

Substantial U.N. sanctions on Iran unlikely despite U.S. insistence

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 (Xinhua) -- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton vowed Wednesday to hold Iran accountable for its alleged involvement in a "terror plot" to assassinate the Saudi envoy to Washington, suggesting the United States would advocate further sanctions against Iran.

Speaking at a Washington-based think tank, Clinton said the alleged plot was "a dangerous escalation of the Iranian government's long-standing use of political violence and sponsorship of terrorism."

She pledged to work closely with international partners to "increase Iran's isolation and the pressure on its government," urging other nations to join the United States in condemning the plot.

According to some media reports, Clinton's words strongly suggested that the United States will seek more sanctions against Iran through the U.N., as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice was briefing members of the U.N. Security Council on the foiled plot.

However, experts said it is unlikely that Washington can convince the U.N. Security Council to pass a resolution with substantial new sanctions against the Islamic state.

"I think the U.S. would be very happy to see support for new sanctions within the U.N. Security Council, but I don't think there is a lot of optimism within Washington that is likely to manifest itself," Suzanne Maloney, Iran expert with the Brookings Institute, told Xinhua.

Other experts shared his view. Ted Carpenter, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, told Xinhua: "At this point, Iran is as isolated as the international community is willing to accept."