

Defendants should not be kept in suspense indefinitely: grand ayatollah

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Defendants with pending cases should not be held in custody in suspense indefinitely, Grand Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi said on Thursday.

Judges should not issue rulings before sufficient investigation is done in order to avoid violating individuals' rights, he said in a meeting with the Chairman of the Supreme Court, Ayatollah Ahmad Mohseni Gorgani.

"Sometimes in some cases, verdicts are issued without due care and it entails negative consequences in the public," he added.

When possible defendants should be released on bail "because safeguarding of people's esteem is essential for all," he opined.

He called for the acceleration in the process of examining and issuing the final ruling on the cases related to the post-election protests.

Ailing economy will undermine religion: ayatollah

Tehran Times Political Desk
QOM — If economy collapses, this will affect negatively the status of religion in the people's eyes, Ayatollah Abdollah Javadi Amoli stated on Thursday.

It not possible to manage the country's affairs with idealistic dreams, he noted.

"If we want to manage the country (efficiently), we should see in what conditions we live," the ayatollah said in a meeting with the director of Iranian National Tax Administration, Ali Askari.

"People's culture is built by their faith, and people's faith is safeguarded by the economy," he stated.

National affairs cannot be handled smoothly, when poverty exists, he explained.

"We cannot sit behind our desks and demand taxes while disregarding what services we have done and the level of production (in the country)," he said.

The tax system should distinguish between the income and the capital, he noted.

"If a businessman makes money, he can spend in proportion with his income; but the day he falls back on his capital to cover his living expenses, it is the beginning of the bankruptcy," he said.

The ayatollah said that fact that the country is dependent on oil revenues is not sensible.

"Oil is a tremendous asset for our country, the day that we sell oil to run the country's affairs, we go bankrupt; and the next generation will ask why you sold our assets?" he pointed out.

An Islamic system should take Islam's guidelines into consideration when making economic decisions, ayatollah Javadi Amoli added.

"When a (country) has assets like land and water and imports food, it proves its incompetency."

Some people may put up with living in poverty in slums due to their modesty and thriftiness, but the God does not confirm this, he opined.

Islamic unity will increase pressure on Israel, Ahmadinejad tells Qatari emir

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said that unity among Islamic countries, and particularly among Persian Gulf states, would definitely make the situation difficult for the Zionist regime.

Ahmadinejad made the remarks on Thursday in a meeting with visiting Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

The two heads of state also discussed ways to expand relations in all areas.

Ahmadinejad said Tehran-Doha ties are based on "mutual respect, trust, and brotherhood."

He pointed to the improved political relations between the two countries but noted that they should also make efforts to increase cooperation in other areas.

The good relationship between Iran and Qatar will benefit both nations as well as the entire region, the president opined.

The Qatari emir described relations between the two countries as strategic, saying, "This strategy will not change."

He also said that Doha wants Tehran



to strengthen its ties with Persian Gulf Cooperation Council states and that Qatar is ready to help Iran in this regard.

And protecting the interests of Islamic nations is the common goal of Tehran and Doha, the Qatari emir noted.

IAEA found nothing serious at Iran site: ElBaradei

VIENNA (Reuters) — UN inspectors found "nothing to be worried about" in a first look at a uranium enrichment site in Iran last month, the International Atomic Energy chief said in remarks published Thursday.

Mohamed ElBaradei also told the New York Times that he was examining possible compromises to unblock a draft nuclear cooperation deal between Iran and three major powers that has foundered over Iranian objections. ElBaradei was quoted in a New York Times interview as saying his inspectors' initial findings at the fortified site beneath a desert mountain near the Shiite holy city of Qom were "nothing to be worried about."

"The idea was to use it as a bunker under the mountain to protect things," ElBaradei, alluding to Tehran's references to the site as a fallback for its nuclear program in case its larger Natanz enrichment plant were bombed by a foe like Israel.

"It's a hole in a mountain," he said.

The Islamic Republic revealed the plant's existence to the Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog on September 21. It said the site, which remains under construction, would enrich uranium



only to the low 5 percent purity suitable for power plant fuel.

After talks with Iran and three world powers, ElBaradei drafted a plan for Iran to transfer some of its low-enriched uranium (LEU) to Russia and France to turn it into fuel for a Tehran reactor that makes isotopes for cancer treatment. But since the October 19-21 talks, Iran has made clear it is loath to ship its own LEU abroad because of its strategic value, and would prefer buying the reactor fuel it needs from foreign suppliers. Iran has called for more talks.

ElBaradei was quoted by the New York Times as saying "the issue is timing, whether the uranium goes out and then some time later they get the fuel, as we agreed (tentatively) in Geneva, or whether it only goes at the same time as the fuel is delivered."

"There are a lot of ideas. One is to send (Iran's uranium) to a third country, which could be a friendly country to Iran, and it stays there. Park it in another state ... (for) something like a year... then ... bring in the fuel. The issue is to get it out, and so create the time and space to start building trust."

Iran urges France to lose 'intrusive attitude'

Iran says it is growing accustomed to the 'increasingly intrusive remarks' by French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner regarding Tehran's internal issues.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Kouchner's interfering comments on the country's domestic affairs run counter to the interests of the French people.

"We are getting used to the French foreign minister's lack of insight regarding the developments of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we believe that these ignorant statements would affect the interest of the French nation," Mottaki said.

"Instead of making condemnatory statements against others, I would advise Mr. Kouchner to pay a little visit to the suburbs of Paris to catch on to the ongoing human rights violations taking place there," he continued.

Mottaki's remarks come after Kouchner

said he was "profoundly concerned" about government action against an illegal opposition rally that was recently held on the 30th anniversary of the U.S. Embassy takeover in Tehran.

"We don't really know the situation in Tehran. We know the demonstrators were very numerous, a big crowd in the middle of Tehran. We don't know if some of them were hurt or died ... but it was a very, very important movement," the French foreign minister had claimed.

Kouchner also criticized Iran over a Western-backed nuclear deal to export as much as 70 percent of the country's low-enriched uranium (LEU) abroad for processing into fuel for the Tehran research reactor.

Powered by 20-percent enriched uranium, the Tehran research reactor produces isotopes for cancer care to more than 200 hospitals.

Iranian officials have welcomed foreign cooperation on fuel supply, but have rejected the idea of sending out the bulk of its uranium stock in one batch.

Kouchner warned that if Iran keeps postponing its response to the proposal, put forth by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the P5+1 would abandon discussion with Tehran.

Mottaki, in turn, said Kouchner should try putting himself in the place of the Iranian government before leveling "unrealistic accusations" against Tehran.

The Iranian minister continued that Iran has three options on nuclear fuel supply — directly buying fuel from a third country, exchanging its low-enriched uranium (LEU) for the fuel it needs, or enriching uranium to the required level.

(Source: Press TV)

'No Iranian will compromise on nuclear rights'

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Substitute Friday prayers leader of Tehran Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami said here Friday that no Iranian will compromise on Iran's nuclear rights.

"Nobody will make a deal on national nuclear rights; neither will anybody turn a blind eye to the legal right of the nation. If westerners wish to play on us and refuse to deliver fuel to Tehran research reactor, Iranian nuclear scientists will step forward and provide the fuel too," said Ayatollah Khatami in his second Friday prayers sermon in Tehran University campus.

"They (westerners) constantly claim that Iran should build trust, while you are the ones distrusted by us," he added.

He noted that Iran owes its success in nuclear energy field to wise guidelines of the Supreme Leader of Islamic Revolution and officials' support.

Referring to Iran's 10 percent share in French Orbit enrichment plant and addressing himself to western leaders, Ayatollah Khatami said, "You are specialized

in violation of rights and in plundering. That's for 30 years that you do not provide Iran with the 10 percent right. Now how can we give you the guarantee for 3.5 percent enriched uranium and for the return of 20 percent enriched uranium to Iran? Iranian nation is well aware and will not be deceived by you. Whom do you try to deceive? Iranian nation is alert and will not be deceived by you."

He then said Tehran research reactor has applications in Medicare and cancer treatment. "Under the IAEA regulations, you should give its fuel to Iran." On the Iran-U.S. relations, Ayatollah Khatami said Iran's refusal to compromise with the U.S. is not because of obstinacy, prejudice and emotions; rather it is due to a fully wise stance.

Since August 1953, Iran has observed nothing but treason and crimes on part of the U.S., he added.

"Since early Islamic Revolution, there have been coups, provocation of ethnic groups, imposed war, violation of Iranian

nation's interests and anti-Iran international stances, and freezing of Iranian assets by the U.S. According to the Supreme Leader of Islamic Revolution, anybody wishing to record the U.S.' 30-year crimes in Iran, will come across with a thick and voluminous book."

Referring to recent statement of the U.S. President Barack Obama regarding the Iran-U.S. relations, Ayatollah Khatami said, "He falsely claims that we (Americans) do not interfere in Iran events. Such a big lie! You candidly interfered in the post-election events and your media launched provocations."

Also referring to the last week anti-Iran approval of the U.S. Congress, the cleric said the passing envisions more than \$50 million for sabotage and soft war against the great Iranian nation.

"As long as the imperialistic attitude prevails in the U.S., they (Americans) should know that Iranian nation will never yield to the satanic negotiations."

Negotiation best way to promote regional security

In a separate meeting with the Qatari emir on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that regional countries should hold talks and reach a consensus on regional issues in order to thwart certain countries' efforts to sow discord between them.

Arranging talks between regional nations is the best way to promote security in the region, Mottaki observed.

Pointing to the critical situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan, he criticized certain foreign elements for promoting terrorism and extremism in the region.

Commenting on the crises in Palestine, Gaza and Lebanon, he said if an appropriate strategy is not formulated to resolve the crises, the situation will become worse.

The two sides also discussed ways to improve bilateral ties and cooperation on international issues.

Mottaki said that the Iranian and Qatari private sectors should utilize their great potential to help expand bilateral cooperation in trade, industrial, and infrastructure projects.

The Qatari emir stressed the importance of talks between the two countries for the promotion of bilateral cooperation.

And the two countries should find ways to strengthen their regional and bilateral relations, he added.



U.S. slaps sanctions on Malaysian branch of Iran's Bank Mellat

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. Treasury Department on Thursday announced sanctions against the Malaysian subsidiary of Iran's Bank Mellat.

The Treasury Department said Bank Mellat "has facilitated the movement of millions of dollars for Iran's nuclear program."

Sanctions also were slapped on Bank Mellat chairman Ali Divandari who "plays a significant role" in the bank's "activities and decision-making process." Thursday's announcement includes the First East Export Bank PLC, a Mellat subsidiary based in Labuan, Malaysia.

Iran to give IAEA more nuclear details

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is preparing to give the International Atomic Energy Agency more details of its response to proposals from the major powers for the supply of nuclear fuel, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Friday.

"We have some more details which we have to give to the IAEA," television quoted Mottaki as saying on its website.

"We have three options — enrich the fuel ourselves, buy it directly or exchange our uranium for fuel," he said.

"They have to choose from these options. Given the need of Iran to have the fuel, my view is that they (the IAEA and the major powers) will accept another round of discussions."

A plan drawn up by the IAEA after talks between Iran and major powers in Vienna calls for Iran to export most of its stocks of low-enriched uranium abroad for further enrichment in Russia and conversion by France into fuel for a research reactor in Tehran.

Iran's Guards say Pakistan released Jundullah leader

TEHRAN (Dawn) — The deputy head of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards charged on Friday that Pakistan arrested and then released the leader of Jundullah a few days before a suicide bombing claimed by the group.

"We have precise information about the movement and places where terrorists are hiding," the Fars news agency quoted Brigadier General Hossein Salami as saying.

"On September 26, Abdolmalek Rigi was arrested in one of the streets of Quetta but after one hour he was released following the intervention of the intelligence service of our neighboring country," Salami said. Quetta is the capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan province, which borders Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province where Jundullah is active.

Some 42 people, including 15 Revolutionary Guards members, died in the October 18 bombing in the Sistan-Baluchestan town of Pisheen.

"How is it possible that this guy can move freely (unless he is) under the protection of the intelligence services?" the Guards number two said, according to Fars.

Iran has said those responsible for the bombing were based in Pakistan and has demanded that Islamabad hand Rigi over.

Islamabad has strongly denied that Jundullah launched the attack from its territory.

On Thursday, Pakistani police said three Iranians arrested for illegally entering Pakistan may have been linked to the Pisheen bombing.