

Iran hits back at Pompeo over alleged assassination attempt in Turkey



Tehran, April 5 (RHC)-- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has lashed out at U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for accusing "Iranian diplomats" of involvement in an alleged "assassination" in Turkey last November.

"Undisputed fact: U.S. "diplomats" have long been in the business of coups, arming terrorists, fueling sectarian violence, supporting narcotics cartels, bullying governments & companies, spying on even US allies, flirting with dictators, butchers and terrorists, etc...," Abbas Mousavi said in a tweet over the weekend.

However, Mousavi added, the U.S. secretary of state, who is a former CIA agent and also known as secretary of hate, and his masters have taken the "job" to a whole new level that is called "medical terrorism."

"That's why he has a conscience so filled with guilt that resorts to such psychological projection," the Iranian spokesperson added.

Mousavi's tweet came after Pompeo, President Donald Trump administration's most notorious Iran hawk, leveled the accusation in an earlier tweet, calling Iranian diplomats "agents of terror" who "have conducted multiple assassinations and bomb plots in Europe over the past decade."

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations also on Thursday reacted to Pompeo's accusation and said nobody will be duped by Washington's campaign of disinformation against Tehran.

"The US administration's Iran-bashing is limitless," Majid Takht Ravanchi tweeted, adding that despite Washington's efforts to spread disinformation about Tehran, "No one is fooled."

Pompeo's claims came amid pressures on the US to lift unilateral and illegal sanctions it returned against Iran after leaving a UN Security Council-endorsed nuclear agreement with the Islamic Republic and other major powers -- Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany -- back in 2015.

The United States has refused to lift sanctions on Iran and even tightened them several times in recent weeks, making it almost impossible for the Islamic Republic to access life-saving medications and medical equipment necessary in the fight against the deadly new coronavirus pandemic.

Iran says the unilateral US sanctions have seriously hampered its fight against the pandemic. In a Saturday letter to Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs, Iran's Ambassador to Belgium Gholam Hossein Dehqani warned of the adverse consequences of unilateral and illegal US sanctions on the Islamic Republic's battle against the new coronavirus, urging the European Union to oppose Washington's restrictions.

Dehqani added that the "unilateral and illegal sanctions imposed by the United States on Iran under the guise of its 'maximum pressure' campaign undermine the country's ability to effectively battle the virus without any international support in the long run."

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN office in Geneva Esmail Baqaei Hamaneh also said on Friday that the United States' medical sanctions against the Islamic Republic constituted an "unprecedented threat" to global public health, urging the international community to react in earnest to Washington's restrictions.

In a letter to Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Baqaei Hamaneh said imposition of the cruel and illegal sanctions on Iran, which has resulted in the ordinary Iranian people being denied access to medicine and medical equipment and services, clearly exemplifies a crime against humanity.

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