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Iran seeking alliance to protect Syria against U.S. meddling

TEHRAN TIMES TEHRAN — Top Political Desk Iranian lawmaker Alaeddin Boroujerdi held a meeting with Nabil el-Arabi, secretary general of the Arab League and former Egyptian foreign minister, in which he called for the establishment of an axis to protect Syria against U.S. intervention.

Boroujerdi, chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, travelled to Cairo on Monday to submit Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani's invitation to el-Arabi to participate in an international conference on Palestine, which is scheduled to be held in Tehran from October 1 to 2.

His visit marked the first time a senior Iranian official has been to Egypt since former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak was ousted on February 11.

During the meeting, Boroujerdi said, "Having lost Egypt, the U.S. has targeted Syria," IRNA reported.

Boroujerdi added that the United States has been stirring up unrest in Syria with the aim of defeating the resistance movement and advancing the goals of the Zionist regime.

After the meeting, Boroujerdi briefed reporters on what he discussed with el-Arabi, saying they exchanged views on the latest developments in the Arab world as well as the Palestine issue.

Boroujerdi also said that the unrest in Syria was discussed during the meeting, and the secretary general of the Arab League expressed concern over the situation in the country, ISNA reported.

Iran has given leeway to Egypt to restore ties

In addition, Boroujerdi attended a press conference late on Tuesday, in which he said that Tehran has given Cairo a leeway to make decisions regarding the reestablishment of bilateral relations.

Iran will not set any precondition for the normalization of relations with Egypt, he said, adding, "I do not think Egypt would set any precondition in the post-revolution era."

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LATEST NEWS

Gaza cut off after Israel severs phone cable

An Israeli army bulldozer has damaged a communications cable and cut all phone and Internet networks in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian officials said on Wednesday.

The blackout was caused late on Tuesday by a military bulldozer operating in Nahal Oz, close to the Palestinian enclave, Hamas telecommunications officials told AFP.

"Repairs have allowed the gradual resumption of communications," they said.

An Israeli military spokesman denied the army was "responsible for the incident," but added that it was willing to "help restore communications."

(Source: AFP)

Ahmadinejad urges UN to step into Britain unrest



Police officers in riot gear block a road near a burning car on a street in Hackney, east London, August 8, 2011.

TEHRAN TIMES TEHRAN — Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on the UN Security Council on Wednesday to step in and investigate the recent unrest gripping Britain.

"I advise the British statesmen to be aware that the era of colonialism has come to an end. And they should listen to the voice of their people," Ahmadinejad told reporters after a cabinet meeting, the Mehr News Agency reported.

"The people protesting the wrong policies (of the government) are being beaten on the streets of London, and the question is how can this country (Britain) which claims to be a model for human rights has been attacking its people this way," Ahmadinejad

said. "Such brutal actions are in no way acceptable, and the officials of the country should listen to the voice of their people and allow them to participate in the major affairs of the country," he noted.

It would be better if the British officials cared about their people rather than making intervention in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya, Ahmadinejad said.

He added, "I am concerned about (a possible) social explosion in the West, an explosion which no one would be able to control. The European people have gone through many difficulties and no longer want to incur the losses that (their country's) officials have been inflicting on

them." "We believe that the problems facing today's world have their roots in the way it is being managed," Ahmadinejad said.

The system based on which the world's affairs have been managed over the past century is one of the worst in history and is even worse than the one prevailing in the era of slavery, Ahmadinejad argued.

UN should intervene to defuse unrest Ahmadinejad also criticized the UN Security Council for remaining silent about the developments taking place in Britain and said, "Today the UN must show whether or not it can play a role in the management of the world's affairs." Contd. on P. 2

Three Muslims killed in UK as strife spreads

staff & agencies

Police in the British city of Birmingham have begun a murder probe following the deaths of two brothers and their friend who were mowed down by a car while they stood protecting their mosque and business in Birmingham during unrest early Wednesday.

Witnesses said the three Muslim men were trying to protect their community from looters when they were killed on the third night of trouble in Britain's second-biggest city.

The West Midlands Police, which oversees Birmingham, have arrested a 32-year-old man on suspicion of murder and recovered a car that is being examined by forensics experts, the force said in a statement. The suspect has not been charged.

"They were very worried the businesses and the mosque would be looted and destroyed," a witness said.

A man, 26, died from a bullet wound in London on Tuesday. A fifth man is fighting for his life after being attacked.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has promised to "fight back" as the country's worst strife in decades turned deadly.

Cameron declared war on the



Tariq Jahan holds a picture of his son Haroon Jahan after he was killed by a car along with two other Muslim men in Birmingham, central England. (Reuters photo)

sickness of British society.

Haroon Jahan, a 21-year-old mechanic who was one of the three Muslim men killed, went out with other neighborhood residents to protect local stores from looters, his father, Tariq Jahan, told reporters on Wednesday.

"The guy who killed him drove directly into the crowd and killed three innocent guys," said Mr. Jahan, who watched the accident take place from a distance of about 100 meters, The Wall Street Journal reported.

The incident took place at around 1 a.m. in the Winson Hill area of Birmingham.

Mr. Jahan said he ran to the

scene and started helping one of the three men before realizing that his son was among the injured. With his face and hands covered in blood, Mr. Jahan turned around and started performing CPR on his son, but the effort failed.

"Everybody loved him in the community. Everybody knew him," Mr. Jahan said. Two other men, both roughly aged 30, died in addition to Mr. Jahan's son, police said. The three victims died in the hospital.

British prime minister said "nothing is off the table" in the new measures to take on the "rioters", and he said security chiefs had decided to authorize

Egypt must revise relations with U.S. and Israel: Howeydi 13

OPEC may meet if price worries members: Iran

OPEC ministers could hold an emergency meeting if its members start to feel anxious about falling crude prices, Iran's OPEC governor told IRNA news agency on Wednesday.

"If oil prices reach a worrying level and members get worried, there is a possibility for negotiation and holding an emergency meeting," Mohammad Ali Khatibi said, Reuters reported.

Khatibi did not say what price level he believed would trigger an emergency OPEC meeting. "OPEC members have not set any price level and they have different opinions, some say \$80-90 per barrel is appropriate while others believe higher than \$100 is appropriate."

Khatibi said the earlier, downward trend did not reflect oil market fundamentals.

"In the current situation, oil market fundamentals are not having an impact on oil prices," he said. "There is a wrong tradition ... of linking the oil price to stock market indexes and it does not seem to have a correct scientific relationship." (Source: Reuters)

PERSPECTIVE

Two warring ideologies and U.S. hypocrisy

Dr. Seyed Reza Mousavi Niya

Some countries depict themselves as committed to the universal human values, but when those values come into conflict with their national interests, they demonstrate hypocritical behavior.

The double-standard conduct of the superpowers and the United Nations Security Council towards the recent incidents in Syria and Bahrain is reminiscent of the book: Sovereignty: Organized Hypocrisy by Stephen Krasner. In the book, Krasner says that governments show themselves as committed to the common human values in international arenas and their pronounced policies, but in practice they prefer their own national interests to those values. At the theoretical level, they speak of common human interests, but in practice they pursue the so-called "national interests."

More comical is that in these and other countries, national interests are not a common denominator of all the disparate groups and layers of the community, but are rather the interests of a particular group and party or acts on the political scene by monopolizing the concept of national interest.

The United Nations Security Council held a session to look into the Syrian unrest and issued a statement against Syria. The European Union has also extended its sanctions against the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad. For those who are familiar with the quality of today's international relations it is clear as daylight that had the U.S. and NATO forces not been occupied in fighting in multiple fronts and had there been a successful haggling with the nagging and blackmailing powers, this statement would have turned into a binding resolution and the U.S. and NATO forces would have been raiding Syria today.

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