

US report 'inaccurate'

Human right activist rejects 'Bahraini Human Rights in 2017' report by US State Department

Report based on organisations that do not have members or offices in Bahrain

Report lacks impartial Bahraini and Arab sources

Report failed to account the systematic terrorism of the Iranian regime

Report ignored all violations

The report was unfair to Bahraini human rights organisations

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Prominent human right activist yesterday rebuked the allegations made against Bahrain in the US State Department's human rights report as "inaccurate" and based on sources having no direct knowledge of the situations inside Kingdom.

Rejecting the report, Faisal Fulad, Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society (BHRWS) Secretary-General, in a statement, pointed out that the report was "based on information from associations or organisations operating outside Bahrain."

The report, Faisal Fulad accused, has failed to take into account the context of

terrorism faced by Bahrain from the Iranian regime.

He also criticised the report for lack of impartial Bahraini and Arab sources saying, "the report was unfair to Bahraini human rights organisations."

The report was based on organisations that do not have members or offices in Bahrain and "some of them never visited Bahrain."

The 'Bahraini Human Rights in 2017', he said, ignored reports of rights organisations registered and centred their activities in Bahrain, with many of them established in 2004.

Fulad also pointed out that the report also failed to account the systematic terrorism of the Iranian regime in the Kingdom.

The Iranian regime has been striving to destroy the stability of the Kingdom by supporting armed groups through their intelligence services and Revolutionary Guards, resulting in the loss of lives of several innocent people and police officers. "The report ignored all these violations," stressed Fulad.

Warning about the dangerous Iranian activity in Bahrain, which aims to destabilize the entire Gulf region, the Secretary-General said: "These terrorist activities also had its toll on the national economy."

"The Iranian regime since 1979 has been trying to overthrow the government here through armed groups

trained in Iran.

"Many of these individuals linked to Iran are currently active in Western countries as human rights activists after their inability to attempt a coup against the Monarchy in Bahrain. For example, the failed attempt in 1981 and 1996, in addition to several terrorist attacks targeting security and stability of Bahrain," he stressed.

Further supporting his claims, he also pointed out that Bahrain has historically respected all religious traditions and there is no discrimination against religions and sects in Bahrain and "the US report on this issue do not have an official source."

Demanding the US State



Department to focus it reports on all human rights organisations and civil societies in Bahrain, Fulad said that these organisations have full independence in writing reports on the situation of Bahrain with sufficient sources and evidence.

He also called on the US

State Department to focus on the Iranian threat aimed at destabilising Bahrain by using armed groups associated with Iran.

Fulad, however, said the Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society (BHRWS) welcomes any reports and believes in the idea of criticism and reform.

Iran will 'never' possess nuclear weapons: Macron

Washington

French President Emmanuel Macron drew Wednesday on the "shared bond" of US-French relations to call for a rejection of isolationism and instead for the countries to bond together anew for a 21st century security.

Macron opened a joint meeting of Congress, saying "the American and French people have had a rendezvous with freedom."

The French president received a warm, three-minute standing ovation from US lawmakers before delivering — in English — a rare address to Congress, which he hailed as a "sanctuary of democracy."

Macron shook hands with senators and representatives, and pressed his hand to his heart several times before a speech expected to touch on the two countries' shared history and international challenges.

Speaking almost directly to President Donald Trump, Macron quickly turned to the top issues of Syria, free trade and the Paris accord on climate change — issues where he and Trump disagree — as he urged the United States not to retreat from world affairs, but to embrace its historic role as a military leader of world affairs. "We are living in a time



of anger and fear because of these current global threats," Macron told lawmakers. "You can play with fears and angers for a time, but they do not construct anything."

With a nod to great American leaders, including former President Franklin Roosevelt, he warned against sowing seeds of fear.

Macron told Congress that Iran will "never" be allowed to develop atomic weapons, as the

fate of a landmark 2015 nuclear accord with Tehran hangs in the balance.

"Our objective is clear," Macron told lawmakers on the final day of a state visit during which he and President Donald Trump called for a broader "deal" that would also limit Iran's ballistic missile program and support for militant groups across the Middle East.

"Iran shall never possess any nuclear weapons. Not now.

Not in five years. Not in 10 years. Never," Macron said.

Macron has pushed for a new approach that would see the United States and Europe agree to block any Iranian nuclear activity until 2025 and beyond, address Iran's ballistic missile program and generate conditions for a political solution to contain Iran in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

"Whatever the decision of

the United States will be, we will not leave the floor to the actions of rogues. We will not leave the floor to this conflict of powers in the Middle East," Macron told Congress.

"I think we can work together to build this comprehensive deal for the whole region, for our people, because I think it fairly addresses our concerns," he said.

On climate change, Macron told US lawmakers there is

Macron to block any Iranian nuclear activity until 2025 and beyond

Trump called for a broader "deal" that would also limit Iran's ballistic missile

Macron says can work together to build this comprehensive deal for the region

"no Planet B," acknowledging a disagreement with President Donald Trump, who pulled his nation from the landmark Paris accord.

"Let us face it. There is no Planet B," Macron said in an address to Congress on the final day of his state visit to the United States.

(AFP)