

What the Oregon shooting tells us

2 We are against preconditions for political solution in Syria: Zarif
4 BP wins two Iranian oilfield development projects: source
9 Carlos Queiroz praises Iranian passion for football
12 Iran boycotts Frankfurt Book Fair in protest to Saudi Arabia's planned speech

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Leader bans more dialogue with U.S.

TEHRAN — Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said that holding more negotiations with the United States after the conclusion of nuclear talks is "heretical," noting that dialogue with Washington has no benefits.

The Leader made the remarks during a meeting with commanders and staff members of the IRGC Navy and their families in Tehran on Wednesday.

"An important part of the activities of the enemy is to change the calculations of officials and to manipulate people's revolutionary beliefs," the Leader noted. "Young people are the main target, and they must be alert."

In principle, Iran does not oppose holding negotiations with other countries, he said.

"The U.S. has defined dialogue with Iran as a way to 'militarize' into the country and it is a way of imposing its will, he asserted.

"The opening shows that the U.S. is opening the way for infiltration into the country's economic, cultural, political and security areas," the Leader said.

Iran is keen to recover the oil market share it lost as a result of international sanctions imposed over its nuclear programme.

Russian warships launched rockets on ISIL in Syria

Four Russian warships in the Caspian Sea launched 26 rockets to Syrian President Bashar Assad, Moscow's ally. Western countries, Arab states and Turkey, who are waging their own bombing campaign against ISIL, but also want Assad to leave power, say Moscow is using ISIL as a pretext to target Assad's other foes.

Iran will introduce more than 50 exploration and production projects to investors in the near future, the country's chief negotiator for new oil contracts said on Tuesday.

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini, head of Iran's Oil Contracts Restructuring Committee, told the Oil & Money conference in London the contracts would be introduced in Iran this year and at a conference in the British capital in February 2016.

Saudi Arabia accused of war crimes in Yemen

Amnesty International has accused the Arab coalition fighting in Yemen of carrying out unlawful air strikes, some of which amount to war crimes.

Yemen has been under military strikes on a daily basis since Saudi forces launched their military aggression against their southern neighbor on March 26, in a bid to undermine the Arab Spring.

It had examined 13 deadly air strikes by the coalition, assembled by Saudi Arabia, that had killed about 100 civilians, including 59 children.

Japan seeking joint car manufacturing in Iran

TEHRAN — Japan is looking for Iranian partners for joint manufacturing of cars in Iran, according to Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Chairman Hiroyuki Ishige.

Ishige, who has traveled to Iran to seek new trade opportunities in the country, said 30 large and renowned Japanese companies are currently active in Iran, adding that the giant carmakers Mitsubishi Motors Corporation and Suzuki Motor Corporation are among them.

He said these companies intend to negotiate with the Iranian sides to explore ways for strengthening trade ties between Iran and Japan and removing the problems for bilateral cooperation.

The Japanese official mentioned bureaucracy as well as intellectual property infringement as two barriers for the expansion of Japanese companies' cooperation with Iran and expressed hope that these problems will be removed soon.

In a meeting with Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine, and Agriculture Chairman Mohsen Jalalpour in Tehran on Tuesday, Ishige referred to the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, saying that Japan should take advantage of the opportunity to boost bilateral ties with Iran.

For his part, Jalalpour said that Iranian companies prefer to launch joint ventures with Japanese partners.

Iran exported \$35.18 million of non-oil goods to Japan in the previous Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, 2015, while imported \$135.03 million of non-oil goods from the country, according to the Iran Customs Administration. Trade between the two countries hovered around \$2.5 billion before the imposition of Western-led sanctions against Iran in 2011.

Will the Holy Rasputin come up with a miracle in Kremlin

Since the Cold War era, the Kremlin's policies have been based on three principles: political confrontation with Western Europe, active defense in Eastern Europe against NATO, and ultimately, military and missile balance and competition with the United States.

Indeed, international peace and security was based on the East-West rivalry, with the major focus on Europe, and everything else, including the Middle East, Arab part of Africa and the Persian Gulf were a second priority.

Although this never meant that Russia did not see any significance in the Middle East region, the fact is that the Middle East, Arab part of Africa and the Persian Gulf were part of Russia's integrated and general diplomacy, whose issues had to be resolved within a proper framework.

Russia's military presence in Syria cannot be considered as a change of this old and known policy, particularly as Russians have always lacked a consistent policy vis-à-vis the Middle East. At least over the past 50 years, Russia's security and defense policies have been based on the three aforementioned foundations. Irrespective of such a policy being wrong or right, the policy has proven to be ineffective in meeting Russia's strategic security objectives.

Thus, it can be understood why Russia has never been able to achieve a high and determining position with regards to the developments in the Middle East. Even during the 1957 and 1973 wars between Arabs and Israel, which changed the map of the Middle East, Russians could not have much of an impact on the outcomes of the military and political processes. The answer they got was Anwar Sadat's slapping the face of Russian attacks.

Perspective

BY Mostafaei

International relations expert

Picture of the Day

TEHRAN — A group of people, including Lady Ghada Hignawi-Qaddami, president of the World Crafts Council (WCC) Asia Pacific Region (center), attend a ceremony announcing Tabriz as World City for Carpet Weaving on Tuesday evening.

ARTICLE

BY: Harun Yahya
political expert

What the Oregon shooting tells us

Murder is always a terrifying matter; it is more frightful for those who are amidst such horrific incidents. American people once again woke up to such a drastic event of a mass killing in the State of Oregon. What's worse is that it was the second school shooting in the same state with the same police officer in charge. Sergeant Joseph Kaney has witnessed them both.

Last Thursday morning, a 26-year-old gunman named Chris Harper Mercer opened fire inside the classroom on the school staff and the students in Umpqua Community College in Oregon. The shooter, who killed ten people and left several wounded, then killed himself during the shootout with the police. The previous incident was back in 2006 when a teenager shot a 16-year-old student named Joe Monti in the back by a handgun. Thankfully, Joe survived this horrible event.

We do not know if this mass killing will be the last in the U.S. as Americans have confronted an average of more than one mass shooting per day so far this year. In the same manner, during the address President Obama gave hours after this tragic event, he offered his condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and prayed not to have similar events in the future. Yet, he continued his words by saying he cannot guarantee such killings won't happen again and he referenced his discomfort by saying, "it's a terrible thing to say that. It is quite right because he has been giving addresses to the nation after many similar incidents in Connecticut, Colorado, Texas, and in Charleston, South Carolina. For example, last year in June, the people of Oregon regrettably confronted another school shooting that left a student dead and a teacher injured. In the speech Obama gave following it, he stated "My biggest frustration as President is that this society hasn't been willing to take some basic steps to keep guns out of the hands of people who can do harm

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cannot guarantee such killings won't happen again and he reflected his discomfort by saying, "It's a terrible thing to say that." He is quite right because he has been giving addresses to the nation after many similar incidents in Connecticut, Colorado, Arizona, Texas and in Charleston, South Carolina. For example, last year in June, the people of Oregon regrettably confronted another school shooting that left a student dead and a teacher injured; in the speech Obama gave following it, he stated "My biggest frustration [as President] is that this society hasn't been willing to take some basic steps to keep guns out of the hands of people who can do damage. We're the only developed country where this happens. And it happens weekly." However, since the number of tragic events increase, President Obama's anger was more visible in his last address by showing his complaint as thus: "Somehow this has become routine. The reporting is routine. My response here at this podium ends up being routine, the conversation in the aftermath of it ... We have become numb to this."

If we look at the statistics, we come face to face with the terrifying fact derived from the shootings in the United States. This Oregon shooting is the 45th school shooting in 2015 alone and there were at least 134 mass shootings between January 2009 and July 2015 as specified by the Everytown for Gun Safety mentioned in Newsweek Magazine.

Most people consider gun control regulations as a solution to put an end to the recurrence of such horrible murders. Taking the necessary measures may certainly be helpful to make the people feel safer and prevent some of the killings from happening. However, this would not limit the purchase of guns, as Harper Mercer had fourteen firearms, which had all been purchased legally. This would only solve the problem in the short term and only partially. The primary motive behind such horrific incidents is the hatred harbored inside those psychopathic people. When we examine the latest occurrence, we see the murderer's apparent hate against Christians. According to the father of one survivor, the shooter was asking the targeted people if they were Christians and those ones who answered "yes" were shot in the head and those who said "no" were only wounded.

As we see in this tragic event, so many problems stem from the very same reason: Lovelessness. Self-centeredness lies at the heart of lovelessness. A person who does not harbor love in his heart only thinks of his own comfort and benefits. That person does not think about other people, does not show love or compassion to them, but instead wants everyone else to care about them and make sacrifices for them yet. Such a person never bothers doing the same goodness for others. Such a person then does not give any value to the life and his conscience becomes muddled with hatred and egotism. Like a contagious disease, this immorality spreads through the whole of society.

Such societies may generate murderers like Harper who are full of hatred, and their hatred may be against people of any faith or race. As a result, there is persistent negative media coverage. Some societies may also become desensitized to troubles that are far away from them; they sometimes forget the fact that there is no guarantee that the same might happen to them or their loved ones. They may find no one to care about them just as they did not care about those who suffer a world away.

People who are living distant from faith or moral values have constant anxiety in their hearts. For example, some Americans fear the various conflicts taking place in the Middle East as they listen to the news because America is somehow involved in some of them and thus refrain from visiting the region for any reason. They confidently yet erroneously believe in the power of their government to protect them from being harmed. The Oregon shooting proves that such beliefs are baseless since the

government was helpless and could not protect the lives of ten innocent people. No government has the power to protect its people unless love and compassion are harbored in the heart of its society. However, they can achieve harmony and peace by having a loving attitude. Besides, it is not as difficult as people presume to have a society based on good morals and love since everyone bears love inside: A loveless, selfish and cruel attitude will not bring any good to anyone. Thus it should be our primary duty to teach the beauty of good morality such as showing love and compassion to people, forgiving others, enjoy giving and helping the needy, and making sacrifices on our part.

Adnan Oktar's piece on Tehran Times:

http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=249954

<https://www.harunyahya.info/en/articles/what-the-oregon-shooting-tells-us-73450>