**Iran: stop the appeasement, support the people!**

On November 8th last year, here in The Hague, the Iranian authorities commissioned the assassination of a dissident - in consequence of which the Dutch authorities expelled two Iranian diplomats, albeit without any public censorship for the terror act committed.

In the meantime, in the end of June, a coordinated police effort allowed the prevention of a major terrorist attack masterminded by an Iranian diplomat based in Vienna against the annual gathering of the Iranian Resistance in Paris. So far, other than the administrative and judicial actions against the perpetrators of this terror plot, and the dismantling by French authorities of an operation by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards hidden under a fake NGO in the North of France, we are still to see any reaction from European authorities on the most recent and largest terrorist plan uncovered on European soil.

Less than two months ago, a coordinated operation by Denmark, Sweden and Norway managed to foil another Iranian terrorist attempt. This time, the Danish authorities tried to move the European establishment into action, but to no avail.

In spite of 40 years’ experience regarding the Iranian theocracy’s ‘modus operandi’, its utter disregard for international laws and principles, and the fact it always takes appeasement attempts from their victims as an invitation to increase pressure, Europe has yet to draw the necessary conclusions.

Last Saturday, Rouhani threatened Europe with prospects of a deluge of drugs, bombs and refugees if sanctions were not overturned.

Rouhani’s speech imitated in perfection a Mob boss explaining to his victims why without being paid protection money he could not insure their safety. Still, many remain blind to evidence and continue to believe in delusional absurdities regarding the benign nature of ‘Iranian moderates’ – some of which were propagated with the complicity of UN agencies.

To claim that Iran is protecting the West from drugs because it hangs many drug traffickers is exactly the same as claiming the old Medellin Cartel to be a ‘drug buster’ because it killed scores of its competing traffickers.

Iran is one of the most important international centres for consumption and the most important centre for trading, refining and exporting opiates. The same is ever truer for amphetamines. Through its Lebanese branch, Hezbollah, and in cooperation with Venezuela as well as several private drug gangs, Iran is playing an ever more important role in cocaine international distribution networks as well. A good part of Iran’s drug profits is directly allocated so as to support its terrorist and expansionist network all over the world.

Iran keeps the vastest international network of terrorist organisations in the world, involving above all its own neighbourhood but also playing a vital role in countries like Nigeria and elsewhere across the globe. It also feeds associate terror networks such as Al Qaeda, Hamas and the Taliban.

Al Qaeda’s branch in Iraq was launched in 2001 as a joint-venture between the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and Bin Laden. This branch of jihadists – as is the case with several launched in Pakistan and in Syria after 2011– developed an anti-Shia tendency within their fanatic ideology.

The launching of these jihadi groups served well the ultimate interests of the Iranian expansionary policy; afterwards an apparent clash with them was used so as to paint the theocracy as ‘anti-terrorist’. Most likely, the theocracy will manage to discipline and use them as well as it did with the Taliban, a group whose brand of jihadism was also rabidly anti-Shia in the past, before being domesticated by the theocracy.

The greatest novelty of Rouhani’s threat, however, is the one regarding refugees. Iran’s repression and mismanagement at home, expansionary policies in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, as well as its contribution to the destabilisation of Afghanistan, Western Africa or Venezuela, have all been crucial in provoking a massive afflux of refugees which has destabilised the political establishment within several European countries.

Europe, however, has allowed this debate to shake its foundations without addressing the crucial question: why not preventing a refugee exodus by preventing or fighting against ethnic cleansing, war, destabilisation and mismanagement, cooperation with foreign entities when appropriate?

It is the political inaction and passivity of Western leaders regarding the ruthless policies of dictatorial, expansionist and corrupt leaders across the world – with Iran in the forefront – that is the ultimate reason behind the so-called ‘refugee crisis’ haunting Europe.

The idea of bribing these dictators for them to do the dirty work of imprisoning potential refugees is not a solution - quite on the contrary, it is a long-term recipe for disaster.

By actually threatening to flood the West with refugees, Rouhani to all intents and purposes finally rendered a good public service: he clarified the debate by revealing where the true origin of the problems at stake.

Yes, the best solution for the refugee crisis is simply to stop both supporting and appeasing ruthless dictators such as the Iranian regime and instead support the Iranian people’s struggle to get rid of them. Iran is at the centre of all the problems and mayhem in the Middle East. Ending the theocracy would be a decisive step into solving all sorts of crises in the region.

As we have seen during the past year, the Iranian people has a capable, organised and democratic opposition. It is the National Council for Iranian Resistance led by Maryam Rajavi!

To support it is the best way for Europe to confront Rouhani’s threats!

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(Paulo Casaca)