## The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Vital Role in Iran–China Cooperation Agreement

As Iran has grown increasingly desperate for cash in order to sustain its power and network of militia groups in the region, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, <u>travelled to Tehran On March 27th 2021</u> to sign a 25-year partnership deal between China and Iran.

Although the news of the agreement first surfaced in 2016, it was only 2 years ago that the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in order to strengthen his tyrannical regime's foothold and contrary to the constitution, instructed Ali Ardeshir Larijani to manage and finalize this 25-year comprehensive cooperation plan between Iran and China, without the intervention of the President and Parliament.

Ali Ardeshir Larijani, a military officer in the <u>Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps</u> or IRGC, who has also served as the Speaker of the <u>Parliament of Iran</u> from 2008 to 2020 and the <u>Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council</u>, wasn't the only person tasked to push this 25-year cooperation plan through.

Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's current minister of foreign affairs, who studied at <u>San</u> <u>Francisco State University</u> where he gained a bachelor's degree and the <u>University of Denver</u> where he obtained his master's degree as well as a PhD in international law, was also instructed by Iran's supreme leader to sign the 25-year deal on behalf of Iran.

Mansour Haghighatpour, who has reportedly served as a member of Iran's Quds Force, the extraterritorial operations arm of IRGC and was also a key member of Iran's <u>Islamic</u> <u>Consultative Assembly</u> special commission for examining the Iran nuclear deal or the <u>Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action</u>, was also appointed as Larijani's advisor to ensure and prioritize the interests of IRGC and Quds Force, such as the nationalization of Internet and other military, defence, and terrorist projects.

And last but not least, with Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, a senior commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, being elected as the new Speaker of Iran's Parliament in 2020 to silence the opposing representatives, all obstacles to the approval and implementation of this anti-people project were removed.

There isn't a shadow of doubt that this 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement was designed with only the best interest of IRGC and CCP in mind.

After a closer look at the clauses of this agreement and a review of previous treaties and agreements signed by the Islamic Republic, especially ones involving powerful countries such as China and Russia, we find that they all share the following characteristics:

- 1. Clauses in the treaty, contract or agreement that directly target Iran's economy and economical independence, putting Iran in debt to the other countries.
- 2. Clauses in the treaty, contract or agreement that are directly in favour of the IRGC and the oppressive forces of the regime.
- 3. Clauses in the treaty, contract or agreement that are vague or inapplicable and only serve the purpose of deceiving and confusing the public.

There are 4 notable and alarming issues within the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership agreement between the Islamic republic of Iran and people's republic of China:

- 1. A large part of the agreement is related to China's military and economic presence in Iran. As such, China's presence in all Iranian provinces is to be expected in the near future. China's main goal is to control Iran's ports and transportation routes, as well as its telecommunications and intelligence services to strengthen its control and influence over Iran's economy and politics.
- 2. Part of the agreement is designed to give the IRGC more control over the Iranian people. The IRGC, like communist China, is seeking Round-The-Clock Surveillance of Iranian citizens.
- 3. The Iran-China agreement on joint counterterrorism efforts means that Iran must not only remain silent in the face of the repression and genocide of Uighur Muslims, but also condemn them for the same made-up reasons that CCP has done so in recent years.
- 4. The agreement has been signed by two countries with the highest number of annual executions and political prisoners globally. Countries that commit the worst human rights violations, oppress minorities, suppress freedoms of expression, control and restrict internet access, brutally suppress peaceful demonstrations and blatantly lie to their citizens as well as the international community.

It is the duty of every human being, regardless of one's personal, religious or political belief to openly fight against these two cruel, dictatorial, and inhumane tyrannical regimes.

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