

Iran condemns attacks in Tunisia, Kuwait and France

World leaders condemn string of 'barbaric' attacks

PARIS, June 27. (AFP): US and UN leaders led an international chorus of outrage and condemnation after a string of suspected Islamist attacks in France, Kuwait and Tunisia Friday left dozens dead.

The White House expressed solidarity and vowed to "fight the scourge of terrorism," offering all three countries "any necessary support".

Aides said US President Barack Obama was being regularly briefed on the attacks, which spanned continents and happened during the Muslim day of prayer in the holy month of Ramadan.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also strongly condemned the "appalling" attacks and said those responsible "must be swiftly brought to justice."

While there were no indications that the attacks were coordinated they came days after the Islamic State (IS) group urged supporters to carry out Ramadan attacks.

One person was found decapitated at

a gas factory in southeastern France while in Tunisia gunmen killed at least 37 people at a beach resort frequented by European tourists. At least five British tourists were among the victims.

Another 25 people died in a suicide bombing claimed by Islamic State jihadists in Kuwait.

The word "heinous" was repeated time and again as politicians worldwide reacted to the attacks.

European leaders also condemned the "heinous" attacks, vowing to maintain a united front against "barbarism".

French President Francois Hollande and his Tunisian counterpart Beji Caid Essebsi expressed their solidarity against the "scourge" of terrorism.

He also announced he was raising the security level to the highest possible in the Lyon region, where the gas factory attack took place.

Among his fellow European Union leaders gathered for a summit in Brussels, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy was one of the first to

react to news of the attack in France.

"Barbarism will always be confronted by unity among democrats," he wrote in a message on Twitter.

Spain, which shares a border with southwestern France, swiftly raised its terror alert level from medium to high.

Challenges

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the attacks "show the challenges we face when it comes to fighting terrorism and Islamist extremism" while Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron called the attacks the fruit of "perverted ideology".

The EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini after the summit called for the Arab world and Europe to stay united.

"Arabs, Europeans, Muslims, non-Muslims, we are together, in the same boat," she said.

"The response will be more unity and expressing very clearly, as an alliance of civilisations, that there can be no way in which a religion be misused to tear us

apart."

Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said the attack in France "confirms that beyond the known battle fronts there are small, very well organised groups".

Czech President Milos Zeman described Islamic State as "a cancer," calling for its training camps to be destroyed.

Outside of Europe, Israeli immigration minister Zeev Elkin urged French Jews to flee to the Jewish state.

"Come home! Anti-Semitism is rising, terror is increasing," he warned.

Muslim clerics also condemned that attacks, using some of the strongest language to do so. A task force against extremism set up by Egypt's mufiti, the government's interpreter of Islamic law, said that attacks had done untold damage to the image of Islam "far more than what anyone else has done, whether Muslim or non-Muslim".

Prominent Sunni cleric Yusuf al-Qaradawi suggested that the militants were worse than "beasts".

"Beasts don't kill other animals except

for what they need to eat, but some people never get their fill from murder and blood," he wrote on Twitter.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he was "both saddened and angered today to learn of the heinous terrorist attacks".

The Argentinian, Mexican and Brazilian governments were also among those strongly condemning the attack.

EU head Donald Tusk said that the attack in Tunisia affected foreign tourists but also "the security of the whole region and, in the longer term, the security of Europe."

Struggle

Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz went further, speaking of a "struggle between the civilised world and the barbarism of jihadism."

Iran has condemned the jihadist attacks in Tunisia, Kuwait and France, saying they were "contrary to the teachings of Islam," in statements released Saturday by the foreign ministry.

The killings were not apparently coor-

dated, but the Islamic State group claimed the atrocities in Tunisia and Kuwait, just days before the first anniversary of it declaring a "caliphate" in Iraq and Syria.

"These terrorist acts are contrary to the teachings of Islam," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afkham in Tehran.

In a separate statement she also denounced the attack in a Tunisian hotel that killed 38 people, mostly British tourists.

The incident was aimed at "defacing Islam's image," she said, urging governments of Muslim countries to "take effective measures against acts of terrorism that harm the image and unity of the Muslim world."

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also condemned the "barbarous" attack against a Shiite mosque in Kuwait that killed 26 people.

In a telephone conversation with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Zarif said such acts were "one of the key threats against countries in the region".

'Despicable crime'

Mosque blast draws outrage

KUWAIT CITY, June 27. (KUNA): The terrorist bomb attack that hit at Imam Al-Sadiq Mosque in downtown Kuwait City on Friday triggered resounding condemnations from across the world.

The blast left at least 27 deaths and 227 injured among the worshippers after the noon prayers.

The French Foreign Ministry expressed in a statement full solidarity with the Kuwaiti government and people in the combat against terrorism, and offered condolences to the families of the victims.

In Cairo the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar Dr Ahmad Al-Tayeb strongly denounced the attack, saying that such "criminal sinful acts trifle with people's right to secure life and the sanctity of places of worship."

"The heinous attack runs counter to the teachings of noble Islam and aims to foment sectarian sedition," he said, wishing Kuwait security and stability.

In Khartoum, the Sudanese Foreign Ministry said in a statement the cowardly attack targeted armless worshippers and targeted the stability and security of the Kuwaiti society.

Sudan stands by leadership and people of sisterly Kuwait in this hard time, offers condolences for the families of the victims and wishes the wounded quick recovery, the statement said.

Desperate

In Baghdad, Speaker of the Iraqi Council of Representatives Dr Saleem Al-Jubouri said the terrorist attack is desperate attempt to destabilize sisterly Kuwait and expand the scope of the terrorist activities.

"This despicable crime is part of a hostile design by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) against sisterly countries that support Iraq in its war against this terrorist organization," he said in a statement, reaffirming the need to more concerted efforts against ISIL.

In Beirut, Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam strongly condemned the attack as a heinous plot against the national unity of Kuwait.

"The attack against a mosque in the holy month of Ramadan adds a new example of the extent of barbarism of saboteurs and the seriousness of their destructive acts in our Arab region," he said in a press release.

On behalf of the Lebanese people and government, he expressed condolences to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti government and people.

In Muscat, the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs denounced the attack and all forms of violence and terrorism against innocent worshippers. The Ministry reaffirmed in a statement full solidarity with the Kuwaiti government and people in the face of such horrible crimes.

In Sarajevo the Bosnian-Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship group said the attack targeted not only Kuwaiti worshippers but all Muslims and peace loving people around the world.

Denounced

In a statement signed by chairman of the group and former ambassador of Kuwait to Bosnia and Herzegovina Sadeq Maarafi the group called on all Muslims from all sects and races to join forces against terrorism which "tarnishes in the first place the image of Islam and Muslims." In Rabat, the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation denounced the attack as "an abominable act of terrorism which runs counter to the values of noble Islam." "The terrorist attack targets the stability and security of sisterly Kuwait," the ministry said in a press release, reaffirming support to Kuwait in its efforts to combat terrorism.

In Brussels, President of the Socialist and Democrat Group in the European Parliament Gianni Pittella expressed his condolences for the victims of attacks in Kuwait as well as in France and Tunisia.

In a statement, he expressed his "deep solidarity" with the families of the victims and with the citizens of Kuwait France and Tunisia "who suffered from these evil terrorist attacks. "Today, as never before, the institutions and peoples of Europe and the Arab world must be united in the fight against terror. We will not surrender to their blackmail," he added.

In Islamabad Pakistan Foreign Office strongly condemned the deadly terrorist attack at Imam Al-Sadiq Mosque, saying: "The people and the Government of Pakistan wish to convey their heartfelt sympathies and deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for speedy recovery of the injured."

"We share the grief of the brotherly people of the State of Kuwait over this cowardly attack against innocent civilians praying at a mosque during the Holy month of Ramadan," it said in a press release.

#OneKuwait



Crowd of mourners are seen as they carry a victim of a suicide bombing for burial on Saturday. 27 people were killed in a suicide bombing that targeted the Shiite Imam Sadiq Mosque in Kuwait City on Friday.

Spread, practice tolerance ... compassion

A police state is not the answer

By Nada Faris

On Friday June 27, 2015, Abu Suleiman Al-Muwahhid, a member of an IS-affiliated group calling itself Al Nadj Province, bombed a Shi'ite mosque in Al-Sawaber district in Kuwait. He killed more than 27 people who'd been fasting and praying. He respected neither their place of worship, nor the Holy Month in which he committed his reprehensible act. Enraged, Kuwaitis flooded social media platforms with suggestions and opinions, some of which were more shocking than the bombing of the mosque.

"What's to be done" was followed by a series of propositions that seemed to demand a police state.

Young women began to suggest that the government equips each mosque with full body scanners to prevent a similar bombing in the future. A few hours later, however, reports began to surface about threats issued by ISIL targeting major malls in the country: The Avenues, Marina Crescent, 360 degrees, etc. What good is a full body scanner attached to a mosque's doorway in these cases? And if the response is simply more body scanners in every public institution, then what happens when the attacks begin to target civilians in their own homes? Full body scanners at the entrance of every door? Do you know benefits from this situation? Companies that manufacture full body scanners and other security agencies, as it does not, in any way shape or form, benefit the Kuwaiti people. It builds upon a state of terror by manifesting it further, by wielding it into the very fabric of everyday life. Living in fear for the rest of our lives is not a solution.

A popular social media personality suggested installing closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras all over the country, which at a first glance, improves upon the idea of full-body-scanners in every doorway. His argu-



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ment is that most countries have them, so why not us? Let us think about this for a moment before we delve into a downward spiral motivated by sheer fear and terror. The installations of cameras everywhere that pinpoint the population's every movement is a great idea *only if we did not live in a world that tends to exploit the power of surveillance for personal interests.* More importantly, studies have shown that CCTV's prevent smaller crimes from happening, such as burglary or theft, and not spontaneous violent crimes, such as Friday's murder. CCTV's work similarly to the cameras on the road that can reduce the speed and the amounts of people crossing a red light but that cannot prevent accidents and deaths from happening in the middle of the street. More importantly, they tap into a broader ideology of control.

Their popularity — for they were not always well-received or natural fixtures of one's society — was the result of 9/11. They are thus the products of, and

not the solutions to, terror. After 9/11, Americans conceded many of their hard-won civil rights to the State, exchanging freedom for security. The result, as we all know, is a depletion of freedom everywhere in the world as the NSA spied and monitored phone lines, Internet access, and hacked into other surveillance equipment. This all-knowing, all-seeing state of affairs was more concerned with tapping into the private conversations of Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, than it was in disclosing the whereabouts of the AirAsia Indonesia airliner that was flying from Indonesia to Singapore. Let us also not forget that they did not stop the London bombing of 7/7, they merely captured shots of one of the terrorists buying a battery. Is this the safety we so covet? The answer is no, and the loss of the right to privacy is not a solution.

A third point of view is equally dangerous. I heard it first from an illiterate, Egyptian house guard. His trousers were rolled clumsily over his thin

ankles, and the foamy soap that collected near his elbow was slowly sliding down his sun-kissed arms. He'd been washing a car parked next to my own when he dropped the sponge into the bucket with a loud splash, and hurriedly approached me.

"If your leader," he said, pointing a soapy finger in my face, "doesn't do something strong now, you will lose your country!"

"*Fal Allah wala falik, Abu Ammar,*" I said gently.

"I mean it."

"What do you mean exactly?"

I blinked rapidly when he started counting all the nationalities that, in his opinion, the government must expel from the country to keep the population safe. I interrupted him when he included Egyptians.

"Even Egyptians?"

He nodded firmly, his eyebrows drawn together.

"He needs to be strong about this. Otherwise..."

I thanked him and drove away. Shortly enough, I heard similar suggestions from other people who added onto the list more groups that, in their opinions, had been culpable in the attack.

Thus, in addition to expats, people were suggesting that the government either expels or severely restricts the rights of Shi'a, bidun, bedo, government officials, parliamentarians, and the delusional Sunnah who teach the school's curriculum, because it states that their religion is the only right religion, thereby rendering all other views as nonreligious. This is not the time for condemnations. This is not the time for false blames and displacements. Is there institutional racism in the country? Yes.

But you solve nothing by attacking each other. Scapegoating is understandable. People are shocked and angry. They want to blame visible, reachable culprits. They can't get to ISIL. They can't get to the global corporations who

profit from disasters. They can't stop war lords from funding both sides of the war. They can't even see them. They wouldn't know how to follow the money trail pumping the extremists with enough weaponry and international clout to commit atrocities on three different continents simultaneously (where is your NSA and CCTVs?). It is understandable, yes, but it is not the answer.

So what is the answer? Empty slogans of unity? Sardonic statements about the population's backwardness? Mocking the government's lack of foresight? No. The answer is two-fold. First, *do something.* Don't complain, cry, or mock. Do. Use your platform, use your talents, use whatever is in your disposal to reverse this trajectory towards violence, hatred and fear. Whatever your field, in sports, culture, medicine, banking, media, education, etc., use your position to spread — not just in theory, but in practice — tolerance, acceptance, love, and compassion. Whatever your belief, race, gender, class, nationality, remember, divided, we can be conquered. Be a force of change, not a voice of satire. Second, and this is important, reclaim Islam. It is in the interest of the mainstream media, which is employed in the service of global corporations, to denigrate the religion, as it justifies the colossal human rights violations taking place in the region. So flood the Internet. Use facts, not dogma, from the very doctrine of Islam that points to its inherent peaceful nature. After all, we only have our lives at stake.

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