

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**UCM hinders war on terrorism: Iran's UN envoy**



**TASNIM** – Iran's ambassador to the United Nations complained that the Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM), namely sanctions, hinder international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Addressing the third United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in New York, Saeed Irvani emphasized that counterterrorism requires comprehensive strategies in preventing and combating terrorism, with due regard to the cultural, political, social, economic, security, and intelligence dimensions.

## Iran, Saudi Arabia to resume postal cooperation

**TASNIM** – An official with Iran's National Post Company on Wednesday announced the resumption of postal relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia after the Hajj pilgrimage in the kingdom. In bilateral talks held in Bern, Switzerland, Saudi officials welcomed the move taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Chief Executive of Iran National Post Company Mahmoud Liaei stated.

## Iran, Norway hold joint consular commission after years



**ISNA** – The second joint consular commission of Iran and Norway was held after a seven-year hiatus, with the consuls general of the two countries presiding over the session. At the meeting, important consular issues between Iran and Norway including visa issuance, looking into the problems of students, academic cooperation, transit drivers, illegal refugees and their return to their country, judicial cooperation, as well as joint cooperation in humanitarian activities were discussed.

# Iran, Russia, Turkey, Syria condemn 'support' for terrorists in Syria



Delegations from Iran, Russia, Turkey, and Syria discuss the peace process in Syria at the 20th round of Astana talks in Astana, Kazakhstan, on June 21, 2023. AA

Iran, Russia, Turkey, and Syria on Wednesday condemned the actions of nations supporting "terrorist entities" in northeastern Syria as they assembled for Astana peace talks in Kazakhstan. The guarantor countries reject "illegitimate self-rule initiatives" in Syria implemented under the pretext of fighting terrorism, a joint statement read, according to Daily Sabah. Reiterating their resolve to combat terrorism, the

sides added, "We stand against separatist agendas that threaten the national security of neighboring countries." Since Tuesday, deputy foreign ministers from Iran, Russia, Turkey as well as Bashar Assad's regime have been in the Kazakh city for the 20th round of Astana talks. The guarantor countries on Wednesday held bilateral meetings and discussed developments "in the field" and Syria's im-

mediate region. A roadmap for the normalization of ties between the Damascus-based regime and Ankara was also on the agenda besides the release of hostages, missing persons, the humanitarian situation, the rebuilding of Syria, and the establishment of conditions for the return of Syrian refugees. The joint statement further condemned Israel's ongoing military attacks on Syria, reiterated the sides' call for respect to in-

ternational laws, and dismissed Israel's decisions and steps on the matter as "null and void". The sides agreed to reconvene for the next round of talks in the second half of the year, but longtime host Kazakhstan seems more reluctant to uphold the tradition as it surprisingly proposed ending the process during the meeting. "Syria's gradual emergence from isolation in the region could be regarded as a sign that the Astana

process has completed its task," Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Kanat Tumysh told reporters. "We cannot say that the Astana process is over," Russian negotiator Alexander Lavrentyev said. "... But if the Kazakh side has decided that they need to be moved to a different location, we will discuss that and pick one." Russia, Turkey, and Iran could, for example, take turns to host those meetings, he said.

## End of despised ...

The accumulated experience of over four decades of perpetrating acts of terror and betrayal against the Iranian people was not something that could be erased or disregarded through democratic gestures, claims of upholding human rights, or victim playing by anyone who was well-informed about the MKO's track record. It appears that the expiration date has finally come for certain European and American governments regarding their association with the MKO. For the first time in 15 years, the French gov-

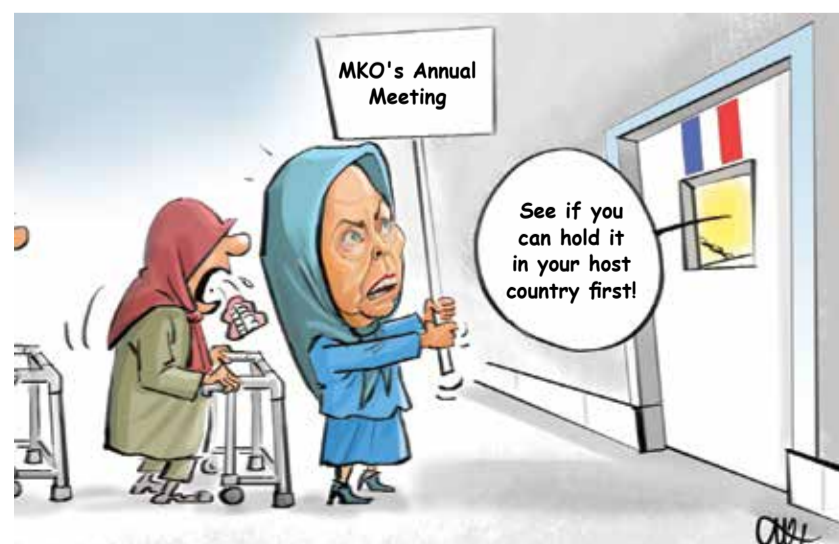
ernment, which had been the organization's main political sanctuary and headquarters, refused to grant them permission for their annual gathering in Paris. Another noteworthy development occurred when Albanian police carried out an operation against the organization's camp near Tirana on Tuesday, in accordance with a ruling by the Supreme Court on organized crime, specifically terrorism. The clash between police and the organization's members ensued due to the resistance put forth by the MKO members. In an official statement,

the Albanian Ministry of Interior announced the police operation was carried out due to the group's violation of the agreements and commitments made in 2014. Back in 2014, the MKO agreed to settle in Albania solely for humanitarian purposes and avoid engaging in any other activities. However, the group failed to fulfill its obligations and breached the agreement. According to a reliable security source cited by the Islamic Republic of Iran News Agency (IRNA), two members of the terrorist group were killed, 36 were wounded, and

70 were arrested during the raid. Additionally, the spokesperson for the US State Department released a statement expressing support for the Albanian government's right to investigate potential illegal activities taking place within its territory. The recent events in France and Albania, which have taken a stance against the MKO, along with the implicit endorsement from the US State Department regarding the Albanian government's actions, appear to be significant pieces of the puzzle that contribute to the down-

fall of Rajavi's terrorists. The rejected terrorists no longer hold appeal for their once-supportive entities. However, one must question whether it had to take 40 years to reach this point. It seems that the political games played by certain Western governments, utilizing criminals as leverage against the Islamic Republic, required giving them a 40-year window to carry out assassinations. Otherwise, the fate of the MKO in Iran could have been anticipated as early as June 20, 1981, marking the year when their destiny was sealed with the label of "void."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran welcomes UN's Persian Gulf initiative

### International Desk

The Iranian foreign minister welcomed an initiative proposed by the UN secretary-general about a meeting between the foreign ministers of the eight countries of the Persian Gulf. Amir-Abdollahian said that the initiative, which has been introduced by UN Secretary General António Guterres, should be considered by the Persian Gulf littoral states. He added that Tehran even welcomes a meeting between the heads of state of

the countries. He made the remarks after a meeting with his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Albusaidi in Oman's capital on Wednesday. Iran's top diplomat, who is on a regional tour, arrived in Oman on Tuesday. The Omani foreign minister said they discussed "continued consultations and cooperation" on issues of bilateral concern. "There is great consensus in the visions of the two states on a series of issues... that will contribute to stability, security and peace," he said, quoted by the official Oman

News Agency. Amir-Abdollahian, for his part, called the meeting "constructive" and praised the effective cooperation between the two sides. On Tuesday, the Iranian top diplomat met Qatari officials in Doha where they discussed various bilateral and regional issues. Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said his country seeks comprehensive development of relations with Iran, while hailing the existing "strong" ties between the two nations. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian is on a tour of the Persian Gulf that will see the Iranian foreign minister also making stops later in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.