



Iran Daily condoles with its readers the departure anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hassan (PBUH) and Imam Reza (PBUH). Our next issue will come out Saturday.

IRAN DAILY



Zarif: Talks with US require mutual respect 4

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Poland ready to widen cooperation with Iran's mining sector 4



Mayweather to fight kickboxer Nasukawa in Japan 11



'Flight No. 745' takes off for Germany 12



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Rouhani: Iran will 'proudly bypass' US sanctions

Political Desk

President Hassan Rouhani said Monday Iran will break and "proudly bypass sanctions" by the United States that took effect on Monday targeting the country's oil and financial sectors.

Speaking at a meeting with the directors and deputies of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, President Rouhani said, "We should break the sanctions very well, and we will do that."

"With the help of the people, and the unity that exists in our society, we have to make the Americans understand that they must not use the language of force, pressure, and threats to speak to the great Iranian nation. They must be punished once and for all."

"I announce that we will proudly bypass your illegal, unjust sanctions because it's against international regulations."

The sanctions described by the US as "the toughest sanctions ever" come six months after US President Donald Trump's controversial decision to abandon the multilateral nuclear deal with Iran. He announced in May that Washington would withdraw unilaterally from the landmark nuclear pact signed in 2015 between Tehran and major global powers.

The latest tranche of US sanctions aims to significantly cut Iran's oil exports - which have already fallen by up to one million barrels a day since May - and cut off its banks from international finance.

The United States has given temporary exemptions to eight countries to continue buying oil in a bid to avoid disturbing their economies and global markets.

China, India, South Korea, Japan and Turkey - all top importers of Iranian oil - are among eight countries expected to be given waivers.

President Rouhani said US officials had in fact conceded defeat.

"They (the Americans) saw that they couldn't replace [Iranian oil on the market]; and even assuming they did not concede defeat and did not grant waivers to countries, we would still be able to sell our oil [because] we have adequate capabilities to do that," the Iranian president said.

"America wanted to cut to zero Iran's oil sales... but we will continue to sell our oil... to break sanctions," Rouhani told economists at a meeting broadcast live on state television.

Trump's administration says it wants a new deal with Iran that curbs its activities around the Middle East and missile pro-

gram - demands that have been flatly rejected by Tehran.

Despite the US withdrawal, Iran has stayed in the deal but has stressed that the other parties to the agreement have to work to offset the negative impacts of the US pullout. Europe has been taking a range of measures to meet the Iranian demand for practical guarantees.

President Rouhani said Europe, too, was angry at US policies.

"Today, what the Americans are doing is merely pressure [ordinary] people, and no one else. It's pressure [that is being put] on the [Iranian] people, other nations, other [foreign] businesses, and other governments," he said. "Today, we are not the only ones who are angry at US policies; even European businesses and governments are angered by US policies, too."

'Europeans want Trump gone'

Rouhani also said he believed that America had never before seen as lawless an administration as that of Trump's.

He said all US administrations had violated international law, but "these (current officials) score on top on the lawlessness rankings."

"I don't recall a group assuming power at the White House that was racist as these," the Iranian president said.

"This is not [just] us who wish for the life of this incumbent administration in the US to become shorter and shorter; their (the Americans') own European allies have told me in [private] meetings that this is one of their wishes," Rouhani said.

'Dialogue needs no intermediary'

Rouhani said when he was in New York for the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in September, "the leaders of four major countries" sought to broker a meeting between him and the US president. He did not name those leaders.

"Constantly they are sending us messages saying, 'Let's sit and negotiate.' Negotiations for what?" said Rouhani.

He said, however, that there was no need for mediation.

"Honor your obligations first! We will speak then," Rouhani said, addressing American officials. "We have no problem with talking. If our interlocutor honors its word and promises, what will be wrong with talking?"

He noted that the unilateral withdrawal from the Iran deal has isolated the US.

"Just look at how many countries sup-

port the US move and how many don't," he said. "The fact America insists on something and the entire European Union resists that same thing is nothing simple. That means victory for [our] diplomacy and foreign policy."

Earlier, President Rouhani's chief of staff announced that Trump had eight times requested a meeting with the Iranian president while he was in New York but had been rejected all eight times.

'Iran in economic war'

President Rouhani also said that the Islamic Republic was engaged in "an economic war" with the US.

"We are in a situation of economic war, confronting a bullying power. I don't think that in the history of America, someone has entered the White House who is so against law and international conventions," he added.

"We have to stand and fight, and win," he said. "God will help us win."

The Iranian president also said the current economic problems faced by Iran will not continue.

"We will relaunch economic growth. No one should think the trend we have been seeing in the past several months will continue like that. This trend will be stopped."

"Today the enemy (the United States) is targeting our economy... the main target of sanctions is our people."

Trump's announcement in May helped fuel a run on Iran's currency that has seen the rial lose more than two-thirds of its value, driving up prices.

Rouhani's central strategy since taking power in 2013 was to boost the economy by rebuilding ties with the world and attracting billions of dollars in foreign investment.

That now looks in tatters, despite the other parties to the nuclear deal - Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia - vehemently opposing the US move and promising to keep trade going.

Private companies and banks in those countries are unwilling to make enemies of the US Treasury and most international firms that set up in Iran after the 2015 deal have been forced to leave, including France's Total, Peugeot and Renault, and Germany's Siemens.

"Today, it's not just us who are angry with America's policies. Even European companies are angry with America's policies," said Rouhani.

Press TV, AFP and Reuters contributed to this story.

China, Europeans back Iran after US sanctions

China and European countries expressed their keenness to continue trade with Tehran after the United States reinstated its "toughest sanctions ever" on the Islamic Republic on Monday.

China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the Asian giant's lawful trade cooperation with Iran should be respected and expressed regret about the US reimposing sanctions on Tehran.

"China expresses regret at the US decision. We also noted that the international community is widely against unilateral sanctions," he told a daily news briefing in Beijing.

"China consistently rejects unilateral sanctions and long arm tactics. We think China and Iran carrying out normal cooperation under the framework of international law is lawful and reasonable, and [this right] should be respected and protected," he added.

The European Union also said it is opposed the US decision, under which the second batch of sanctions targeting Iran's oil and financial sectors were put into effect.

"The European Union does not approve of it," European Economic Affairs Commissioner Pierre Moscovici told francophone radio on Monday, hours after the sanctions were reinstated.

The European Union, France, Germany and Britain have already said they regretted the US decision and would seek to protect European companies doing legitimate business with Tehran.

A German government spokesman said on Monday that Germany is convinced that it should enable legal business relations with Iran and is checking how to protect companies affected by sanctions reimposed on Iran by Washington.

"We are assessing how we will be able to protect the basis of our business engagements there," government spokesman Steffen Seibert said.

Switzerland said on Monday it is holding talks with the United States and Iran about launching a humanitarian payment channel to help ensure food and drugs keep flowing to the Islamic Republic.

"Switzerland is committed to safeguarding Swiss economic interests and closely follows the development of the situation. The authorities are in direct contact with the competent authorities of the United States, the EU and Iran," the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) said in an emailed statement.

"Particularly in the humanitarian field, the federal government is committed to ensuring that food and pharmaceutical products can continue to be supplied from Switzerland," it said.

The Swiss were also not involved in developing alternative mechanisms to SWIFT in the area of secure messaging and payment transactions.

Switzerland in August encouraged Swiss companies to pursue business ties with Iran prudently and expressed regret at the poor sanctions situation.

US sanctions take force

The support came as the US imposed strict sanctions on Iran on Monday and threatened more action to stop Tehran pursuing "outlaw" policies.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters on Monday that Iran "has a choice: It can either do a 180-degree turn from its outlaw course of action and act like a normal country, or it can see its economy crumble."

Pompeo said the "objective is to starve" Iran of "the funds it uses to fund violent activity throughout the Middle East and around the world. Our ultimate goal is to encourage them to abandon their revolutionary course."

"We hope a new agreement with Iran is possible, but until Iran makes changes in the 12 ways I listed in May, we will be relentless in exerting pressure on the regime," Pompeo said.

The move restores and strengthens sanctions lifted under a 2015 international agreement on Iran's nuclear program from which Washington withdrew in May.

The sanctions cover 50 Iranian banks and subsidiaries, more than 200 persons and vessels in its shipping sector, and targets Tehran's national airline, Iran Air, and more than 65 of its aircraft. US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement.

US sanctions permit trade in humanitarian goods such as food and pharmaceuticals, but measures imposed on banks and trade restrictions could make such items more expensive. Pompeo said Washington had granted exemptions to eight countries allowing them to temporarily continue buying Iranian oil. More than 20 countries had already cut their oil imports from Iran, reducing purchases by more than one million barrels per day, he said. "We continue negotiations to get all of the nations to zero," he said.

Press TV, Reuters and AFP contributed to this story.

Saudi sent experts to cover up Khashoggi murder: Turkey

Saudi Arabia sent two experts to Istanbul with the specific aim of covering up evidence after the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at its consulate in Istanbul, a Turkish official said on Monday.

More than a month after the Saudi royal-insider-turned critic was killed inside the mission on October 2, Turkey has still yet to recover the remains amid claims that his body was dissolved in acid, AFP wrote.

The killing of the 59-year-old has severely dented the kingdom's image in the West and put powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on the defensive.



AFP

"We believe that the two individuals came to Turkey for the sole purpose of covering up evidence of Jamal Khashoggi's murder before the Turkish police were allowed to search the premises," a senior Turkish official said, asking not to be named.

The official confirmed a report in the Sabah newspaper saying that chemicals expert Ahmad Abdulaziz al-Janobi and toxicology expert Khaled Yahya al-Zahrani were among a team sent from Saudi Arabia purportedly to investigate the murder last month.

The report said they visited the consulate every day from their arrival on October 11 until October 17. Saudi Arabia only allowed Turkish police to finally search the consulate on October 15.

After weeks of allegations in pro-government media, Turkey's chief prosecutor last week confirmed Khashoggi was strangled as soon as he entered the consulate and the body was dismembered.

Continued on Page 3