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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC,
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY
SERIAL:IMR2016011360046264

BODY

COUNTRY: IRAN

SUBJ: (U) COMMANDER SAYS FM HAS STRONG STANCE ON US BOATS ISSUE

SOURCE: Tehran Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)

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in English 13 Jan
16 (U)
TEXT:

[NEWS AGENCIES]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

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[Computer selected and disseminated without OSE editorial intervention] Tehran, Jan 13, IRNA - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) navy commander announced that Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has taken a strong and firm position on the issue of the US boats which entered the Iranian waters illegally.

Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi, in a TV program, said Zarif has called on the US officials to apologize for the issue.

IRGC Public Relations Department, in a statement, said that the US navy boats were stopped Tuesday at 4:30 PM (local time) when they entered Iranian territorial waters near Farsi Island in the middle of the Persian Gulf.

Iranian forces are fully present in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, said the commander stressing foreign vessels can be present in Iran's territorial waters after getting permission or giving information before.

The crew of two US boats including nine men and a woman performed unprofessionally, then they were stopped by the Iranian forces and transported to the Farsi Island, noted he.

There is 'harmless crossing', the commander said, adding 'however, US presence has never been harmless'.

While being stopped, the crew did not resist very much, but after that a US aircraft started doing provocative behavior for 40 minutes, said Fadavi.

Such a behavior is an indication of the US unfaithfulness to regional

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tranquility, he stressed.

However, Iran returned tranquility to the region with prompt action, he stressed.

From the beginning of the incident, the IRGC made contact with the Foreign Ministry and explained the event, Fadavi said.

The Iranian foreign minister said that he would have a firm stance on the issue.

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[Description of Source: Tehran Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in English -- Official state-run online news agency; URL: <http://www.irna.ir>]

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