

## ‘Clinton should focus on violations of intl. law by the CIA’

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's recent remarks are blatant interference in Iran's internal affairs, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

The U.S. secretary of state's remarks about verdicts issued by Iranian courts for certain people arrested during the post-election unrest were based on false information, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast stated.

"It is a very unfortunate, distressing development to see these sentences handed down in Iran, imposing the death penalty on people who participated in expressing their opposition to the government in demonstrating in the streets," Clinton told reporters in Kabul on Thursday.

Mehmanparast added, "Being a member of a terrorist group and targeting innocent people" are and have been considered crimes in every place and at every time in history.

Those people who call the trials of terrorists a political issue are interfering in Iran's internal affairs, he observed.

Pointing to the fact that 23 CIA agents have been found guilty of involvement in kidnapping and torturing an Egyptian national, he noted that Clinton ought to shift her concern toward this issue, which was a violation of international law.

## China: Iran has the right to gain nuclear know-how

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Chinese deputy foreign minister has said Iran has the right to acquire the nuclear technology.

The Chinese official made the remarks in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki here on Saturday.

He said China has always supported a diplomatic solution for Iran's nuclear dossier.

China believes that the International Atomic Energy Agency is the only authorized body to examine the issue, he added.

He also expressed satisfaction at regular meetings between the two countries' officials.

He said Tehran-Beijing economic and cultural ties have made significant progress over the past few years.

Mottaki, for his part, said Tehran welcomes China's views on how to expand strategic relations between the two nations.

He added a sharing of common views on mutual, regional, and global developments would help both countries to adopt a practical stance in dealing with the current issues.

## Iran seeks delivery of S-300 missiles by Russia: defense minister

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi said on Sunday that Iran is asking Russia to fulfill its commitments in delivering S-300 air defense missiles to Iran.

The S-300 system, which can track targets and fire at aircraft 120 kilometers (75 miles) away, features high jamming immunity and is able to simultaneously engage up to 100 targets.

Iran says Russia should have delivered the air defense system some six months ago and the delay is apparently the result of Western pressure.

# Municipalities legally tasked with operating subways: Qalibaf

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Tehran Mayor Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf says that according to the law, only municipalities are allowed to build and operate subway systems and everyone should abide

by the law.  
 "According to article 3 of the law the Majlis ratified in (Iranian calendar year) 1385 (March 2006-March 2007), municipalities are tasked with building, operating, and managing



metro systems," he said in Tehran on Sunday at the inauguration ceremony for a number of libraries.

He made the remarks in response to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's announcement on

November 11 that the administration plans to take over control of the Tehran Urban and Suburban Metro Company from the Tehran Municipality.

The Tehran Municipality was

tasked with operating the Tehran Metro in 2001, but Ahmadinejad, who was the mayor of Tehran from 2003 to 2005, said his administration has decided to take control of the Tehran Metro.

The current problem of the Tehran subway system does not have anything to do with its management, but rather, the underground system suffers from a lack of funding, Qalibaf stated.

People expect proper service from the metro system and do not care who is in charge of the system or how it is managed, he added.

He also said the parliament is devising a plan to allow the subway systems of Tehran and other major cities to have access to \$2 billion from the Foreign Reserve Exchange Fund.

The ratification of this plan can be a serious step for the development of metro systems, Qalibaf noted.

He went on to say that he does not intend to politicize the issue and plans to present a report to inform the public about the Tehran Municipality's activities in regard to the subway system and its investments in the Tehran Metro.

## Dust damages \$1b annually: official

**Tehran Times Social Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — An official from the Agriculture Jihad Ministry has stated that the dust arising from Iraqi deserts inflicts about 1 billion dollars in damages on agricultural products in Iran every year.

Gholamreza Miraki, the head of the ministry's environment department, stated on Wednesday that three years of research by the Research and Agriculture Training Center have showed that the dust pollution has largely affected agricultural products in south and southwest-

ern provinces.

Talking to the Mehr News Agency, Miraki said the environmental damages in the southwestern and southern provinces caused a 20 to 40 percent decrease in crop yields and many trees have got different diseases.

Crops decreased about 10 million tons last year, the official stated.

Miraki said weather changes and a huge destruction of lagoons especially in Iraq cause dust pollution in the whole region.

Bushehr, Khuzestan, Ilam, Fars, and some other provinces are affected by the dust.

Dust pollution has affected the environment, natural resources, and crops in the last three years and many people have suffered from the pollution, he explained.

In early July the dust originating from Iraq's deserts descended on western, southwestern, central, and northwestern Iran. The dust brought the metropolis of Tehran to a standstill.

## Persian Gulf states should have higher profile in intl. arena: Leader

(Contd. from p. 1)

The Leader pointed to Saddam Hussein's invasions of Iran and Kuwait, saying Saddam's behaviors were not proportionate to the custom of good neighborliness and he "inflicted great damages on regional countries."

For his part, the Kuwaiti prime minister said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran proved its friendship and brotherhood with the Kuwaiti people in the difficult time when Saddam attacked Kuwait and we always consider Iran our friend and brother."

The Kuwaiti prime minister arrived in Tehran on Saturday for a two-day visit. He was accompanied by the ministers of foreign affairs, oil, energy, commerce and information as well as officials from the Arab country's investment organization.

The prime minister said the composition of his entourage indicates that the Kuwaiti government is determined to expand cooperation with Iran in all areas. He added Kuwait seeks to take advantage of the experience of Iranian experts.

He said his country's vote against the UN General Assembly resolution on Friday showed Kuwait's unwavering support for the Islamic Republic.

### Kuwaiti PM backs Iran's right to nuclear technology

The Kuwaiti prime minister said on Sunday that his country has always defended Iran's right to use nuclear technology for civilian purposes.

"Since the beginning Kuwait has defended the right to nuclear technology and energy by the Islamic republic of Iran," the prime minister told Ali Larijani, Iran's Majlis speaker.

The prime minister also said Kuwait has told the Western countries that it "will never allow any attack on Iranian interests



The Kuwaiti prime minister (L) shaking hands with Iranian Majlis speaker (R).

through the Kuwaiti soil."

The Kuwaiti prime minister said his country is interested to develop relations with Iran, which he called a good and powerful neighbor.

He also pointed to Iran's strong opposition to Saddam regime's occupation of Kuwait in 1990, saying, "Kuwait's nation and leaders will never forget this principled and reasonable position."

Pointing to crises in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and Palestine, the senior Kuwait official said the Islamic world is in dire need of unity for resolving all of these problems.

He also invited Larijani to visit Kuwait.

### Iran considers Kuwait as good neighbor

Larijani praised "brotherly" ties between Iran and Kuwait, saying Tehran "considers Kuwait as a good and respectable neighbor."

He interpreted the Kuwaiti prime minister's visit to Tehran as a new opening in bilateral relationship.

The senior lawmaker went on to say that the Islamic Republic has always been on the side of its neighbors at hard times and only thinks of friendship and mutual respect.

He also said all regional countries must help restore full security in Iraq. "A calm and stable Iraq will benefit all neighbors."

The speaker also said selective and contradictory approaches toward terrorism have led to the spread of insecurity in Afghanistan and other places in the region.

The politician added crises, especially in the Islamic countries, must be resolved by the regional countries themselves.

He also said continuous attempts by certain nuclear-armed countries to create fear about Iran's nuclear activities among neighbors are ridiculous.



## Ahmadinejad begins LatAm tour

Iran's President began his tour to five countries in Africa and South America on Sunday days after the Israeli president ended a tour aimed at rallying support against Tehran.

"Iranian President (Mahmoud Ahmadinejad) will visit Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, Senegal and Gambia," IRINN reported.

"Ahmadinejad is slated to visit Gambia in the first leg of his five-day trip," it added.

He will then visit Brazil on the second day. Bolivia, Venezuela and Senegal will be the next targets.

Ahmadinejad's tour is aimed at boosting political and economic ties with the five African and South American countries.

Israeli President Shimon Peres's week-long visit to Brazil and Argentina, the first trip to the countries after 40 and 20 years respectively, comes amid Iran's amicable relationship with Latin American countries.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has thrown his weight behind Iran's efforts to develop a nuclear program aimed at peaceful purposes in September's UN gathering in New York.

Iran's close ties with Latin America and particularly Brazil, the fifth largest country, has been a cause of major concern both for Israel and its staunch ally, the U.S..

A day after Iran's ambassador to Brazil announced that Ahmadinejad and a large entourage of 110 representatives from 65 companies were to visit Brasilia early May 2009, U.S. Secretary of State dubbed the development as "quite disturbing."

Blaming U.S. President Barack Obama's predecessor for "Iran gains" in the region, the top U.S. diplomat noted "I don't think in today's world, where it's a multi-polar world, where we are competing for attention and relationships with the Russians, the Chinese, the Iranians, that it's in our interest to turn our backs on our own hemisphere."

The Israeli president's visit to the two Latin American countries, home to the largest Jewish community in the region, also led to angry demonstrations against the trip. (Source: Press TV)

## 'If attacked, Iran will target Tel Aviv'

A senior IRGC official warns that Iranian missiles will be on their marks to target the very heart of Tel Aviv in the event of a military attack on the Islamic Republic.

"If the enemy tries its luck and fires a missile into Iran, our ballistic missiles would zero in on Tel Aviv before the dust settles on the attack," said Mojtaba Zolnour, the representative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Zolnour, who was speaking in a Saturday interview with the IRNA news agency, said enemy countries should keep in mind that Iran's military capabilities have made great strides due to the efforts of Iranian experts.

He made the comments shortly after the Iranian Air Force announced that it is preparing for a five-day aerial maneuver named the Sky of Velayat 2.

The large-scale maneuver, which is said to be Iran's biggest yet, is mainly aimed at developing the country's aerial defenses against any potential attack on the country's nuclear plants.

"The aerial defense maneuver will begin on Sunday and last for five days," said Brigadier General Ahmad Miqani, the commander of the Air Defense Headquarters of Iran's armed forces.

"It is slated to cover a vast area of some 600,000 square kilometers in the northwest, west, south, and southwest of the country," he added. (Source: Press TV)



A number of seminary students held a demonstration in front of Yemen's embassy in Tehran on Sunday to protest at killings of Yemeni Shias.