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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

ISIL, Al-Qaeda Are Now Soul Mates

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

So much with the so-called "moderate" rebels and "good" terrorists in Syria: The US-backed al-Qaeda affiliates like Jabhat al-Nusra which continue to receive petro-dollar cash and arms from Washington and its pathetic club of partners in the Persian Gulf.

We now hear that al-Qaeda has decided to endorse the medieval butchers of ISIL and "Caliph Ibrahim" himself, suggesting shifting sentiment and tactic. Once a rival of ISIL and hence called "good al-Qaeda" referring to Jabhat al-Nusra, the official al-Qaeda wing in Syria has now decided to endorse ISIL – kind of.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), an al-Qaeda affiliate in good standing, has issued a statement urging "jihadists" support ISIL against the United States!

Experts say it's not quite the same thing as a statement from the parent al-Qaeda, but AQAP's assessment is a reasonable facsimile, and suggests that even if the parent organization isn't there yet, al-Qaeda is warming up to ISIL.

Which was perhaps inevitable, as the US war in Syria was launched against ISIL, but immediately expanded to include "Khorasan," a US-invented term for Jabhat al-Nusra, and gave the two terrorist groups another common enemy, and one who is attacking both at the same time – besides attacking Syria and its already dilapidated infrastructure.

So the US is bombing Syria – with Saudi-purchased missiles and bombs – to destroy Syria AND Saudi-backed al-Qaeda, ISIL, and other "moderate" and "good" terrorists all at the same time. If you are confused, you shouldn't be. At least the Obama administration was honest when they said before the beginning of their ineffective air war that they had no particular strategy or clue for the war on ISIL and other terrorist goons.

To complicate matters, Centcom Commander General Lloyd Austin has just echoed previous comments by other Pentagon officials trying to tamp down expectations of any significant gains in the months to come, pushing the idea that next year or later the war could switch to US advantage.

Gen. Austin says the idea was that a solid year or so of airstrikes would leave ISIL "much degraded," and eventually they wouldn't have any US-made tanks or Humvees, at which point the Iraqi military, or in the case of Syria, the US-made "rebel" faction (the old ones don't exist and the new ones are not created yet) might stand a chance fighting them directly.

The Pentagon hasn't even started creating the Syrian rebel force which they insist are so vital to the victory in that country, and they believe that in the best case, they will have such a force about a year after they begin training. Wishful thinking.

In any case, the Big Picture is still the same: Regime change in Syria and Iraq, even if that requires killing some of the (old) Obama-designed "rebels" to look like an honest broker and distract the attention from the imperial objective.

We said it before and we say it again: The "LONG WAR" is, and was always going to be, Washington's fight to destabilize the region, protect American interests in the Middle East with all that "American" oil, encourage arms race, pit Muslims against each other, and divert their attention from the issue of Israel.

It was never meant to degrade or terminate ISIL and al-Qaeda, because the terrorist outfits are American-made and a convenient tool at the hands of the industrial-military complex to wage perpetual wars.

The new developments are all about Washington's perpetual commitment to military bases to preserve and extend its empire, with reliance on air power at great cost to civilians in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Libya and Syria. It's never about saving lives and/or "humanitarian" intervention. Any other argument is just a waste of time.

Leader's Aide: Iran Backs 'Rightful Struggles' of Houthis



Leader's advisor Ali Akbar Velayati, right, smiles during a meeting with Islamic Jihad head Ramadan Abdullah Shallah in Tehran.

EHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Saturday the Islamic Republic supports the "rightful struggles" of the Ansarullah movement in Yemen.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the rightful struggles of Ansarullah in Yemen and considers this movement as part of the successful Islamic Awakening movements," Ali Akbar Velayati, who is also president of the Expediency Council's Center for Strategic Research, said in a meeting with a group of Yemeni clerics here.

He expressed satisfaction with Yemeni people's triumphs in the

Arab country and offered Tehran's congratulations to the Yemenis on their victory.

Noting that the Houthi fighters have initiated an "unprecedented" movement in the Arab country, Velayati added, "Victories in rapid succession by the Ansarullah indicate that this movement is a pre-planned and calculated undertaking and having learned from the past, they have been able to control the situation and remove the obstacles one after another."

Velayati said Tehran supports Houthi fighters' "tactful approach" to uniting all religious sects in the country.

He said enemies of the Yemeni

people have instigated Al-Qaeda-linked militants to carry out bomb blasts, noting that the Yemeni nation will thwart such plots.

In September, Ansarullah revolutionary fighters gained control over the capital, Sana'a, following a four-day battle with army forces loyal to General Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar, the half-brother of former dictator, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The Ansarullah movement played a major role in the popular uprising that forced Saleh to step down after more than 33 years in power.

Yemen has been facing threats from Al-Qaeda-linked militants, as well as a separatist movement in the country's southern region.

BP Restarts Gasfield Shared by Iran

LONDON (Dispatches) – BP has recommenced production at one of the UK's most important North Sea gasfields, nearly four years after the oil major was forced to halt output because of sanctions against Iran.

The oil group confirmed on Friday that gas had begun to flow out of the Rhum field, 250 miles off Scotland's northeast coast, which until its closure in November 2010 had been contributing around 4-5 percent of Britain's total gas output.

A thaw in diplomatic relations between western governments and Iran, which owns a 50% stake in the field, led to permission in October last year from the UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change for production to begin once more at

Rhum.

However technical difficulties and safety concerns have led to a delay of a year for output to resume.

Rhum is half owned and operated by BP, but the Iranian Oil Company has a 50% stake in the field, which was discovered in 1977, two years before the fall of the Shah amid the country's revolution.

BP said it would take two to three days for gas flows from the field to feed though Rhum's platform systems to allow for eventual delivery.

The oil company is expecting initial output at Rhum to be held at 50m cubic feet per day. The field's peak output capacity had initially been expected to reach 300m cubic feet per day.

DECC said: "The government supports the resumption of production at Rhum, which is necessary to avoid potential environmental damage (Continued on Page 7)

Commander: Terrorists Came From Pakistan

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A senior Iranian commander said Saturday the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has evidence proving that terrorists have infiltrated into Iran from the neighboring Pakistan.

"The IRGC ground forces have submitted sufficient evidence to foreign ministry and ministry of the interior regarding the infiltration of bandits from inside Pakistan (to Iran)," IRGC ground forces' second-in-command, Brigadier General Abdollah Araqi, said.

Noting that the Islamic Republic will respond "legally and politically" to cross-border attacks, the general said, "We are trying to establish lasting security in border areas by fortifying borders, exercising further intelligence control and boosting our military capability."

Araqi added that due to measures taken by the IRGC, police and the intelligence ministry, terrorist operations, which used to be carried out in more internal parts of the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan up to five years ago, are now carried out only in border areas.

He also criticized Iran's eastern neighbors for failing to rein in terrorists who cross back borders into these countries after carrying out their attacks on Iran's soil.

Three Iranian police officers were killed when they, along with other (Continued on Page 7)

The Holy Qur'an

But when He gave them out of His grace, they became niggardly of it and they turned back and they withdrew. The Holy Qur'an (9.72)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:49
Evening (Maghreb)	17:42
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:50
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:14

Orient Express on Way to Iran From UK

LONDON (Telegraph) -- A British company hoping to recapture some of the romance of the original Orient Express has launched a new service taking passengers on a fortnight's journey that will carry them from Hungary to Iran.

The first "Jewels of Persia" express left Budapest on Wednesday with the 70 passengers willing to pay a minimum of £9,385 for the 4,350 mile journey that will take them through Romania, Bulgaria and Turkey before entering Iran.

The steam-hauled service is operated by Golden Eagle Luxury Trains, a Cheshire-based company that has been organizing high-end railway journeys for over 20 years.

"We're always looking for new opportunities, and tourism to Iran is an increasing market," Ian Lomas, product manager for Golden Eagle, told The Telegraph. "The market is just opening up, so it's good to be the first in when it comes to luxury train travel. The Iranian government has also just announced a major investment program in tourism infrastructure, so now is a good time to go.

"We've always wanted to take people in comfort and safety to destinations that are off the beaten track," he continued, adding that tickets for the journey sold out (Continued on Page 7)

Press Digest

Anger in Ankara

AFTAB: Turkey is angry because its plot to impose no-fly zone over Syria and push for regime change has failed. It is natural for them to blame Iran for their defeat. What were they thinking? That they could easily march into Damascus and revive their Ottoman Empire? There is no way those days will ever come back.

Regional Power

RESALAT: Iran is a regional power, diplomatically and militarily. Iran has the necessary clout to stop foreign powers from meddling in the Persian Gulf and impose their will on Tehran. There is a perfect reason why Iran is skeptical about the so-called anti-ISIL coalition and/or nuclear talks. They are going nowhere – because the other parties are not sincere in their political agenda.

Fine Days

ABRAR: It's a fine day for the resistance movement the world over. The ISIL goons were funded and trained to curb the growing influence of the Axis of Resistance in the region and beyond. They were designed to destroy the Islamic Republic of Iran but now they themselves are being wiped off the map.

Anti-Iran Sediton

SHARQ: The post-election unrests were designed to topple the Islamic Republic and had nothing to do with the result of the presidential election. It was a foreign-backed front against Iran, leadership and people. It was a dark page in the Iranian history that will never be forgotten. But lessons were learned and such will never happen again.