

A Union Based on Love: What the Islamic World Needs the Most

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Upside/Downside

Several suspects arrested over Dezful shooting

Several suspects were arrested in connection with the recent deadly shooting in the southwestern city of Dezful in Khuzestan Province, a judicial official said on Monday.

According to IRNA, Ahmad Qahemari, the prosecutor of Dezful, said that the shooting was a "sectarian and sectarian" attack. Police Chief Brigadier General Hossein Aghaie also confirmed the report, saying an investigation was underway in this regard.

Two people lost their lives and two others sustained injuries on Friday when three masked assailants opened fire on a group of people who were holding a "general assembly" for Imam Hussein (PBUH), the third Shia Imam.

Security forces have launched an investigation into the case, trying to apprehend the assailants, who fled the scene following the raid.

'108m Landmines defused in 9 years'

Defence Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan said on Sunday that 108 million landmines and 420,000 unexploded ordnance have been neutralized across the country over the past 9 years.

"Since 2003, when the Defence Ministry took charge of demining programs, it has conducted clearance of more than 1.5 million hectares of land planted with mines and unexploded ordnance left over from the Iraq imposed war on Iran 1980-88," Dehqan said, Tasnim News Agency reported.

He also noted that 99 percent of a total of 4.2 million hectares in western provinces have undergone "general demining" plans.

"At least 91 military personnel have been martyred and 110 others injured during the demining operations," the minister said. The United Nations has classified Iran as one of the world's most mine-affected countries.

Iran chooses negotiations path with 'open eyes'

Major Speaker Ali Larijani said on Monday that Iran has chosen the path of negotiations with the P5+1 group of world powers over its nuclear program, with "open eyes" and that the decision was not made hastily.



He added that "some individuals are unhappy over the happiness of people" in respect to the July 14 nuclear deal, IRNA reported.

Larijani said that the main goals of the talks were that "we have a peaceful nuclear technology and sanctions are removed, because sanctions have imposed a heavy burden on the country."

Jiroft quake destroys nearly 250 houses

An official said on Monday that 249 houses were destroyed in an earthquake that hit the southern city of Jiroft in Kerman Province.

Jiroft Governor Ahmad Aminzade said that most of the affected houses were in a village located near the city, IRNA reported.

He added that there have been no reports of casualties.

The earthquake measuring 4.4 on the Richter scale jolted the city on Monday.

The epicenter was located in an area 37.50 degrees in longitude and 28.85 degrees in latitude at a depth of 10 kilometers underground.

Iran sits several several major faults to the Earth's crust and is prone to frequent earthquakes, many of which have been devastating.

Minister: Zanjani 'giving money to some media'

Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh on Monday accused jailed business tycoon Behzad Zangeneh of "giving money to some media" to garner support to deal with corruption charges leveled against him.

According to IRNA, Zangeneh said that certain media are distorting him to favor of Zangeneh.

He noted that the tycoon "has no way to pay out his debts". Iran's Oil Ministry says Zangeneh owes more than \$2 billion for oil sales he made on behalf of the government of former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Zangeneh is one of Iran's wealthiest businessmen, with a fortune worth an estimated \$4 billion. In 2013, he was arrested shortly after the election of President Hassan Rouhani, who ordered a crackdown on corruption during the eight-year term of his predecessor Ahmadinejad.

Humanitarian aid for Yemen

The deputy director of the Iranian Red Crescent Society for international and humanitarian affairs, Mostafaez Shababodin Mobarad, Aragi said a cargo of medical aid from Iran for the Yemen people has arrived in the Arabian country.

OPINION

A union based on love: What Islamic world needs the most

By Hilarion Yabos

The most recent manifestation of the way in which conflict and domestic turmoil can lead to civil war in societies in which a monopolistic and exclusive sectarian mentality that believes it alone is on the true path is the situation we are now witnessing in Syria. Although sectarian conflicts are not the sole cause of the events that have fragmented the country, in which differences are seen as grounds for the most ruthless discriminations, the failure to establish a society based on mutual love, respect and brotherhood among people who share the same faith is the primary factor encouraging disaster.

Not only Syria, but indeed the entire Middle East, birthplace of the monotheistic faiths and regarded as the heart of the world, has been the epicenter of sectarian conflicts, wars, bloodshed and tears ever since the last century. Although the problems in the region cannot be neatly summarized under a single heading, the main reason for the current atmosphere in the Middle East is that despite sharing the same faith and believing in the same book and prophet, the countries and people of the region are distanced from and even inimical to one another.

This spirit of conflict is now so ingrained that the people of the region are apparently quite unaware that brotherly killing breeds, moreover, they have even forgotten that they are brothers, instead of seeing their differences and embracing one another with love and living together in peace, they are badly fragmented and scattered.

Be they Sunni or Shia, all Muslims are still recognized under one monotheistic creed; they can still regard Muslims who do not think like them as brothers; they can still come together and join forces and thus prevent further fragmentation in the region and be instrumental in stopping the ongoing bloodshed. Of course there may be various reasons for this difference in thinking and practice, but none of them should be the reason to prevent Muslims from being friends just as no difference should prevent Muslims from acting as one at a time when such troubles are affecting the Islamic world.

For one thing, it is incompatible with the Qur'an for two Muslims to be enemies, or to regard that eternally as too foreign to them; a commonality in thinking and practice, or even for one community to regard another as an enemy. There is simply no place in Islamic belief for declaring members of another sect to be apostates, unbelievers or enemies, not to mention the mass murder of those who happen to hold different opinions.

Therefore, the unlawful acts committed by those who cause the deaths of innocent people in suicide bombings, with no regard for women, children or the elderly, or those who attack mosques and burn the people in their homes and simultaneously claim to be performing these atrocities in the name of the faith can be brought to an end and ended in the Muslim world can be brought to an end by means of peace and unity among Muslims.

The duty of Muslims who fear God is to treat everyone with affection and compassion in the knowledge that they are manifestations of God, to treat people who share the same faith, belief in the same book and the same prophet and pray toward the same qibla as them as brothers in this world and in the Hereafter, and to love them with the love and passion of God. All Muslims have a duty to avoid despising their brothers because of their own cultural and traditional differences and to accept the principles of unity, unity and alliance rather than concentrating on differences and laying the foundations for division and to disseminate peace and brotherhood among Muslims.

All Muslims must support one another in alliance, encourage one another to be united and united and discourage one another against division. All sincere Muslims who grasp the importance and urgency of this must take action to construct a union based on love, respect, compassion and understanding in the Muslim world and to good results on the path of peace.

If the Islamic world wishes to be strong and to free their Muslim brothers who are living under persecution and oppression and are currently being subjected to genocide and maltreatment in their own lands in Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Kashmir, Crimea and far too many other places, then it will be united. The course of action of which God will approve is for all Muslims to come together, irrespective of differences of sect or opinion, and to work together to stop the bloodshed, put an end to suicide and terror and bring peace and security to the world.

It is no longer just Muslims that are in need of unity, when Muslims establish an alliance and act in union and unity they will all be saved. By the will of our Almighty Lord, the Islamic world will see peaceful and bright days, and the current strife afflicting it will evaporate; we hope that with the help of Allah, there will be a refuge of peace and brotherhood, all differences and enemies will be set aside, that the blood, hostility and conflict caused by differences will come to an end and that a time of enlightenment and prosperity similar to the Age of Bliss will dawn in three decades.



Tehran expects nuclear deal to be implemented by yearend

Iran-P5+1 commission convenes in Vienna

Iran's nuclear negotiator Ali Akbar Salehi said on Monday he expected a deal with six world powers on Tehran's nuclear program to be implemented by yearend.

"Hopefully before the end of this year certainly we would have the implementation day," Salehi told reporters after a joint commission comprising representatives from Iran and the P5+1 in the Austrian capital Vienna, Reuters reported.

When asked whether Iran had started negotiating credentials, Salehi said the process had not begun yet.

"We need an order by the president to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran to start the job. That would be done after some preparations that we still need to do in the coming days. So it would soon start," Salehi said.

Salehi, who is charged with pursuing the implementation of the agreement, and Majid Jafarizadeh, the deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, represent Iran in the talks, Press TV reported.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Sunday announced in a joint statement that the EU had "adopted the legislative framework for the fulling of a civil nuclear cooperation and financial sanctions against Iran."

Prior to Monday's meeting, Salehi told reporters in Vienna that the meeting would be attended by deputy foreign ministers and experts from both sides.

He said the participants would review the latest developments pertaining to the nuclear agreement dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as well as what steps to take next.

Zarif: Iran seeks friendly ties with regional states

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif underlined that Iran will stand beside Arab states for the sake of the region's security, stability and progress, whether the "Arab friends" recognize it or not.

The fact that Iran managed to strike a deal with the Western countries with which it has few commonalities, signifies that it will definitely reach a conclusion with its Arab brothers, he Zarif noted, making a reference to recent Iran nuclear deal.

He further deplored the identical stance adopted by Saudi Arabia and Israel toward Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

"Iran's goal is not settlement to Saudi Arabia's law, either," the minister stated.

Pointing to the crises in Syria and Yemen, Zarif stressed that a political solution to these conflicts is at hand today.

Leader: Mina tragedy must...

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"Even states who had lost pilgrims did not express much protest at the fact of the tragedy," he underlined.

The Leader said the Mina tragedy should be seriously pursued, adding the silence of so-called human rights institutions in the US and Europe in among the issues which can be followed up on.

"Hypocritical and far insouciant, which claim to be supporters of human rights, together with Western governments, which sometimes talk up a free market in the world for the death of a single person, maintained absolute silence in this saga in favor of their friend governments," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

He demanded the Mina tragedy not slip into oblivion, saying the issue should be brought up at international forums for years.

Iran preparing for 'tsunami'...

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Americans and Brits traveling to Iran will need a visa ahead of time to enter mainland Iran, according to their respective governments. In 2014, there were 3,400 American visitors to Iran, up from 1,800 in 2013, Softbank said.

Iran aims to host 20 million tourists a year by 2025, with expectations of growing the tourist industry to \$30 billion.

Currently, Iran lacks sufficient accommodation and transportation for that number of tourists. Iran has 1,100 hotels and guesthouses, 130 of them four- and five-star star hotels.

"We need to increase our four- and five-star hotels from 130 to 400 in 10 years. We are providing low-interest funds out of the National Development Fund to private investors to build modern hotels," Softbank said.

Iran needs more than 400 new passenger planes to compensate for shortages due to sanctions over the past three decades. Of its 250 passenger planes, 100 are currently grounded because of lack of spare parts. The remaining 150 aging aircraft need to be renovated.

"We need to renovate our air transportation systems and buy new planes after sanctions are lifted. But this will be time-consuming," he added.

Schlesinger, a moderate politician, welcomed investors and tourists from the US.

"American tourists and investors are welcome. There is no obstacle or restrictions for them to visit Iran or invest in the country," he said.

Last month, an Iranian firm signed an agreement with French hotel giant AccorHotels to use the Novotel and Ibis brands for 15 years, the first deal of kind in three decades.

The most recent manifestation of the way in which conflict and domestic turmoil can lead to civil war in societies in which a monopolistic and exclusive sectarian mentality that believes it alone is on the true path is the situation we are now witnessing in Syria. Although sectarian conflicts are not the sole cause of the events that have fragmented the country, in which differences are seen as grounds for the most ruthless discrimination, the failure to establish a society based on mutual love, respect and brotherhood among people who share the same faith is the primary factor encouraging disaster.

Not only Syria, but indeed the entire Middle East, birthplace of the monotheistic faiths and regarded as the heart of the world, has been the epicenter of sectarian conflicts, war, bloodshed and tears ever since the last century. Although the problems in the region cannot be neatly summarized under a single heading, the main reason for the current atmosphere in the Middle East is that despite sharing the same faith and believing in the same book and prophet, the countries and people of the region are distanced from and even inimical to one another.

This spirit of conflict is now so ingrained that the people of the region are apparently quite unaware that brother is killing brother; moreover, they have even forgotten that they are brothers. Instead of setting aside their differences and embracing one another with love and living together in peace, they are badly fragmented and scattered.

Be they Sunni or Shiite, all Muslims can still be reconciled under one monotheistic roof; they can still regard Muslims who do not think like them as brothers; they can still come together and join forces and thus prevent further fragmentation in the region and be instrumental in stopping the ongoing bloodshed. Of course there may be various ethnic, sectarian or regional and culturally-based differences in thought and practice; after all, it is no secret that there are different schools, different interpretations and different ideas among Muslim communities, but none of this requires them to be mortal enemies with one another. No difference in thinking or practice should prevent Muslims from being friends just as no difference should prevent Muslims from acting as one at a time when such troubles are afflicting the Islamic world. For one thing, it is incompatible with the Qur'an for one Muslim community to be hostile to another on the basis of such differences, or to regard that community as too foreign to form a consensus on a common ground, or even for one community to regard another as an enemy. There is simply no place in Islamic belief for declaring members of another sect to be apostates, unbelievers or enemies, not to mention the mass murder of those who happen to hold different opinions.

Therefore, the unlawful acts committed by those who cause the deaths of innocent people in suicide bombing, with no regard for women, children or the elderly, or those who attack mosques and burn the people in them alive and yet simultaneously claim to be perpetrating these atrocities in the name of the faith can be brought to an end and the evil and strife in the Muslim world can be brought to an end by means of peace and unity among Muslims.

The duty of Muslims who fear God is to treat everyone with affection and compassion in the knowledge that they are manifestations of God, to regard people who share the same faith, believe in the same book and the same prophet and pray toward the same qibla as them as brothers in this world and in the hereafter, and to love them with the love and passion of God. All Muslims have a duty to avoid despising their brothers because of various cultural and traditional differences and to adopt the principles of union, unity and alliance rather than concentrating on differences and laying the foundations for division and to disseminate peace and brotherhood among Muslims.

All Muslims must support one another in alliance, encourage one another to be unified and united and discourage one another against division. All sincere Muslims who grasp the importance and urgency of this must take action to construct a union based on love, respect, compassion and understanding in the Muslim world and do good works on the path of peace.

If the Islamic world wishes to be strong and to free their Muslim brothers who are living under persecution and repression and are currently being subjected to genocide and maltreatment in their own lands in Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Kashmir, East Turkestan, Moro, Rohingya, Afghanistan, Pathani, Crimea and far too many other places, then it has to be united. The course of action of which God will approve is for all Muslims to come together, irrespective of differences of sect or opinion, and to work together to stop the bloodshed, put an end to anarchy and terror and bring peace and security to the world.

It is long past time for the Islamic world to be united. When Muslims establish an alliance and act in union and unity they will all be saved and, by the will of our

Almighty Lord, the Islamic world will attain peaceful and bright days, and the current strife afflicting it will evaporate.

We hope that with the realization that our faith is a religion of peace and brotherhood, all differences and enmities can be set aside, that the lovelessness, distance, hostility and conflict caused by differences will come to an end and that a time of enlightenment and prosperity similar to the Age of Bliss will dawn across the Islamic world.

Adnan Oktar's on Iran Daily:

<http://irandailyonline.ir/News/129823.html?catid=3&title=A-union-based-on-love--What-Islamic-world-needs-the-most>

<https://www.harunyahya.info/en/articles/a-union-based-on-love-what-the-islamic-world-needs-the-most>