

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Betrayal Comes From Within



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

What the Ministry of Interior has recently revealed about a cell linked to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards—and the arrest of 41 individuals from within it who hold the ideology of “Walli-elfaqih”—places us at a critical turning point that requires pause, reflection, and a renewed reading of the scene with greater awareness and responsibility. This is to ensure that such betrayals—targeting our homeland, its security, and its stability—do not repeat themselves.

Despite the ordeal we have witnessed in recent days—harrowing times marked by hateful and criminal acts originating from a state that is assumed to be a neighbor—we have seen time and again that it does not deal with Bahrain with the mindset of a neighbor determined to preserve the stability of the region. Instead, it has continued to pursue policies of interference and escalation, along with attempts to tamper with our national security. In contrast, the Kingdom of Bahrain has managed to strengthen its political and diplomatic standing, transforming it into an influential factor in regional and international equations and in the shaping of decision-making—while that state remains locked in deepening political and economic isolation.

Yet what is most dangerous, beyond the external threat itself, is for betrayal to become an act originating from within—from people who sold their homeland before they betrayed their families and their communities. Anyone who places himself as an instrument in the hands of an outsider does not realize that, before anything else, he is endangering his own loved ones, his children, and the future of his society. History confirms that a traitor earns no respect from anyone: not his nation, which does not forgive him, and not the side that used him, which sees him only as a temporary paper—one whose validity ends when its role is over.

Betrayal has never been a path to glory or influence. It has always been a path to isolation and collapse. The traitor remains shunned by everyone, having lost his community and the trust of the people; meanwhile, for those who enlisted him, he is nothing more than a tool to be used and then discarded. The pages of history are full of examples that reinforce this truth.

If we reflect on some of the figures who have appeared on social media in the context of espionage cases and ties to outside powers, we find that many of them received their education in the enemy's country. Some even wore the clerical turban and spoke on behalf of religion among the people—raising grave questions about the scale of the influence they may have exerted on segments of youth, and about how dangerous the ideas they sought to pass on—under a religious or ideological cover—truly are. Here we recall the words of Allah Almighty: “And the evil plot encompasses only those who devise it.” It is a divine reality that history has repeatedly proven: those who plot against their homeland ultimately reap nothing but loss.

Today, the Kingdom of Bahrain stands at a different phase by all measures—a phase defined by clarity in confronting anyone who has replaced national belonging with loyalty to the outside, and who has accepted being a follower of organizational and ideological projects linked to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards and the ideas of “Walli-elfaqih.” That is why we need, more than ever, unity of ranks, awareness, and cohesion of the people—because the most dangerous bet the enemy places on is the fragmentation of societies and their division. Allah has warned us against this, saying: “And do not be like those who became divided and differed after the clear proofs had come to them.”

May Allah protect Bahrain—its leadership and its people—bestow upon it the blessing of security and stability, and shield it from the schemes of schemers, the hatred of traitors, and all who intend harm to it.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

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Macron says France ‘never envisaged’ sending warships into Strait of Hormuz

Nairobi, Kenya

President Emmanuel Macron yesterday said that France had “never envisaged” a naval deployment in the Strait of Hormuz but rather a security mission that would be “coordinated with Iran”.

At a news conference in Nairobi, Macron said he was sticking to his position opposing a blockade from either side, and to “reject any toll” to ensure ships are able to pass through the strategic waterway.

Iran on Sunday warned of a “decisive and immediate response” to any French or British deployments in the strait, after both announced they would send military vessels to the region.

“There was never any ques-



tion of a deployment but we are ready,” said Macron.

“We have put together an ad hoc mission, co-led with the British, which has brought together 50 countries and international organisations to enable, in a coordinated way with Iran and by

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MACRON

deconflicting the situation with all the countries of the region and the United States, the resumption of maritime traffic as soon as conditions allow,” he added.

Macron, in Africa for a summit in Nairobi, said the whole continent was “victim of the block-

ade” of the strait, through which normally passes most of the oil exported from the Middle East.

France last week announced that its aircraft carrier, the Charles de Gaulle, had passed through the Suez Canal in preparation for such a mission.



A lesser-known fact about the Strait of Hormuz is that several Gulf countries have spent billions building oil pipelines specifically to bypass the Strait in case it is blocked. Saudi Arabia operates the East-West Pipeline to the Red Sea, while the United Arab Emirates has a pipeline running from Abu Dhabi to the port of Fujairah on the Gulf of Oman – allowing some oil exports to avoid Hormuz entirely.

Despite all the concern over the Strait of Hormuz, there is no full alternative route for liquefied natural gas exports from Qatar – one of the world's biggest LNG exporters.

Drones strike Strait again



● A freighter sailing towards Qatar

● UAE accused Iran of targetting its territory

● South Korea reported unidentified aircraft had hit a cargo vessel

● United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said a bulk carrier reported being struck by an unknown projectile

● Iran's neighbour Kuwait also reported an attempted attack

AFP | Tehran, Iran

Drones were launched at several targets in the Gulf yesterday, with one hitting a freighter sailing towards Qatar, as Tehran warned the United States that it would no longer hold back from retaliatory strikes.

The United Arab Emirates accused Iran of being behind an attack that targeted its territory, in what would be, if confirmed,

Iran war ‘not over,’ uranium must be removed: Netanyahu

AFP | Washington, United States

Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium must be “taken out” before the US-Israeli war against Iran can be considered over, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in an interview yesterday.

“It's not over, because there's still nuclear material -- en-

riched uranium -- that has to be taken out of Iran. There's still enrichment sites that have to be dismantled,” Netanyahu said in an excerpt of an interview due to air later Sunday on CBS's “60 Minutes” programme.

“You go in and you take it out,” the Israeli leader said when asked how the uranium could be removed.



A damaged part of the South Korean cargo ship HMM Namu docked at a port in Dubai.

only the second alleged strike on Gulf countries since the start of a month-old ceasefire.

Tehran's military chief Ali

Abdollahi met the country's supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei and, according to Iranian state television, received “new direc-

tives and guidance for the continuation of operations to confront the enemy”.

This came as South Korea reported unidentified aircraft had hit a cargo vessel in the Strait of Hormuz last week, and Qatar's defence ministry said a freighter arriving in the country's waters from Abu Dhabi was hit by a drone on Sunday northeast of the port of Mesaieed.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said the bulk carrier reported being struck by an unknown projectile. “There was a small fire that has been extinguished, there are no casualties. There is no reported environmental impact,” it said.

Iran's neighbour Kuwait also reported an attempted attack.

“At dawn today, the armed forces detected a number of hostile drones in Kuwaiti airspace, which were dealt with in accordance with established procedures,” the military posted.

In Seoul, defence ministry spokesman Park Il told reporters a cargo vessel had been hit on Monday and was damaged by fire before making its way to port in Dubai.

“On May 4, two unidentified aircraft struck the outer plate of the port-side ballast tank at the stern of the HMM Namu at roughly one-minute intervals, causing flames and smoke,” he said.