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Negotiations Teams Should Use Opportunity to End War in Afghanistan: Khalilzad

Abdullah Abdullah, the chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation today met with Zalmay Khalilzad, the US Special Representative for Afghanistan peace. During the meeting, Zalmay Khalilzad stressed the continued support of the United States for Afghan peace efforts. He said the parties should make the most of the opportunity to achieve lasting peace and end the war in the country.

Khalilzad called the increase in violence unacceptable and stressed a significant reduction in violence.

In the meantime, Abdullah Abdullah said the increase of violence and targeted killings in ...

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Kabul, Jakarta discuss peace process, trade cooperation

President Ashraf Ghani had a phone conversation with the Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Tuesday and discussed the Afghan-led peace process, the Presidential Palace (Arg) said.

Arg in a statement said that the two sides emphasized the immediate ceasefire in Afghanistan, and the President of Indonesia emphasized his country's cooperation in creating an international consensus of religious scholars.

This comes as the government's negotiating delegation left for Doha today, and the Minister of State for Peace, Seyed Saadat Mansour Naderi, said that the delegation had more than 86 meetings with various segments of society in the past three weeks.

He said that the will of the people and government of Afghanistan is a nationwide ceasefire in the country.

U.S. has dual policy on Afghan peace process: MPs



Some Meshrano Jirga or Senate members on Tuesday accused the United States of adopting a dual policy on the Afghan peace process and hoped the second round of peace negotiations would produce fruitful outcome.

This comes as the government's negotiating team landed in Doha yesterday, to resume talks with Taliban representatives after a

three-week break.

The team was expected to travel to Qatar on Monday but their trip was delayed due to technical issues.

Kamilbig Hussaini, a Mesharno Jirga member, about the government's negotiating team's trip to Doha, said, "We hope this round of talks would be different from the previous one and the team will have its achievements for the Afghan

people."

Anarkali Hunaryar, another senator, supported the second round of peace talks and hoped ceasefire would be also agreed upon by the two parties.

"Ceasefire would build more trust on this process and stop bloodshed in the country. The two sides should declare ceasefire for ending violence and the loss of people,"

she said.

Meshrano Jirga chairman, Fazal Hadi Muslimyar, also hoped that the second round of talks would respond to the wishes of Afghans that were ceasefire and peace.

He also said ceasefire was helpful for ending bloodshed and making the peace talks more productive.

Muslimyar asked the government's negotiating team to stiffly defend the constitution, values and security forces during talks with the Taliban.

A number of other members of the upper house held similar views but some of them accused the U.S. of a dual policy on the Afghan peace process.

Faisal Samay, deputy secretary of the house, said that the U.S. supported both the government and the Taliban.

"The U.S. should have a single policy about the Afghan peace process and it should stop supporting enemies," he said.

He said the U.S. forces withdrawal should be responsible and based on the ground situation in Afghanistan. America should press the Taliban to cut ties with other terrorist ...

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Afghan cricket team set to play ODI series in UAE

The Afghan National Cricket Team left Kabul for the UAE on Tuesday where they will play a three-match One Day International (ODI) series against Ireland, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) said in a statement.

The national team, therefore, will not travel to Oman, where they were scheduled to hold the series due to UAE Visa restrictions earlier, the statement said.

"As part of the ICC ODI league matches, the series between both teams was initially scheduled to be hosted at UAE. However, ...

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UNAMA welcomes talks teams return to Doha for peace negotiations

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has welcomed the peace negotiator's return to Doha for the resumption of talks between the government and the Taliban teams.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, UNAMA stated that these negotiations are critical in helping to bring about an end to the fighting and creating a lasting peace.

"The negotiators are confronted with some daunting challenges and much work remains. But the two teams cooperated well in the historic first round of talks that commenced in September, making incremental but genuine progress. They agreed a code of conduct for future negotiations and exchanged draft agenda items before taking a 20-day recess for consultations with their constituents and leaderships," the statement read.

Meanwhile, the UN Secretary-



General's Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA, Deborah Lyons stated: "I urge both sides to use this opportunity to move ahead to create the conditions for a reduction in violence that will end further loss of Afghan lives and reach a political settlement that is acceptable to all segments of Afghan society."

"A cessation in fighting would create

a better atmosphere for talks, provide hope to the people, and allow humanitarian actors to deliver much-needed winter assistance to Afghans across the whole country," she noted.

The UN will remain in close contact with both parties and, as the Secretary-General said at the opening of the talks in September, stands ready to assist as ...

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5 countries...

The five countries replaced Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Germany, Indonesia and South Africa.

The 15-member Security Council has five permanent members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the UN General Assembly. Five non-permanent members are replaced every year.

Estonia, Niger, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia, and Vietnam are in the middle of their two-year term as non-permanent members.

Negotiations...

Afghanistan unacceptable and stressed the need to establish a permanent ceasefire in order to achieve lasting peace.

This comes as the second round of peace talks in Qatar is set to begin soon. The Afghan Government Negotiating Committee left Kabul for Doha this morning.

Afghan cricket...

due to visa restrictions by UAE in the wake of COVID-19, ACB planned to have Oman as the alternate venue," the statement read. "Fortunately, the UAE Authorities granted visas to Afghan players and relevant officials last night and the decision was taken to reschedule the series in UAE."

By David Klion

Biden Must End the Forever Wars

Eight months into his presidency, Joe Biden will mark the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. While he shouldn't wait until the literal anniversary to get started, 2021 marks an ideal opportunity to break decisively with what have come to be known as the forever wars—the open-ended US military involvement in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, and many other countries across the Muslim world. A generation of Americans with no memory of the 9/11 attacks is currently deployed in an increasingly aimless effort to avenge them that has now spanned three drastically different presidencies. Polling in recent years has shown consistent opposition to these wars, including from veterans, who have borne the brunt of policy-makers' refusal to abandon a failed counterterrorism strategy.

For progressives and anti-interventionists, the early signs from Biden have been inauspicious. His inner circle on foreign policy will include Antony Blinken as secretary of state, Jake Sullivan as national security adviser, and Avril Haines as director of national intelligence. All are veterans of the Obama administration and played a significant role in formulating and directing military interventions, and all have leveraged their connections for profit in the private sector during the Trump era. In general, they are fervent believers in American global leadership, backed by military supremacy. The warm welcome this group has received within the Beltway foreign policy community—often derisively referred to as the Blob—suggests an imminent return to the pre-Trump status quo.

But the national mood has shifted dramatically since Barack Obama left office. Foreign policy is a space where many Americans across party lines are demanding a new direction, with clear support for withdrawing forces from Afghanistan and shifting resources from the Pentagon budget into domestic priorities. Democrats in particular support repealing the endlessly renewed post-9/11 Authorization for Use of Military Force, which has granted the executive branch virtually unlimited war-making powers, and which progressive legislators like Bernie Sanders and Ro Khanna have fought to rein in. A Biden administration that wants to maintain broad support and bipartisan appeal could feel pressure to chart a new course.

The Democrats' 2020 platform, to which Biden and his inner circle are theoretically committed, explicitly recognizes the need to end the forever wars. It promises to "bring the troops home" and to use force only "when necessary to protect national security and when the



objective is clear and achievable—with the informed consent of the American people, and where warranted, the approval of Congress." It specifically calls for an end to the US-backed Saudi war in Yemen, a humanitarian catastrophe, and for reversing Trump's curtailment of travel and remittances to Cuba, a major positive legacy of Obama's second term. It also calls for ending the Trump administration's rush to war with Iran and for recommitting to the Iran nuclear deal, which Blinken helped shape. And unlike the party's 2016 platform, it recognizes "the worth of every Israeli and every Palestinian" and opposes annexation of the West Bank and Israel's settlement expansion—although it does not recognize the existence of an "occupation," and Blinken has made it clear that Israel can count on US military aid no matter what.

To the extent that this language is promising, it represents a push by progressive groups and the Sanders campaign to influence the party's direction ahead of last summer's convention. But it doesn't necessarily reflect how Biden's team sees the world. So far, there is little indication of genuine soul-searching over Obama-era policies like the troop surge in Afghanistan, the expansion of George W. Bush's targeted assassination program, the authorization of regime change in Libya, or the war in Yemen.

To avoid a repeat of the Obama administration's greatest foreign policy mistakes, Biden and his advisers would be wise to recognize the subsequent shifts in

both public opinion and strategic reality and to work to change the underlying US relationships in the greater Middle East. In particular, the Trump administration's uncritical indulgence of Israel, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states must be repudiated, and there should be a swift diplomatic reset with Iran, to make clear to foreign autocrats that Jared Kushner's corrupt approach to diplomacy was an aberration.

Rooting out the transnational corruption exemplified by Kushner will require more than just a new diplomatic approach; it will require a coordinated effort to stem the flow of illicit capital across borders and to crack down on lobbying efforts by foreign governments in Washington. As with ending the forever wars, Biden, like many of his Democratic primary rivals, is theoretically committed to such a crackdown. To follow through, he will need to take aggressive executive actions, many of which would really be domestic policy shifts with significant international implications. For instance, he could broaden the definition of "lobbyist" and impose bans on former government officials serving as lobbyists or vice versa; expand transparency measures on tax information for public officials; amend the global Magnitsky Act to target corrupt officials throughout the world, in both rival and friendly countries; and shut down international tax havens that benefit both US and foreign oligarchs. Biden could thus send a clear message that US foreign policy is no longer for sale to the highest bidder—although that ...

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By Marla Bautista

U.S. troops have been fighting in Afghanistan long enough. Bring our loved one's home

Leaders in Washington D.C., must not forget our U.S. troops still in Afghanistan.

The war there and Operation Enduring Freedom have taken an immeasurable toll on military families like mine over the past 19 years. At their peak, families were separated for up to 15 months at a time. Children were born and raised, some who will never meet their fathers. Life was hell. It has been one of the most costly wars in American history — exceeding \$9 billion and taking the lives of more than 2,000 U.S. troops and wounding more than 20,000.

According to recent peace negotiations, a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops is scheduled for May, assuming the agreements hold. For families like mine, this will be a bittersweet milestone.

When my friend SPC (P) Cesar Alvarado arrived in Afghanistan in October 2019, he had no idea what war was like. As a soldier new to combat, adjusting to the arduous work schedule

was difficult. Sleep deprivation takes a toll on a soldier's readiness. When I asked Cesar how he felt about the war in Afghanistan, he replied:

"I feel sad that we have to kill each other instead of finding another solution to the war. I haven't thought deeply about what that solution would be, but there's got to be a better way to solve our issues." Overall, he told me he was relieved to hear of a troop drawdown in Afghanistan. "It's a relief knowing that it's coming to an end. People are going home to their families and back to where they belong, instead of being at war."

I am a seasoned military spouse, and seeing the glimmer lost in a young soldier's eye breaks my heart. I cannot recall the number of memorials I've attended or the number of tears I've shed. But I remember my husband's first deployment as if it were yesterday.

The sun beamed down into the bays as the white buses pulled

in. The lump in my throat rose as my husband grabbed his duffel bag and weapon. I hated that moment. I realized I was alone. I had no family on the island of Oahu, no children of my own. I was a 25-year-old military spouse, separated from my husband after only a few months of marriage. Less than one month before his deployment, I had suffered a miscarriage and underwent major surgery. Those moments watching him walk away were the hardest.

During his time away, the daily fear and anxiety of not knowing whether our service members were OK consumed me and the other spouses. We waited for that dreaded call. On Easter Sunday in 2009, I waited by the phone for a happier call, eager to hear my husband's voice. The phone never rang. The next day, my mounting fear created hypothetical stories you'd only see in a horror movie. I called some of the other military spouses asking if they'd ...

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IFJ, AIJA Urged Afghan Gov't to Urgently Set Up an Independent Inquiry & Punish Prepatrators of Journalists Killings

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and its local affiliate, the Afghan Independent Journalists' Association (AIJA) condemn the assassination of Afghan journalist, Bismillah Adil Aimaq and urged the government to urgently set up an independent inquiry and punish the guilty.

IFJ General Secretary, Anthony Bellanger in a press release said: "The brutal murder of Bismillah Adil Aimaq on the first day of the 2021 indicates the fragile situation facing journalists in Afghanistan, which already saw at least eight journalists killed in 2020. The IFJ calls for an impartial investigation in to the case and for steps to be taken to punish the guilty. The IFJ once again demands that the Afghan government must increase its efforts to ensure the safety of journalists in this volatile space."

The AIJA also said: "The AIJA condemns the assassination and extends heartfelt condolence to the family members of the deceased journalist Bismillah Adil Aimaq. We urge the security institutions to investigate the case and arrest the killers." Bismillah Adil Aimaq, an Afghan journalist and human rights activist was killed by unidentified gunmen in Dara-e-Taimoor village in Ghor province of Afghanistan on the first day of 2021.

The assailants opened fire at Adil Aimaq, 28,



editor-in-chief of Voice of Ghor radio, while he was travelling by car to return to Feroz Koh, the provincial capital after visiting his family in a nearby village.

Media reported the provincial governor's spokesman, Arif Abir, saying that others who were inside the car including the journalists' brother, were unharmed.

The assailants immediately fled the scene. No group active in Afghanistan has so far claimed responsibility for the murder. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied their involvement.

Last week, the journalist had made public the death threat he received via Facebook.

According to the AIJA, Bismillah Adil Aimaq was attacked twice in 2020. On November 8, he was attacked in his house and on November 12, he survived an assassination attempt.

Iran inks deal to export rail tracks to Afghanistan

Iran's Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) has signed an agreement to export \$4.332 million worth of rail tracks to Afghanistan, according to the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA). The mentioned rail tracks will be used in the country's railway development projects, IRNA reported.

Afghanistan is currently taking serious measures for developing its railway infrastructure and will be needing millions of tons of rail tracks to this end, and Iran as a major producer of rail tracks in the region can meet all its neighbor's needs in this sector.

Iran and Afghanistan officially inaugurated a joint railway project called Khaf-Herat on December 11, 2020, to link eastern Iran to western Afghanistan. Some sections of this project were implemented by the Iranian side and Afghanistan was in charge of constructing one part.

Iran took the first steps for domestic production of rail tracks six years ago in the Iranian calendar year 1393 (March 2014-March 2015), in which the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) made an agreement with ESCO on the production of rail tracks.

In November 2016, ESCO signed a contract with RAI to produce 40,000 tons of U33 rails and consequently launched its rail production line with €28.2 million plus 573 billion rials (about \$13.6 million) of investment. Later in June 2018, the first domestically-manufactured rail tracks (called National Rail) were handed over to RAI.

Mentioning the hand-over of the first domestically-manufactured rail tracks to the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, Iranian Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami said, "Moving toward self-sufficiency in this sector



is a must and delivery of the first cargo of the National Rail has been a big achievement in this regard."

He underscored that the country would become a major rail track producer in the region in near future. Iran-made rails are in full compliance with the latest international

standards of rail production and now National Rails are being used in various railway development projects across the country including Chabahar-Zahedan, Yazd-Eghlid, Hamedan-Sanandaj, Miyaneh-Ardebil, Bostanabad-Tabriz, and Rasht-Caspian.

U.S. troops have...

heard anything; they said No. This life isn't for the faint of heart. Finally, on the third day, he called. He was distraught about recent events but alive. Little did I know, this was just the beginning of the effects of war.

Soon after he returned, my husband's war wounds began to appear. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder manifests in injuries that you can't see, but you know are there. PTSD devastates military families. The mental anguish my husband endured crippled him. He spent many nights raging, crying, then raging again. Our marriage nearly ended after that deployment.

It took years of counseling, medication and rehabilitation to help our family heal. Nonetheless, I pressed on, exuding patriotism like the proud military spouse I am — comforting our troops with empathy, morale-building events and food. But comforting them isn't enough. Listening to their woes or drying their tears isn't enough. They need more. They need rest.

A troop withdrawal is a hope for which we've held our breaths all these years; the moment when we can unclench our jaws and sigh.

But until this war is over, and all our service members are safe at home, we cannot feel at ease. I beseech the next Congress and White House to finish the job. Remove our troops from these endless wars, and let our families rest.

U.S. has dual...

groups and declare a ceasefire so the ongoing bloodshed was stopped, he added.

Rahmatullah Achakzai, a senator from Kandahar province, also said the U.S. had dual policy towards the Afghan peace process.

He said the U.S. should act according the security agreement it had signed with the Afghan government and withdraw its troops based on conditions.

Fazal Hadi Mulimyar said the U.S. dual policy towards Afghanistan was not in the interest of the international community and Afghanistan and it would create more distrust about America.

Biden Must...

message risks being muddled, given that the core members of his national security team haveThe US relationship with China will be an especially treacherous and central concern when Biden takes office. After two decades of relatively stable relations, during which China policy was heavily influenced by the US Chamber of Commerce and by global capital's desire for cheap labor and weak regulations, both Democratic and Republican leaders increasingly view China as a rival and a threat. China's initial mishandling of the Covid-19 pandemic, the growing recognition of US-China trade's deleterious effects on America's economic and political health, and the ongoing cultural genocide in Xinjiang and the repression of civil liberties in Hong Kong are all legitimate reasons for this shift.

But at the same time, the Biden administration should resist the temptation to spiral into a new Cold War with Beijing, the consequences of which would be disastrous for both countries and the entire world. A Biden ad run during the 2020 campaign that struck a crude anti-China tone, and that provoked vocal criticism from both anti-interventionist and Asian American activists, hinted at this danger. Biden must avoid the further militarization of East Asia and instead focus his attention on renegotiating trade policies to prioritize labor, climate, and human rights. Under Biden, Washington should champion progressive, innovative, and multilateral

approaches to transnational problems, from climate change to borderless pandemics—a process that will necessarily require cooperation with China, home to nearly one-fifth of the world's people, which would be severely undermined by a new arms race. The 2020 platform calls for extending New START and other nonproliferation agreements and for negotiating new arms control treaties with China—a commitment that Biden must be held to in office. None of this will come easily to Biden or his administration, but the American public, exhausted by the pandemic and two decades of war, is in no mood for military adventurism. The trillions of dollars the United States has squandered on the Pentagon since 9/11 could have been spent on universal health care, housing, and infrastructure at home and on diplomacy and nonmilitary aid abroad. Biden has rightly pledged to rebuild the State Department, which has been gutted by Trump, but he could also frame any withdrawal from militarism as a step toward reinvesting in the health and well-being of the United States. This shouldn't be mistaken for Trump's crude America-first nationalism; rather, it should be understood as a genuinely democratic process that reestablishes Washington's accountability to the people. The Trump era in general and the pandemic in particular have badly tarnished America's reputation; if Biden wishes to restore American global leadership, the best way to do so would be to demonstrate that the United States is capable

of providing basic services to its own people.

Unfortunately, even if Democrats win the impending Senate runoff elections in Georgia, it seems clear that Biden will be severely limited in his ability to pass major legislation. Instead, his domestic agenda will likely be limited to executive orders and a handful of centrist compromises on managing the pandemic and its economic fallout. On foreign policy, however, a Biden administration will enjoy a relatively free hand and can be more directly responsive to the demands articulated by an active progressive base.

The good news is that progressive activism and intellectual infrastructure is far more robust than it was at the beginning of Obama's first term, including on foreign policy, where new organizations like the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft are committed to shaking up the foreign policy consensus. Biden may be an instinctive centrist, but he cannot govern without the support of the growing progressive wing of his own party in Congress; nor can Democrats prevail in the future without buy-in from the younger generation, which leans left. Holding Biden accountable for a foreign policy that breaks with 20 years of war and recommits to human flourishing will necessarily be a collective effort. Democratizing foreign policy will, by definition, be a bottom-up project. secured lucrative consulting contracts between their stints in government.

UNAMA...

necessary, the statement concluded.

It comes as the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad is in Kabul to meet

with the Afghan leaders and convey U.S. support for the Afghan people and security forces, the US State Department said in a statement. "During this trip, Ambassador Khalilzad will continue to encourage projects

and plans for expanded regional connectivity, trade, and development which will be aided by an Afghan peace agreement and will help sustain peace," the statement said.

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Putin, Merkel talking vaccine co-production: Kremlin

The Kremlin said Tuesday that Russia and Germany are talking about the possibility of joint COVID-19 vaccine production. In a phone conversation, Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed issues related to “cooperation in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic with an emphasis on possible prospects for the joint production of vaccines,” said a Kremlin statement. There is no concrete agreement yet, but Merkel and Putin agreed to “continue contacts on the issue between the two countries’ health ministries and

specialized agencies,” it added. The German side has not released a statement on the conversation. Germany in late December started mass vaccination using the vaccine developed by BioNTech/Pfizer in Germany. As of last weekend, Russia has vaccinated 800,000 people nationwide using its Sputnik V vaccine, according to its Health Ministry. Over 85.77 million cases have been reported worldwide, including more than 48.24 million recoveries, according to figures compiled by the US’ Johns Hopkins University.



A look at the world

5 countries assume responsibilities as elected members of Security Council

India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway on Monday began to assume responsibilities as non-permanent members of the Security Council. Their two-year term officially started on Jan. 1. But Monday is the first working day of the council for 2021 after the Christmas and New Year break. A flag installation ceremony was held at noon to mark the start of their responsibilities. Kazakh UN ambassador Magzhan Ilyassov, who presided over the ceremony,



congratulated the five new council members and wished them success in realizing their priorities in their two-year term, which he described as “two crucial years of modern history.” 2021 is a year of hope for all countries and for the United Nations. International peace, security and sustainable development in 2021 will largely depend on the decisions of the United Nations and the Security Council with its permanent and non-permanent members, he said. “Drawing on the hard but valuable lessons learned in 2020, we must analyze and use in our future work the best examples of collaboration, compromise and dedication to causes for further promoting and ensuring global peace, security and sustainable development. We need some real action to translate our current hopes into true benefits and positive changes for people and to implement the (UN) secretary-general’s agenda for peace,” he said. The permanent representatives of the five countries made short speeches before they installed their respective national flags outside the Security Council Chamber. ... P2

Riyadh agrees to normalize ties with Doha




Saudi Arabia will reopen its borders and airspace to Qatar, the Kuwaiti foreign minister said Monday, more than three years after Riyadh sealed both and led an alliance to isolate Doha. “Based on (Kuwait’s ruler Emir) Sheikh Nawaf’s proposal, it was agreed to open the airspace and land and sea borders between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar, starting from this evening,” said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Ahmad Nasser Al-Sabah on state TV. The bombshell announcement came on the eve of a six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) annual summit in the northwestern Saudi Arabian city of Al-Ula, at which the dispute was already set to top the agenda. Riyadh led a coalition of countries in the Gulf and beyond that cut ties with Doha, charging that it was too close to Tehran and backed radical Islamist groups — allegations that Qatar has always denied. Washington has intensified pressure for a resolution to what Doha calls a “blockade”, insisting Gulf unity is necessary to isolate US nemesis Iran as the curtain falls on Donald Trump’s presidency. Many eyes have been on whether Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani — who has skipped the annual GCC gatherings since 2017 — attends this time around. The GCC is a bloc that consists of boycotting countries Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, neutral Kuwait and Oman, and Qatar. The Saudi-led GCC hawks, along with Egypt, in June 2017 closed airspace to Qatari planes, sealed borders and ports, and expelled Qatari citizens.

‘Red Notice’ request against Trump submitted to Interpol


The request to issue a ‘Red Notice’ against Trump and some other criminals was submitted to Interpol. “The request to issue ‘Red Notice’ for 48 people involved in the assassination of Martyr Soleimani, including the US President, as well as commanders and officials at the Pentagon and forces in the region, were handed over to Interpol,” said Judiciary Spokesman Gholam Hossein Esmaeili in his weekly presser on Tuesday. “The case of the terrorist crime that led



to the martyrdom of Soleimani and his companions in the early days of the incident was filed in the Special Court for International Affairs in Tehran,” he added, saying, “A comprehensive investigation was conducted into the operation leading to the martyrdom of Martyr Soleimani.” “The culprits have been identified and 48 people involved in the incident, including the US president who was the main culprit, as well as commanders and officials at the Pentagon and forces in the region, have been identified,” Esmaeili highlighted. He noted that Iran submitted the request to issue a ‘Red Notice’ for the culprits. The US terrorist forces assassinated Lt. General Qasem Soleimani, who was among the key figures in the fight against terrorism in Syria and Iraq in the past several years, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq’s pro-government Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) in an airstrike ordered by US President Donald Trump at Baghdad’s international airport on January 3, 2020.




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