took over Izmir. Half of the Greek army soldiers

were killed, wounded or captivated, and most of their weapons were seized.

Threats, menace and a language of war However, as a result of the strength that France has added to the Greek position changing the balance of the scale in Athens' favour of. Akar's tone started to sound more diplomatic. He said that the solution to the unresolved problems between Turkey and Greece can be achieved through dialogue and not by referring to France and the European Union. However, the real Turkish intentions are reflected in its relentless military actions and excavations in the Mediterranean. On 27 August, 'greek city times', an online news outlet, reported that Metin Külünk, an ideologue of Erdoğan's and AKP Member of Parliament who was a also member of the same youth movement that Erdoğan belonged to in his youth, and grow up in the same province that Erdoğan's parents come from, has gone to Twitter to call for a Greater Turkey.

In the race to complain Ankara has realized that regional conditions were not in its favour due to the presence of military

mobilization against it in the region after years of Turkish actions that are damaging to the interests of European and Arab countries.

Turkey has raced to file complaints to justify its aggressive actions, at home and abroad. On 1 September, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan referred to "attempts to take over the resources of the Mediterranean Sea" as "the new face of modern colonialism (an implicit reference to the French role, which has become a concern for Ankara)

But the strange thing was that the Turkish president spoke of colonialism. He mentioned the presence of his army "in Syria, Libya and other places." He justified by saying that "in all of these sites we seek to achieve justice and truth." It is an excuse that any party can use to interfere in the affairs of other countries to justify its colonial ambitions.

Thus, Erdoğan has decided that his expansion efforts were merely aimed at achieving justice. He not need international legitimacy to rely on, even though he knows very well that he is violating all human and divine norms and laws, by trespassing on his neighbours, and trying to rob them by force and intimidation.

Moreover, Ömer Çelik, Spokesman for the Justice and Development Party has accused Greece of "piracy in eastern Mediterranean and aiming for more than its size."

It seems that things will remain in place in the foreseeable future if not moving towards escalation. As for NATO, it is trying to resolve the conflict, but it is ignoring the fact that it is facing a new European alliance led by France, which was forced into that position after it realized that NATO had become brain-dead, as Macron said months ago. Perhaps Ankara's actions have validated the French president's judgment. It pushed him to seek an alternative, and he did.



Erdogana arriving to the NATO leader meeting in England last year

French policies and terrorism... Bilateral and Twisted

The world has not yet recovered from the shock of Beirut explosion, while the cause of it is still being kept secret, to be blown away by France's handling of the Lebanese affairs, which are of highest significance for France in the Middle East.

The moves coincide with international momentum to disarm the mullahs' regime worldwide, and to blow further expansion opportunities which Iran has sought at the expense of civilian lives and assets under the manipulative banner of political Islam.

Iran has always used "resistance and opposition" to sabotage civil peace and muzzle opponents. It was helped by an international collusion promoting Khomeini's "Islamic revolution", which he brought on a plane from France to Iran, as moderate Islam.

It allowed him to oppress freedoms in the name of religion in his own country, through a theocratic rule. It also allowed him to spread arms in the region and grip the joints of public life, through financial incentives at times, and his iron fist, at others.

Recently, Gérald Darmanin, French Interior Minister, declared that the terrorist threat "remains high in France," and that "the terrorist threat with Sunni roots remains the main threat facing the country."

It seems that the French minister has not quite seen the images of destruction in Lebanon left by the explosion in Beirut. Hezbollah, most probably, stands behind the explosion, either directly or indirectly by irresponsibly storing extremely dangerous materials! Or maybe he was not informed of the outcome of the devastation caused by Iran and its allies in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, and the proxy militias that are working to flood these countries with drugs and weapons—their main source of income.

These statements have sparked a



Gérald Darmanin



Federica Mogherini

wave of discontent, as many accused France of helping to reinforce Iran's terrorism and provide it with more support. Question marks were raised about the nature of the discussion Macron had during his latest visits to Lebanon and Iraq, which coincided with the statements of his interior minister about "Sunni terrorism!"

Angry reactions to the statements of the French Interior Minister

Anwar Malik, human rights advocate and international affairs researcher said in a tweet that "the French Minister's reference to 'Sunni terrorism' is sectarian discourse and unfortunate discrimination that should never come from an official". He added: "terrorism is the industry of Iran's mullahs; many Arab countries have been warning about it and exposing its secrets, since Khomeini boarded a French plane, returning from Paris to Tehran to start his terrorist revolution in the region."

Mohiuddin Lazkani, Syrian journalist and human rights activist tweeted: "Germany has proscribed Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation, and has closed its headquarters and Husseiniyat, yet France, under Macron, has decided to openly support that terrorist group, and the rest of Iran's mercenaries in the region, which makes one wonder

if there was actually a common European policy, as Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, claims? The French Interior Minister's problematic statements about "Sunni terrorism" came after he announced that more than eight thousand people (8132) in France were on a national watchlist for preventing terrorist extremism.

"The threat of planned terrorist attacks on French territory is the most significant and the strongest. It is fuelled by the propaganda of extremist groups, inspired by veterans of Jihad, but also by the status that supporters of radical Islam strive to have in some of our neighbourhoods," he said.

Iranian terrorism in France

Despite the French statements in 2018, in which Paris announced Iran's involvement in the attempt to attack an Iranian opposition gathering, and the French police raid to the headquarters of "Zahra Centre", the most prominent Shia centre in northern France, and the homes of its officials in Grand Saint, the French Minister of the Interior chooses to talk about "Sunni terrorism!"

"The foiled attack in Villepinte

confirms the need for a demanding approach in our relations with Iran", said Jean-Yves Le Drian, France's foreign affairs minister. He added that France wants to continue a dialogue with Tehran "based on pressure and negotiation" at the same time, to complement the Iranian nuclear deal, with agreements on Iran's ballistic missile activity and its regional policy.

A dialectical relationship between the mullahs' regime and France

On 6 October 1978, Ayatollah Khomeini arrived in France from Iraq after being deported from his exile in Baghdad, and Kuwait had refused to welcome him at the time. Later, Khomeini's residence in Neauphle-le-Château was turned into a cell to plot the uprising against the Shah. The impact of the recording tapes that Khomeini had sent to Iran was similar to that of social media today.

The testimonies of French officials focus on stressing that no official meeting had taken place between Khomeini and the French side except in January 1979, when an official in the French Foreign Ministry visited Khomeini's residence. According to the testimony of one of the attendees, "The French diplomat expressed France's concern about the Imam's public stances. He asked him to stop attacking the Shah, but Khomeini refused, and told him that he was ready to accept the deportation decision, but he would not turn a blind eye to what was happening in Iran."

All these facts open the door to questions about the French role in the expansion of the Iranian empire of terror, reinforced by French President Macron's rebuke to a Le Figaro journalist, and his shuttle visits to Lebanon and Iraq, in the aftermath of the catastrophic explosion in Beirut. In addition to his meeting with a member of "Hezbollah" who is banned in several countries, as a terrorist, France not included!

Trump Under Threat of Defeat

Rivalry and conflict between US Democratic Party and its candidate, Joe Biden, on one hand, and US Republican Party and its leader; the current President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, on the other, has intensified. It was a result of what some Americans describe as defeats, setbacks, and a decline in the US international role as the “Free” world leader.

Although it has been the norm for a Republican president to rule for two terms which last for eight years, followed by a Democratic president who holds the position for the same period, recent US opinion polls have indicated otherwise, this time. It could mean that this periodic system of alternating government will end earlier than usual, as a result of Trump's domestic and foreign failures. Observers say that the celebrity billionaire is «incapable» of quitting his merchant persona when handling national or international politics. He sees everything as pure commercial; selling allies or buying opponents, without the slightest consideration to any strategic impacts.

What did the polls say?

The US pre-election opinion polls have reflected what goes in the minds of Americans; some clearly seem to regret electing Trump as their president.

On 18 July, The Guardian reported that the US opinion polls had shown progress of the Democratic candidate, Joe Biden, at the expense of the current President Donald Trump.

In a recent article, Jonathan Friedman reported that all indications point to Trump's defeat in the upcoming elections. Lates polls revealed that 72 percent of Americans believe that their country is heading towards the wrong path. Friedman believes that Trump's diminishing



Joe Biden

popularity is linked to a catastrophic consequence of the Coronavirus crisis on the United States. He explains how Trump's handling of the crisis has made things worse, as he underestimated the threat of the pandemic and called for an early re-opening of the country. Not to mention his poor handling of nationwide protests as a result of racism and police brutality.

Handling of Coronavirus

Against a background of Trump's failure to deal with the Coronavirus crisis, which led to the United States topping the list of countries with the highest total number of cases and the US inability to reach a medical breakthrough to tackle the pandemic, Biden pledged, on 21 August, to heal the United States by unifying all Americans whom he believes have been damaged by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Democratic candidate believes the current presidential elections to be of historical importance, in light of a health crisis triggered by the #coronavirus pandemic, economic recession and the battle over the environment.

Biden has vowed to represent all Americans, and to work with the same sincerity for those who do not support him. Reuters spotted an implied difference with Trump's position, who did not any interest in winning over anyone outside his

voter base.

Biden denounced the incompetence of his rival's handling of the pandemic, “Our current president has failed in his most basic duty to the nation. He's failed to protect us,” he said.

Racism, demonstrations and police brutality

Simultaneously, demonstrations against racism and police brutality have taken place in the United States since last May, following the killing of 46-year-old George Floyd when a Minneapolis policeman sat with his knee on his neck for nearly nine minutes. Downtown Portland still sees demonstrations every night for more than a hundred days now.

In relation to protests against racism and police violence against black people, Biden declared, on 31 August, that the violence that marred the protests in Portland, Oregon, was unacceptable, and called on President Donald Trump to stop his «encouragement of fools.»

US President Donald Trump and Ted Wheeler, Mayor of Portland, exchanged accusations on the same date (August 31), and held each other responsible for the escalation of violence between protesters and those who oppose protesting in the city.

Wheeler pointed the finger at Trump during a press conference, as he asked: “are you really wondering,

Mr. President, why America has reached this level of violence for the first time in decades? You are the one who created hatred and sowed sedition. You are the one who is unable to pronounce the names of the black people who were killed by the police, and you are the one who claimed that the white supremacists are good people.”

Trump responded in return and claimed that «force» is the only way to stop the riots spreading across the country.

A statement that provoked Biden and pushed him to

respond and accuse Trump of causing chaos and violence, by inciting confrontations between supporters of the «Black Lives Matter» movement and their opponents.

“We need a president who will lower the temperature and bring the country together — not one who raises it and tears us further apart,” Biden tweeted. “I will deal with the virus and the economic crisis. I will work to achieve equity and equal opportunities to all,” he added.

Trump and the Fall to the Test of Humanity

On 6 September, The Washington Post published excerpts from the memoir of Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, in which he accused Trump of racism and hatred of black leaders and minorities. The newspaper mentioned that Trump had made insulting statements against black world leaders, including Former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, as well as minorities in the United States in general.

The Washington Post reported that Cohen wrote that during the 2016 campaign, Trump was dismissive of minorities, describing them as “not my people.” “I will never get the Hispanic vote,” Cohen recounted Trump claiming. “Like the blacks, they're too stupid to vote for Trump.”

Al-Farraj: The map of enemies has changed in the region... Turkey and Iran are the most dangerous

Hajar El Desouki

The broad Arab welcome of the Emirati-American-Israeli joint agreement puts you in the face of the most prominent question: will the other Gulf states follow in the UAE's footsteps soon, particularly after describing the tripartite agreement as historic? It has been more than a quarter of a century since the last peace treaty between Israel and any Arab country.

«The Levant News» met Dr. Ahmed Al-Farraj, a Saudi political analyst, who believes that whether Gulf states would follow suit and sign peace agreements with Israel, depends on the good intentions of the latter; and resolving the outstanding issues with the Palestinians.

Al-Farraj believes that the UAE-Israeli joint agreement has moves the stagnant waters of the Palestinian cause, and that there is no contradiction between the "tripartite agreement" and the 2002 Arab peace initiative. In fact, he is confident that the joint agreement "would revive the initiative".

■ In your opinion, how is the UAE-Israel joint agreement impact the Palestinian peace process, which has been stagnant for many years?

The Emirati-Israeli agreement is definitely in the interest of the Palestinian cause; one of its most important gains is the halt of West Bank annexation. For 20 years there has been no development, so there is no doubt that any step that moves stagnant water is in the right direction.

■ What do you say to those who claim that the UAE has offered the joint agreement as a lifeline for Trump with the imminent US elections?

I do not think that the UAE would take the risk of a deal with Israel in the interest of the American

president; the UAE has a strategic relationship with America that is not affected by the absence of a president and the presence of another.

Moreover, the UAE cannot venture to serve the interest on an American politician; it would not have signed the agreement unless it was convinced that it serves its own interests, first and foremost.

The joint agreement falls under US foreign policy; it is irrelevant to American voters, therefore, it is not among the issues that can determine the US president's chances of winning the elections.

■ Do you mean that other Arab countries may soon follow in the steps of the UAE ?

Gulf states will not follow in the UAE's steps until they see gestures of goodwill from the Israelis and constructive moves towards resolving the outstanding issues between them and the Palestinian Authority.

■ But after the tripartite joint agreement was announced, the Turkish regime was quick to attack it and threaten to sever ties with the UAE and withdraw its ambassador, what do you think?

The Turkish president's stance against the UAE-Israel agreement is absurd ; Turkey has diplomatic relations with Israel yet it denounces another country for signing a peace agreement with it.

The Turkish president has always said that his relations with Israel were in favour of the Palestinian cause, while in fact he is manipulating the Palestinian cause to serve Turkish interests and his agenda in the region. He certainly has done nothing for the Palestinian cause.

Erdogan has an embassy in Israel, Israel has an embassy in Ankara, Erdogan's relations with Israel are strong and solid. The best Turkish-Israeli relations has occurred during Erdogan's era. For example, it is no secret that Turkish factories manufacture weapons for the Israeli



Dr. Ahmed Al-Farraj

army. The Israeli air force trains on Turkish territory. In short, what was stated by Turkey is unacceptable manipulation.

■ How do you explain the Turkish reaction towards the joint agreement?

Erdogan knows very well that if Arab countries make peace agreements with Israel, and other countries follow, this will deprive him of the opportunity to exploit the Palestinian cause to boost his popularity among his Muslim Brotherhood followers.

■ Do you mean that the map of enemies has changed in the region?

Yes, it has changed radically, in the past we used to say Israel is the enemy, but after 1979 and the rise of the mullahs 'rule, Iran became a threat. We see today how Tehran is expanding and occupying 4 Arab countries.

Throughout the past ten years, with the wave of the Arab Spring sweeping across the region, it has become clear that Turkey has ambitions the region similar to Iran's, if not more dangerous.

■ So, you believe that Iran and Turkey pose the biggest threat to Arab countries?

Certainly, Iran and Turkey are the

most dangerous enemies in the region. Think about how Saudi was targeted in recent years with Houthi missiles ... If we want to know who the real enemy is, think of who targeted oil fields and Saudi cities, including Makkah? Was it Israel who did that? Did Israel even threaten to attack the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia? Of course not, it was Iran and its proxies who carried out the attacks, which Turkey has supported.

■ In your opinion, how can Erdogan's plans and ambitions be confronted?

There is Arab coordination at the highest level to confront expansionist plans and ambitions led by Erdogan, who, in my opinion, suffers from megalomania and political incompetence. He is under the illusion that he could restore the Ottoman Empire. He does not seem to realize that the world has changed.

It is not only the Arab world that stands against Erdogan's expansionist ambitions, there are voices within Europe, America and Russia has started to rise, saying that Erdogan has crossed the limit. An ambitious, reckless leader cannot be allowed to meddle in a region that is very important to great powers, at the expense of their interests.



The four leader at the White House

Kurds are Among Winners of Israel-UAE Peace Agreement



Jwan Dibo

Kurds are considered one of the beneficiaries of the recent Israeli-Emirati peace agreement. At first glance, this conclusion might seem bizarre and does not make sense. But after scrutiny and analysis, it can be argued that the Kurds are one of the winners of the recent Israel-UAE peace treaty. Israel-UAE Peace Agreement

Firstly, the peace accord has happened between two countries that deemed as friends of Kurds and strong supporters of the establishment of an independent Kurdish state. This supportive stance by both states was very clear during the independence referendum for Kurdistan region of Iraq in September 2017.

Secondly, this new peace pact between UAE and Israel is another sort of regional alignment in the

context of the emergence of regional axes. The axis of moderation represented by UAE, Israel, Egypt and Saudi Arabia versus the axis of extremism, aggression and interference in others' affairs represented by Turkey, Iran, Qatar and their local agents. Since the main problem of the Kurds is with Turkey and Iran, the countries which oppress Kurds and prevent them from obtaining their rights, so Kurds are classified within the first axis.

Thirdly, the peace truce between Israel and UAE helps to reduce the intensity and level of the populist and racist discourse throughout the region. This, in turn, will positively affect the general public views of Arab, Turkish and Persian people towards the Kurdish question in the Middle East.

This peace agreement will place the Kurdish issue in the Middle East, as a whole and partly, into the regional leverage game. Thus, the Kurds will

gain more presence and influence at the regional and international levels. This will happen because the Israeli-Emirati peace agreement is on the opposite side of Turkey-Iran axis. These both countries are regarded as enemies of the Kurds and deprive them from gaining their legitimate rights, whether inside or outside their borders. Consequently, any real support will be provided by UAE and Israel to the Kurds in the future, politically or on the ground, will positively impact the role and future of the Kurds in the entire Middle East. In contrast, this will negatively affect the influence of the Turkish-Iranian bloc.

It is true that, in politics, there are no permanent enemies, no permanent friends, there are only permanent interests. However, since the Turkish-Iranian axis poses an existential threat to Israel and UAE, therefore, their dealing with the Kurds from now on will be on a strategic basis, not only from a

tactical perspective.

It is not a secret that Israel and UAE in the Middle East are the most supporters of the establishment of an independent Kurdistan. That is not only because of the affection for the Kurds, but because the interests of both states require the formation of an independent Kurdish state. For Israel, the formation of a Kurdish state will change the regional balance of power in its favour. At the same time, that will be on contrary to the interests of Turkey and Iran. This, also, applies to UAE, especially with regard to its fear of the greed of its terrifying neighbour, that is, Iran. Israel-UAE Peace Agreement

In return, what is required of Kurdish leaders in all parts of Kurdistan, especially in Iraqi Kurdistan and Syrian Kurdistan, is positive interaction with the consequences of this agreement and preparation for what may emerge from it at the regional and Kurdish levels.

How Erdogan has become the world's "the elephant in the room"?



Zara Saleh

In recent years, under Erdogan's presidency, Turkey has become authoritarian and more nationalist country. This has been more obvious especially in the aftermath of the 2016 coup attempt, when President Erdogan started to impose an emergency law against its opposition. Consequently, he imprisoned thousands of civilians elephant

military commanders, journalists, judges, politics, Kurdish members of parliament and local councils. He, arguably, pushed the country from so-called secularism into ideological religious example with neo-Ottoman dream and ambition. More seriously, Erdogan is trying to appear as a devout Muslim in his decision that to turn Hagia Sophia from museum into a mosque.

Besides that, Turkey as a NATO member since 1952, has become "the elephant in the room" for NATO at the first when started to confront its

principles and values by purchasing of a Russian anti-aircraft system, the S-400. That had happened despite the American and another NATO's members warning. Moreover, NATO's plan for the defence of Poland and the Baltic countries that border Russia, has been blocked by Erdogan AKP's party for long time, due to the Turkey's demand from NATO to list the Kurdish forces, the Syrian Democratic Forces, as a terrorist organisation.

Added to that, Erdogan's warships has confronted the French frigate, while the EU has a plan for the conflict in Libya to support enforce the arms embargo there, and that could undermine the European Union's mission for peace and political solution in Libya.

However, the increasing tension in Mediterranean Sea has become a fact after Turkey has sent its research vessel with warships to disputed water area between Greece and Cyprus, which could lead to direct confrontation with Athens due to Erdogan provocation. Consequently, the eastern Mediterranean turn into maritime hot spot because Turkey

has repeatedly carried out warship-escorted offshore drilling in the territory. That is why the French President has described the NATO and the US role and presence in the region has "disappeared over time, or in any case, largely been withdrawn".

Emmanuel Macron has blamed Turkey in the recent Mediterranean crisis as "Turkey's return to the region as an imperial power fantasising about its history" he said. More seriously, Turkish government and Erdogan has repeatedly declared that they would cease controlling its land and sea borders with Europe and open the passage for Syrian migrants wishing to cross. This threaten has been a fact several times despite the European Union and Turkey's deal in 2016 to prevent migrants from illegally entering Europe. The EU fund for Turkey to help the nearly 4 million Syrian refugees was around six billion euro, while Erdogan's threats to Europe could be seen as a tool to pressure the EU and international community into supporting Ankara's recent military involvement in the Syrian conflict

to occupy more territories in north part of Syria and in particular the Kurdish region.

In the long run, Erdogan is running the risk of further souring its relations with the EU by this type of threatening that using the refugee's card. That means, in the fact, Ankara is threatening the EU to open its borders for thousands of jihadists and members of ISIS and Al-Qaeda Front who lives in Turkey or trying to cross the Syrian borders with Turkey and to return to Europe. Furthermore, after Turkish military presence and intervention in Libya, it has been opened another border for immigrants and terrorists to enter the EU via Libyan territories.

In other words, the whole Middle East as a region with east Mediterranean countries and other places of neo-Ottoman ambition of interventions, Turkey under Erdogan's leadership has become a threat for the stability in the world. It has become a real "elephant in the room" not only for NATO members, but for Europe and whole region as well that require finally real actions by the US and its NATO's allies.



Recep Tayyip Erdogan

NATO after Trump?



Ian Black

Among the many issues at stake in the US election in November is the future of Nato – the highly successful Atlantic Alliance that was founded at the start of the Cold War, saw the collapse of the Soviet Union as it ended, and for which Donald Trump has been a uniquely disruptive American president.

If Joe Biden, the Democratic candidate, fails to defeat the current occupant of the Oval Office, other leaders and former US defence officials fear that Trump will deliver on his – so far – private threat to withdraw from Nato and produce a stunning win for Russia's Vladimir Putin.

“If I lose and he gets elected, you will remember the things that I said will turn out to be right... and that is, if he gets elected, there will be no Nato,” Biden said in June. Earlier he accused Trump of treating the alliance “like a protection racket.” He also released a viral video of several leaders appearing to chuckle at Trump, saying that the “world is laughing at the president.”

This election comes at a moment when America's global dominance is fading even as it remains the pivotal power in shaping a new security order. It has added to uncertainty about the direction the US will take in the face of rising geopolitical competition and conflict.

Alarm was fuelled by the bombshell memoir published in June by John Bolton, the president's hawkish former national security advisor, in which he described his boss as repeatedly saying he wanted to quit Nato. Bolton also warned last December, on the eve of the London summit celebrating the 29-member alliance's 70th birthday, that Trump could “go full isolationist.”

Over the last three years the Twitterer-in-chief has repeatedly boasted that he would get other allies to “pay their fair share” – showing

ignorance of the principles behind national contributions, which are based on commitments to spend on their own military resources. He has also cast doubt on US commitment to its obligations under article 5 of Nato's founding document, the Washington Treaty, under which an attack on one ally is considered an attack on all allies.

The most recent example of this fractured relationship was the sudden decision to withdraw 9,500 U.S. troops from Germany, a move that shocked Nato. Bolton's successor as national security advisor, Robert O'Brien, justified that by citing Berlin's lack of defence spending. “It is time ... for all European nations to contribute their fair share in defending their homelands,” he wrote.

Another took place last autumn – removing US Special Forces from northern Syria after Trump consulted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan by telephone. That left Kurdish forces exposed and caught Europeans off guard. It also made Emmanuel Macron, the French president, furious that Trump had not consulted allies, declare that Nato was “strategically brain-dead.” And Turkey itself, pursuing aggressive foreign and security

policies, is another problem. Yet another issue was the collapse of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

But there may be worse to come – and Nato has of course become part of the divisive character of this ugly battle for the White House: “Withdrawing from Nato would be nothing short of catastrophic and further highlights the historic importance of this election,” declared Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Democrat of New Hampshire and a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee. “President Trump has undermined trans-Atlantic relations from day 1, and the only one reaping the benefits is Vladimir Putin. Speculation of a future withdrawal is in itself a victory for the Kremlin and beyond Putin's wildest dreams.”

US opposition to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran has also been an irritant in relations with Nato, as has the decision to kill the commander of the Revolutionary Guards Quds Force Qassem Suleimani in a drone strike in January. Trump's recent announcement of the Abraham Accords – the normalisation agreements between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain – has done nothing to resolve the world's most intractable

conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Whatever the spin, it was transactional rather than transformative.

In the wake of the Soleimani killing, Trump suggested to Jens Stoltenberg, the alliance's Norwegian secretary-general, that Nato should expand its activities into the Middle East. “Nato, right, and then you have M-E, Middle East,” he told reporters excitedly, writing in the air with his fingers. “You call it Nato-ME. What a beautiful name. I'm good at names.”

If Trump were to defeat his democratic rival it would doubtless produce panic. Congress would oppose any plans to leave Nato, but even if that does not take place it will likely continue to erode confidence in US leadership – as well as signalling to authoritarians, including Russia, that this alliance is not what it once was.

“The greatest fear is what he would do in a second term. He would be more free from constraints,” an anonymous Nato diplomat said, adding that he was under pressure from his capital to assess what a second Trump term would mean for the alliance. “It is impossible to predict.” But its survival would clearly not be taken for granted.



Donald Trump

Playing Chicken in North-East Syria



a Russian soldier in North-East Syria



James Denselow

During the Cold War as the two Superpowers navigated geopolitical tensions, some of the nearest misses came in the form of accidents that could have triggered a third world war or some form of nuclear apocalypse. Planes carrying deadly missiles would crash land, radar systems would malfunction and warn of pre-emptive strikes, nuclear submarines would play cat and mouse games in ocean trenches. Whilst these days are long gone and the Cold War is over, the relationship between Russia and the USA remains strained and nowhere is this more obviously manifested than in northeast Syria. Last week several US troops were injured in a collision with a Russian military vehicle in northeast Syria, with at least four troops suffering mild concussion-like injuries. Thanks to social media unlike Cold War incidents this collision, something reminiscent of a Mad Max scene, was quickly seen and shared around the world.

Armoured US and Russian vehicles are now playing a bizarre game of chicken along the desert roads

of northeast Syria with hugely dangerous and unpredictable consequences. When the two countries initially found themselves on opposite sides of Syria's fast changing frontlines, conduct was characterised as being professional and respectful. That's clearly no longer the case. Chief Pentagon Spokesperson Jonathan Hoffman explained later in the week that the US "have advised the Russians that their behaviour was dangerous and unacceptable. We expect a return to routine and professional deconfliction in Syria and reserve the right to defend our forces vigorously whenever their safety is put at risk."

Within such diplomatic language is the clear 'right to defend our forces' which could of course mean that events could quite easily spiral out of control. What would have happened, for example, if the US vehicle had been flipped and could no longer leave the area, would the rest of the convoy have fired on Russian forces?

There is no better evidence to the unpredictability and unsustainability of the situation in this corner of Syria than this dangerous dance of armoured vehicles. The Russians blamed the US for the incident saying that it was their vehicles who

were being prevented in carrying out what had been an agreed patrol. Moscow has a deeper and more historic role in Syria than Washington. Whilst the US arrived to help fight ISIS it has kept a force of around 500 soldiers, despite President Trump promising a full withdrawal, to protect oil infrastructure and coordinate with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Moscow is interested in Regime preservation and consolidating Syria as a forward base for its influence, it has up to 4,100 soldiers in the country and has played a key role in helping Damascus restore control over territory lost over the course of the nearly decade long conflict. Moscow is seemingly not willing to allow the continued US presence to proceed without cost and giving its forces the authority to ram US vehicles is a clear sign of intent. Back in February 2018 a large force of Russian mercenaries launched an assault against US positions near a major oilfield. They were repulsed, suffering heavy casualties, but the incident was more evidence of Moscow's decision to push back against the US.

Considering Trump's reticence to still have US forces in the country and with an election looming, one wonders what could happen if these

tensions manifest in US soldiers being more seriously injured or killed. Would Trump double down, increase the US presence in the area and loosen the rules of engagement as a manifestation of strength? Or would any further incident be a trigger for him to order a more abrupt full withdrawal which could have a cascade effect on the power balance for a large chunk of the country?

Such is the unpredictability of the situation and how a single incident could metastasise into a series of events that could impact significantly on the balance of power in the country going forward. At a tactical level there is an obvious need to review and restart whatever deconfliction processes are currently in play in the area, at a political level Moscow and Washington have to decide whether this part of the world is a zone of cooperation or a zone of competition. Moscow appears to have made its mind up that the US interest is temporal and shallow and that it can be nudged into withdrawal by a show of more aggressive intent by Russian forces. However, Trump's unpredictability makes this approach by no means guaranteed to succeed and instead unforeseen events could follow if the game of 'chicken' were to continue.



Turkish frigates in the Mediterranean

Turkey's New Mission on the Cyprus - Egypt Front



Dalia Ziada

With the increasing pressure from the European Union (EU), and the growing instability in Libya, Turkey decided to shift its pursuits in the Mediterranean from western waters to southbasin. Turkey is temporarily resigning from the complicated Greece/Libya front, and is seeking a new simpler battle at the Cyprus/Egypt front.

On September 13th, Turkey withdrew its seismic research ship "Oruç Reis," which its navigation in the disputed exclusive economic zone (EEZ) between Turkey and Greece caused a lot of troubles, recently. The military tensions aroused in the Mediterranean attracted several foreign powers (e.g. France, Russia, China, and the United States), who came to take advantage of the ongoing tragedy. Pushed by France, the European Council will hold a special meeting, on September 24-25, to discuss, among other issues, imposing economic sanctions on Turkey to force it to de-escalate the tension.

Meanwhile, Turkey's position in Libya is weakening, due to the instability and the complicated

internal politics of the Government of National Accord (GNA). Turkey is the only country backing GNA against the Libyan National Army (LNA). Technically speaking, Turkey shall inevitably lose in Libya. It is standing alone, leaning on the fragile GNA, in face of a powerful regional coalition of Russia, UAE, and Egypt, which backs LNA. With the alleged coup attempt against GNA president, Fayez Al-Serraj, followed by his resignation, in mid-September, Turkey realized it has already wasted a lot of money, time, and energy on a battleground that may fruit no tangible benefits, in the near or far future.

GNA's resigning president, Al-Serraj, is the one who signed the invalid maritime agreement with Turkey in November, last year. The so-called agreement was easily annulled by an internationally recognized EEZ agreement between Greece and Egypt, ratified in August. As a result, Turkey cannot use its defective agreement to acquire gas-drilling rights in the Mediterranean, anymore. It is not a secret that gas-drilling in the sea is the main undeclared purpose of Turkey's intervention in Libya, from the start. Hence, Turkey is putting the Greece/Libya front on hold, while pursuing more activities in the basin southits

borders, where Cyprus and Egypt are key players. However, the flawed strategy of militarizing foreign policy, which Turkey adopted as the only strategy to handle its affairs in the Aegean Sea, would not work at the Cyprus/Egypt front. Only concentrated diplomacy could accomplish the mission. Turkey already occupies Northern Cyprus, since 1974, which gives it a limited space to conduct research or navy exercises around the divided island, without much resistance from Nicosia. On the other hand, the seven years of political rift between Turkey and Egypt needs to be addressed through wise diplomatic efforts.

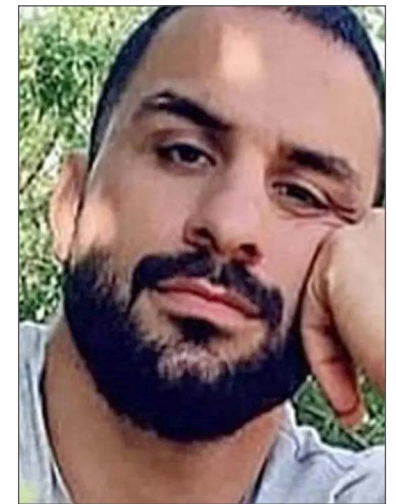
Over the past two weeks, many statements were made by Turkish writers and politicians about the importance of restoring relationships with Egypt. Earlier this month, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu of the Republican People's Party in Turkey said, in a televised interview, that "Turkey made a mistake by cutting ties with Egypt. Egypt is the door to winning in eastern Mediterranean." Similar statements were echoed by the creator of Mavi Vatan doctrine, Retired Admiral Cem Gürdeniz, in an interview with Agence France Press. Even Erdogan's Advisor Dr. Yasin Aktay made a video interview in Arabic, wherein he

asserted the need to restore political affairs between Turkey and Egypt. Despite that, it is highly unlikely that El-Sisi's Egypt would desire to reconcile with Erdogan's Turkey, so easily. The rift, which Erdogan imprudently created by his support to the Muslim Brotherhood against the current regime in Egypt, is terribly wide.

Unfortunately, I strongly doubt that Turkey may succeed in its new mission in the Mediterranean. The mission requires sharp diplomatic skills and Turkey suffers from a chronic febleness in its diplomatic bureau. Ironically, Hulusi Akar, the Defense Minister, is way more skilled in using and applying diplomatic tactics and strategies, than Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the Foreign Minister. Needless to mention the injudicious statements that Erdogan makes, every now and then, and their extremely negative influence on Turkey's foreign affairs.

Perhaps, if Erdogan shuts his mouth up for a couple of months, and let wise leaders like Hulusi Akar take the lead, Turkey may have a chance to finally attain some of its lost rights in the Mediterranean. But, we know this would not happen. Erdogan loves to talk and the more he talks the more he hurts his own nation.

Iran Executes a Wrestling Champion Despite International Pressure



Navid Afkari



Ali Reza

Iranian authorities executed Navid Afkari, a wrestling champion, early morning on Sept. 12, 2020 in the city of Shiraz despite high-profile international campaigns.

27-year-old Afkari and his two brothers were arrested and accused of killing a security guard during protests in the southern city of Shiraz in August 2018. He was deprived from a last meeting with his family and his body was buried in a village in Fars Province under strict security measures on the night of his execution.

In an audio recording leaked from the prison, Afkari said he had been tortured and

forced to confess to crimes he never did. "There is not one shred of evidence in this damned case that shows I'm guilty. But they don't want to listen to us. I realized they are looking for a neck for their rope." Afkari said.

In a video clip that went viral prior to Afkari's execution, his mother emphasized that Navid and his two brothers were tortured into confessing against one another. His brothers Vahid and Habib were sentenced to 54 and 27 years in prison in the same trial.

Afkari's case created a global outcry, including from the US president, Donald Trump, International Olympic Committee (IOC) and from the World Players Association (WPA), a major athletes' union representing 85,000 people, demanding Iranian authorities to halt his

execution.

In a statement after Afkari's execution, the IOC stated, "It is deeply upsetting that the pleas of athletes from around the world and all the behind-the-scenes work of the IOC, together with the NOC of Iran, United World Wrestling and the National Iranian Wrestling Federation, did not achieve our goal. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Navid Afkari."

Diana Eltahawy, Amnesty International's Deputy Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa wrote, "Navid Afkari was a young man with a promising future ahead of him. Carrying out his death sentence with such utter disregard for the basic principles of justice further demonstrates the cruelty of the death penalty. A series

of judges in different courts used forced 'confessions' obtained under torture to convict him, and consistently failed to investigate his complaints of torture."

U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo condemned Afkari's execution in the strongest terms and called it "a vicious and cruel act.

This is not the first time a young Iranian protester is being executed without a fair trial and despite international pressures. The Iranian authorities were fully aware about the outrage of such an execution, yet they decided to proceed to cause fear among the public.

Afkari's execution became the top international news on Iran prior to Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran's trip to Europe.

Zarif will be visiting Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and

Spain to discuss the nuclear deal and sanctions relief according to Tehran Times, a website close to government sources.

Europe has always been soft on the human rights violations in Iran especially since the nuclear negotiations started.

Having Iran's Foreign Minister travelling to Europe and begging for sanctions relief should be a great opportunity for European leaders to hold Iran accountable for the execution of Navid Afkari.

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