

# **ECHO**

*of Islam*



## **VICTORY IS NEAR**



Imam Khomeini:  
if all the Muslims came  
together and each one  
of them threw a bucket  
of water over Is-  
rael, it would  
be washed  
away.

Ayatollah Khamenei:  
Israel will not exist in  
25 years.

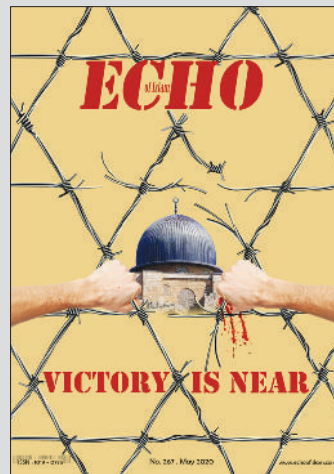
Seyed Hassan  
Nasrollah:  
Israel is unable to  
fight face to face  
and is more feeble  
than cobweb.

Major General Soleymani:  
We will make earth and  
heavens hell for Zion-  
ists.

*We target Quds.*



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**Managing Director:** Muhammad Assadi  
Movahed  
Assadi101@yahoo.com

**Editor:** Saeed Kalati

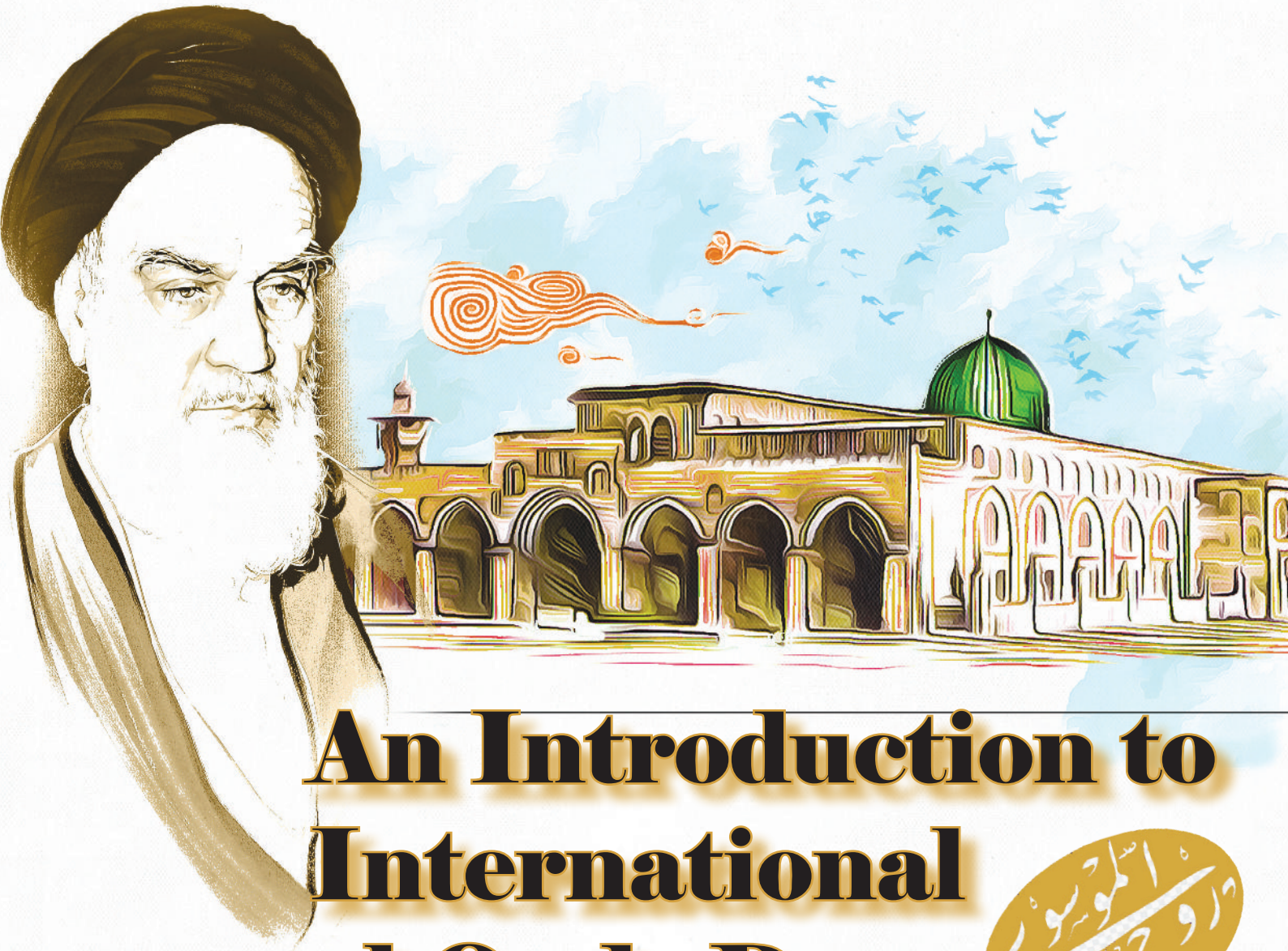
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Abdullah, Thierry Meyssan, Binoy Kamp-  
mark, Zafar Bangash

**Public Relations Manager:** Maryam  
Hamzelou

**Designer:** Zahra Salari

Magazine of ITF , Tehran,  
Islamic Republic of Iran,  
Tel: +9821-88934302 , +9821-88934303  
Fax: +9821-88902725  
Website: <http://alhoda.ir>  
<http://www.itfjournals.com>  
<http://echoofislam.itfjournals.com>  
Email: [Info@alhoda.ir](mailto:Info@alhoda.ir)

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# An Introduction to International al-Quds Day



**Al-Quds Day** (Arabic: يوم القدس) is the last Friday of the month of Ramadan on which demonstrations are held across the world to protest against the occupation of Palestine. Soon after the Islamic revolution in Iran, Imam Khomeini called on Muslims to dedicate this day to demanding

the rights of oppressed Muslims around the world - particularly in Palestine. On this day, rallies are organized before Friday Prayer to protest against the occupation of Palestine and the oppression of its people.

Since the end of the month of Ramadan can vary from country

to country, if the last day of Ramadan is a Friday or Saturday in Iran, al-Quds day will be held the week before. In some countries, due to lack of police authorization on Friday, the rally is made on another day or there is only permission for holding conferences on that day.

## History

Since the occupation of Palestine began in 1948, most religious scholars have been demanding justice for the Palestinian people.

From the beginning of Iran's Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini (RA) stated that one of his goals was the liberation of Palestine from its occupant government. After the revolution, all official ties to Israel were broken and Israel's embassy in Iran was granted to the Palestinians. When a new Israeli raid began on the south of Lebanon on Ramadan 13, 1399/August 7, 1979, Imam Khomeini gave a speech in which he announced the last Friday of the month of Ramadan to be known as 'al-Quds Day':

In the name of Allah the All-Compassionate, the Most Merciful

For many years, I have been notifying the Muslims of the danger posed by the usurper Israel which today has intensified its savage attacks against the Palestinian brothers and sisters, and which, in the south of Lebanon in particular, is continually bombing Palestinian homes in the hope of crushing the Palestinian struggle.

I ask all the Muslims of the world and the Muslim governments to join together to sever the hand of this usurper and its supporters. I call on all the Muslims of the world to select as al-Quds Day the last Friday in the holy month of Ramadan — which is itself a determining period and can also be the determiner of the Palestinian people's fate — and through a ceremony demonstrating the soli-

darity of Muslims world-wide, announce their support for the legitimate rights of the Muslim people. I ask God Almighty for the victory of the Muslims over the infidels.

## A Day beyond Islamic Countries

On al-Quds day, demonstrations are held around the world in over 80 Islamic and non-Islamic countries. Among these are Malaysia, India, Singapore, Indonesia, Turkey, United States of America, Canada, Norway, Azerbaijan, Sudan, England, Bahrain, Bosnia, Tunisia, Pakistan, Australia, Germany, Romania, Kuwait, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Venezuela, Albania, Yemen and Greece.

Western news agencies generally attempt to play down the events of 'Al-Quds day'. They either remain silent or use vague expressions such as 'thousands' to show that the number of protesters is not significant. Typically, a few sentences from the Iranian president's speech are quoted out of context in order to give the impression that Israel is being oppressed.

## Goals

- It is the day the oppressed stand up against their oppressors;
- It is the day the oppressed Palestinians feel supported by other nations;
- It is the day to stop the omission of the name of Palestine from geographical maps;
- It is the day to pump fresh blood into the veins of Muslim nations;
- It is the day Muslim nations speak their words directly - not through their government officials.

## Imam Khomeini's Speeches on Al-Quds Day

• Al-Quds Day is an international day and is not exclusive to Quds. It is the day of confronting the oppressed with the arrogant; it is the day of encountering the nations oppressed by America or else; it is a day for the oppressed to be prepared against the arrogant to defeat them.

• Al-Quds Day is not only for Quds; it is the day for Islam; it is the day for Islamic government. It is the day on which the flag for Islamic government must be raised. It is the day on which, superpowers need to be taught that they can no longer advance in Islamic countries. I know al-Quds Day as the day of Islam and the day of the Prophet (PBUH); the day which we need to fully prepare ourselves and relieve Muslims from the isolation they are brought in so that they can stand against their enemies with all their power.

• Al-Quds Day is when we must warn all superpowers that Islam will no longer be controlled by you through your evil agents; al-Quds Day is the day of Islam's life.

• Al-Quds Day is an Islamic day and is an Islamic public mobilization. I hope it would be a prelude to [formation of] a party of the oppressed all over the world.

• If the Islamic ummah are not woken up to their duties, if Islamic scholars do not feel responsible and do not rise, if the true Islam which is the cause of unity and movement of all Islamic schools against the enemies and the guar-

antee of honor and independence of Muslim nations and Islamic countries is burned under the black screens of imperialism by the hands of the agents of the enemies, miserable days will be ahead of Islamic nations and destruction threatens Islam and rulings of the Qur'an.

- It is strongly recommended and even obligatory that some of religious alms such as zakat and other types of charity are allocated to these fighters who fight for God in sufficient amount and helping them with all forces and facilities is obligatory.

## Ayatullah Khamene'i's Speeches on Al-Quds Day

- What is important is that the world of Islam should not forget about the issue of Palestine... the US, the arrogant powers and constant supporters of Zionists have forced Muslims to forget the issue of Palestine but the Islamic Ummah and the Iranians should not allow the issue of Palestine to be forgotten.

- This holy flame should be ignited inside Palestine as well more and more every day. Those youth, and those men and women, and those who sacrifice themselves and fight the usurper regime inside Palestine must know that the main point is what they press. That is where their enemy would defeat. That organizations outside Palestinian borders sit at the table of negotiations or show off in different tribunes in the name of Palestine would not solve any problem. General support of the Islamic world from outside and the real sensible fight of Palestinians inside will solve the problem and hit the head of the enemy to ground.

- Commemorate al-Quds Day and if





world propaganda does not broadcast it, it does not matter. Those Palestinian prisoners feel strengthened by your sincere intention and determination and will resist. The prisoner behind the walls of the prisons at the Occupied Palestine must not feel lonely to resist. Those men and women who are attacked by Zionist scum in alleys and streets of Jerusalem, Gaza Strip and other cities of the Occupied Palestine need to feel that you support them to resist. Of course, governments have some duties as well!

- I frankly announce that every Palestinian who is martyred and every Palestinian family which is destroyed, the President of the United States and its government associated in that act.
- The issue of Palestine has only one solution and that is establishment of a Palestinian government in all the lands of Palestine.
- Every inch of Palestine is an inch of Muslims' house. Any government other than a Palestinian one and other than a Muslim one over Palestine is a usurper one. Our word is what Imam Khomeini said that, "Israel must be wiped away". It is not fighting with Jews. The issue is usurping house of Muslims.

## Al-Quds Day in the Speeches of Others

Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hizballah of Lebanon, "the priority must be stressing on confrontation with the Zionist enemy and if it was this way from beginning, we would not come to this point today... If 'Arabs spent one fifth of the budget they spent for war on Iran and Shia-phobia for Palestine, it would already be free."

Source: wikishia.net



# **Intl. Quds Day Rallies Proved Imam Khomeini's Popularity**



Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that after 40 years that Imam Khomeini initiated Quds Day, this year's rallies proved that he is popular across the world.

He made the remarks in the ceremony of marking the 30th death anniversary of Islamic Revolution founder Imam Khomeini, in Imam Khomeini Mausoleum, southern Tehran, with senior officials of the country in attendance.

The popularity of Imam Khomeini was proven in International Quds Day rallies across the world, he highlighted, adding that US and its cronies want to eliminate the Palestinian cause.

Many efforts have been made in the past 30 years to fade Imam's goals, but the fact is that Imam's attractions have been increased, he said.

Imam Khomeini was a pious man who was honest with people, the leader added while explaining the secret of Imam Khomeini's popularity.

One of the salient characteristics of Imam was 'resistance', highlighted Ayatollah Khomeini, adding, enemies could not disrupt Imam's calculating systems.

Imam followed Quran's guidelines not to get along oppressors while colonial systems were based on oppressing other nations, he said, noting that enemies couldn't stand Imam's approach.

Iran doesn't want to export its revolution, rather it is an idea that nations could adopt, he said, noting that Iranians adherence to re-

sistance inspired other nations to follow it.

Imam Khomeini was a pious man who was honest with people, the leader added while explaining the secret of Imam Khomeini's popularity.

One of the salient characteristics of Imam was 'resistance', highlighted Ayatollah Khomeini, adding, enemies could not disrupt Imam's calculating systems.



The important fact is that Imam didn't choose resistance based on emotions but there is a logic behind this decision, Ayatollah Khamenei stressed, noting that the only way to stop enemies from moving forward is to stand strong.

Resistance has its costs but the price for surrendering is much higher than that, he said, adding, Saudi regime does what US dictates yet it is repeatedly humiliated by Washington.

Yielding to the idea that resistance in the face of world bullying powers is useless is a big mistake, Leader maintained.

The resistant front is more coordinated than ever in the region, he said, noting that the Israeli regime's power has declined in the past 40 years as a result.

US economic power has declined in a number of ways over the past decades, Ayatollah Khamenei said, adding that US political power is also declining and the election of Donald Trump is a good sign of this fact.

"We have problems in Iran but there is no impasse."

The goal of the resistance is to reach a point of deterrence in all fields, he said, highlighting that Iran now has reached military deterrence power. Iran's missile power is a very important deterrence factor and enemies cannot take it from the Iranian nation, he added.

He went on to say that Iran can continue to progress if US stays away, noting that wherever US goes there will be war and colonialism.

Source: Mehr News Agency

◆ Yuram Abdullah Weiler



# **Quds Day Message: The Occupied West Bank Is NOT Israeli Heartland**

Another Quds Day has passed. People around the world took to the streets to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian People, and to condemn the ongoing Zionist occupation of the Palestinian homeland. Their message was clear: the Occupied West Bank is not the Israeli heartland.

Established in 1979 by Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, Quds Day provides an annual opportunity for Muslims and other people of conscience to express their outrage over the more than 70 years of ongoing Israeli injustice to Palestinians. In sharp contrast, U.S. President Donald Trump and his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, seem intent on legitimatizing the Zionist land grab of occupied Palestinian territory, which has even been referred to as “the heartland of Israel” in a Texas department of agriculture news release.

The last half-hearted effort against illegal settlements on Palestinian lands occurred during the administration of George H.W. Bush, who withheld loan guarantees from the Israeli entity. “We have a longstanding policy that feels that settlements are counterproductive to peace,” Bush insisted. “This is a longstanding policy, and I am determined to see that that policy not be altered.” Unfortunately, successive U.S. administrations have not shared even this lukewarm level of political determination, and, of course, under the auspices of the current Washington regime, the number of illegal Israeli settle-

ments has mushroomed.

The U.S. state of Texas seems to be a haven for Christian Zionist supporters of the Israeli Apartheid regime. Governor Greg Abbot of Texas has even gone so far as to proclaim, “Any anti-Israel policy is an anti-Texas policy.” Striving to steer the discourse from condemnation and censure to outright approval and overt political support for Israeli policies of illegal settlement expansion, these evangelical extremists believe they have found another “Cyrus” personified in Donald Trump. At a recent gathering of like-minded militant Christians in San Antonio, former U.S. Congresswoman Michelle Bachman speculated that Trump was an agent of God in fulfilling Biblical prophecies.

Demonstrating his unabashed approval, Texas agriculture commissioner Sid Miller has signed an agreement to open trade relations with the Shomron Regional Council, which provides services to 35 illegal settlements in the Occupied West Bank. An Israeli official enthusiastically praised Miller, who also serves as an elder for the Cowboy Church of Erath County in Stephenville, Texas, for understanding that “there is no dispute about this region in the eyes of God.” It appears that Miller does not understand the prohibition against using state funds for personal trips, however, and has been slapped with a \$500 fine by the Texas Ethics Commission.

“I think we have a lot in common with Israel,” said Miller, who was

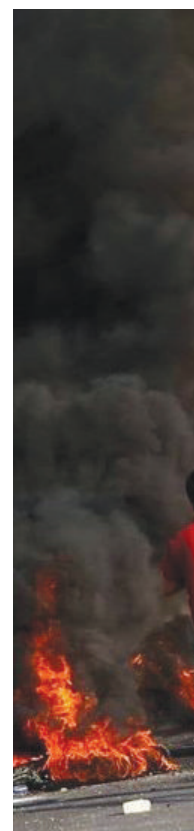
also an adviser to Trump’s 2016 election campaign. Apparently, he views Texas as a mirror image of the Israeli entity, complete with apartheid walls and likewise under constant threat of invasions by the “other.” Mohamad Fattouh, an executive board member of Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of Houston explained, “We put such heavy emphasis on our law enforcement here [in Texas], on ICE, on securing the border, a wall; all things that are mirrored in Israel.”

Growing in strength each year, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement seeks to impose an economic penalty on the Israeli regime for its intransigent and uncivilized behavior towards Palestinians. As BDS has gathered momentum, Zionists have pushed back aided by right-leaning, evangelical Christian Zionists, such as Robert Jeffress and John Hagee, who view the Israeli entity as a fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. Pastors Jeffress and Hagee, the former being a senior leader of the 13,000-member First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas and a Fox News contributor, and the latter being the founder of the extreme anti-Palestinian Christians United for Israel, led prayers at the opening of the U.S. embassy in Al Quds in May of 2018.

An indicator of the success of the BDS movement is the draconian legislation being pushed by the Zionist lobby in its strategy to conflate criticism of the Israeli regime with anti-Semitism. Laws

have been passed in 27 states, and are pending in 14 others, requiring individuals and companies doing business with the respective states to disavow any and all activity in, or in support of, boycotts targeting the Israeli entity and Israeli companies. In Texas, speech therapist Bahia Amawi, who personally boycotted Israeli products, was forced to sign a pledge that she would not take any action “intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with Israel.” To her credit, Amawi refused to sign a new contract with the Pflugerville, Texas Independent School District, but lost her livelihood in the process. Particularly galling are those firms producing goods and services for the benefit of settlers in the Occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem Al Quds. These firms, by profiting from wares produced in Palestinian territories, are complicit in the apartheid policies of the Zionist regime and its illegal occupation. The United Nations Council on Human Rights has identified 206 such companies operating in Occupied Palestinian Territory. While the so-called “blacklist” has yet to be disclosed, the following firms are among those already known to be operating in occupied Palestine: Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard, Motorola, Flir Systems, Honeywell, L3 Communications, Schneider Electric, Siemens, United Technologies, Valero Energy and Volvo, to name a few.

Moreover, the Israeli entity, by





being the largest recipient of U.S. foreign military aid, is connected economically to the American arms industry. For example, Lockheed Martin in Texas has produced F-35 warplanes, which were sold to the Israeli Air Force. At a cost of \$5.57 billion USD for 33 of the advanced jet fighter planes, spare parts and simulators, the Zionist regime will pay for this from the U.S. military assistance money it receives. This satanic economic symbiosis, according to Lockheed Martin, results in the F-35 being “responsible for more than 220,000 direct and indirect U.S. jobs.” And no wonder, for the F-35 contract is distributed over 1,400 suppliers in 45 U.S. states and Puerto Rico.

As a result of this intertwining of U.S. arms makers and the Israeli entity’s interests, U.S. politicians are caught in a sinkhole of moral compromise. For obvious political reasons, they support favorable local policies towards the arms makers because of the high-paying jobs these companies bring to their communities. But then they are forced to vote for military aid for the Israeli entity, since in so doing, these funds eventually return to their communities to stimulate the local economy by providing good-paying jobs with the arms makers. Over time, voting against military aid for the Israeli entity becomes more and more difficult, making public criticism of the Zionist regime and its abysmal human rights record, virtually impossible.

Palestinians in Gaza have been en-

during a Zionist siege since 2007 that bans the free movement of persons and goods in and out of the enclave, which amounts to collective punishment and is a crime against humanity under international law. Beginning on March 30, 2018, Palestinians in Gaza began peaceful protests concentrated at five locations along the eastern border fence of the Israeli entity, which responded with typical blood-curdling violence. Since the onset of these protests, called “The Great March of Return,” 196 Palestinians, including 41 children, 2 women, 8 persons with disabilities, 2 journalists and 3 paramedics, have been killed and 11,427 wounded, including 2,206 children, 344 women, 246 journalists and 653 medical personnel, by Israeli Occupation Forces, whose snipers deliberately target unarmed victims with lethal force in a futile attempt to quell the tens-of-thousands of determined demonstrators.

Against this sanguinary scenario in Gaza, the perpetually self-absorbed occupant of the White House is preparing to roll out his “deal of the century” proposal, the details of which have already been leaked to Israeli news media. First and foremost, Palestinians would have to concede defeat in their 70-plus year struggle for their right to return to their homeland. Second, Arab states would be obliged to engage in land swaps, something which, no doubt, seems reasonable to the former real estate tycoon currently in the Oval Office.





Third, Arab countries would be required to grant full citizenship to Palestinian refugees, as well as to absorb the cost of implementing this stillborn solution to this festering 7-decades-old dilemma.

Realistically, we cannot expect a reasonable proposal for resolving this core Middle East issue from a rogue regime whose dealmaker-in-chief and loyal son-in-law have already moved the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Al Quds, gleefully celebrating the grand opening while Israeli Occupation Force snipers were busy gunning down Palestinians in Gaza. According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, 55 were killed and 2,770 were injured while peacefully protesting the embassy opening on Nakba Day. As if that were not enough, the current occupant of the Oval office has brazenly and in defiance of international law recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, Syrian territory seized by the Zionist regime in 1967.

When asked if he thought Palestinians were capable of governing themselves, Jared Kushner, Trump's Middle East envoy, arrogantly responded, "That's one that we'll have to see. The hope is that they, over time, will become capable of governing." Rather than doubting the Palestinians, it would appear that the U.S. and the Israeli entity not only lack abilities for governing themselves, but also are demonstrably incapable of co-existing peacefully in the community of the civilized nations of the world.

# Imam Khomeini Is A Leader Who Emerges Every Thousand Years Once



Interview

*Mr. Bakytjoja Rustamov is the Kazakhstani president of the International Council of Literature, led by Europe and Asia (Eurasia) People Assembly (located in Moscow, Russia). He also is the chosen writer of 2017, in nations literature section (Kiev, Ukraine), title winner of the “most popular writer, columnist of 2019” in “People’s Popular” national competition of*

*Kazakhstan, and winner of various international literary awards. Mr. Rustamov has written a book about the Late Imam Khomeini, Human from Viewpoint of Imam Khomeini, in Kazakh language; so, on the occasion of Imam Khomeini’s anniversary, we decided to conduct an interview with him about Imam Khomeini and his ideals.*





*Q. Usually Imam Khomeini (RA) is recalled as a charismatic leader, what characteristics have resulted in development of such character in Imam Khomeini?*

*A) I think that the charismatic leadership of Imam Khomeini (RA) is the result of his deep and heart faith in god and the good features bestowed upon him by the Almighty God. Imam Khomeini lost his parents*

very soon, as his father was martyred by the regime. He experienced many problems and difficulties which helped him to become a great and experienced man. He learnt how to find a way to get rid of any bottleneck. Relying on his honesty, justice, faith and kindness, this great man succeeded to mobilize his people in order to realize the duties had been defined for him.

**Q.** Please explain about Imam Khomeini's thoughts and the Islamic Republic of Iran role in awakening the Muslim nations of the region.

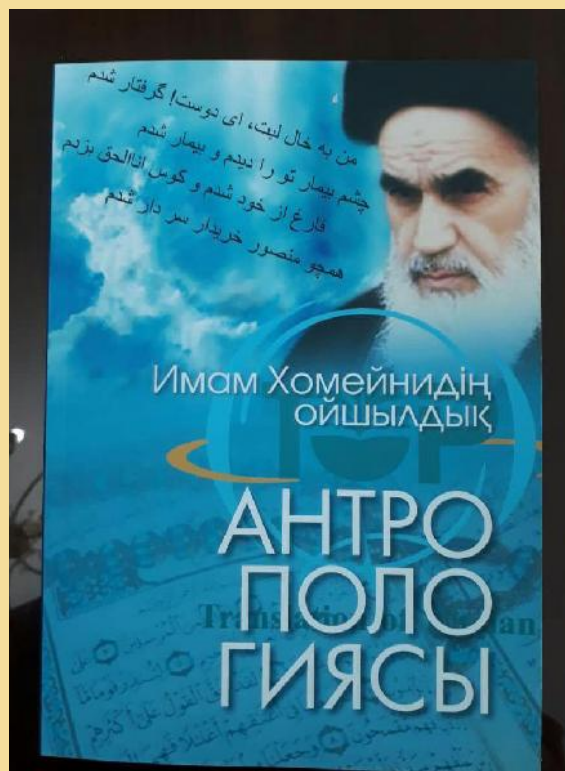
**A)** The initial goals and purposes of Imam Khomeini are defined based on performing his religious and ethical duties, the duties which resulted in his exile from his country and living far from the homeland for many years. Also, it can be said that his initial goals were parallel with the Iranian people, which it was very important in the victory of the Islamic Republic. According to his own planning, not only development of oil and gas industry, technology and agriculture, but also developments of spiritual dimensions of people's life have been considered. Dependency of the country, even through its smallest needs, to foreign countries and interference of other powers in the internal affairs of the country and opposition of the regime with the people's religious culture made it clear that the country needs fundamental and substantial reforms, and the flag of these changes and reforms was in the hands of Imam Khomeini. Lack of social and speech freedoms, discrimination and inequality were among problems which convinced Imam Khomeini to call for and mobilize Iranian People; as his anti-imperialistic plan was welcome warmly by people.

**Q.** What are the most important Ideals of Imam Khomeini in your idea?

**A)** One of great ideals of Imam Khomeini was releasing not only Iranian people, but also all Muslim and oppressed nations, from the western ideology and strengthening their own culture and introducing to other countries. Using his works including articles and books, he tries to share his ideas and opinions with other people and reassured hearts and mobilized everybody univocally towards his great goals.

**Q.** The Islamic Republic of Iran is considered as one of successful revolutions in the contemporary epoch, can you enumerate some reasons for the success of Imam Khomeini?

**A)** The main condition for being a constructive and successful revolution, it needs to do not divert from

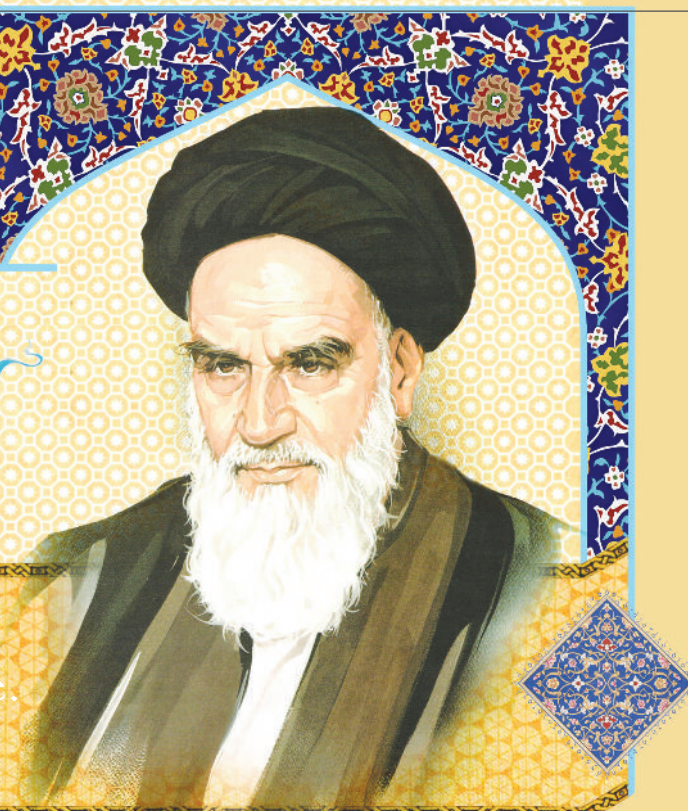


its basic plan. If it moves ahead in the main route without mistake, the development of the country would be continued and will survive as a successful revolution in the history. In answer to your other question, I said that relying on divine graces helped Imam to be successful, moreover, Imam and the revolution both supported people, who used to live in a dire condition. He showed Iranian and the world people the way of development based on Islam. For me, Imam Khomeini is a great historical figure who born any thousand years once. He is the man who awakened the Muslim World. I can say that he is the sole international leader who became able to explain about the importance of Quranic virtues in terms of social and political considerations for the ordinary people. Actually there is no ruler in the world who can avoid wealth, but in his meaningful and spiritual life, with contentment and avoiding greed, Imam became the popular leader of the mass. Imam told all oppressed nations, "Defend your rights, avoid the tricky measures of the world tyrants who have no honesty and justice."

**Q.** How you analyze the principles of ethics and ac-

## Interview

Thank you for your time.



*tion in Imam Khomeini's thought and practice? How can explain the relationship between ethics, spirituality and its social effects in strengthening humanistic interactions and cooperation by Imam Khomeini's manner of life?*

**A)** I respect ethical and spiritual principles of both thoughts and practice of Imam Khomeini (RA). Imam's greatness signs can be seen through his life. Those who were contemporary with Imam, describe him as a mindful, aware and hardworking but kind man. The relationship between ethics, spirituality and its social effects in strengthening humanistic interactions and cooperation by Imam Khomeini's manner of life can be seen in his performance. In his domestic and foreign politics, it can be seen that both thinking and practice of Imam Khomeini has had a great social influence on strengthening spiritual and humanistic interactions. To describe him, I can say that Imam Khomeini's lifestyle was a unique phenomenon in the history of mankind.

**Q.** *Imam Khomeini invites all youth to keep human values and to pay attention to great concepts such as*

*independence, freedom and awareness and to avoid deviations, especially in the academic centers where "human making" centers, what do you think about this social advice of Imam Khomeini?*

**A)** I agree completely with the late leader of Iran. The future of any nation depends on its youth. The youth future in turn is formed by the greater generation. The governments need to pay a special attention to train youth in universities and schools.

**Q.** *Please explain about the effect of spiritual, philosophical and comprehensive aspects of Imam Khomeini's character on pervasiveness and inspiring specificity of his revolution in the international area.*

**A)** It is clear that the imperialism representatives intend to disguise spiritual, philosophical, scientific and political aspects of Imam Khomeini's character in the international area. I think that the great phenomenon of Imam Khomeini is not restricted to a certain period of time. Despite his demise, his brilliant ideas are alive. Imam Khomeini showed people that imperialism is strange with mankind and need to get rid of it.

# The 'Deal of the Century' or the 'Bluff of the Millennium'?

◆ by Akiva Eldar



The devil is not in the details of the "deal of the century". The map that United States President Donald Trump tweeted on January 28 following the announcement of his Middle East plan shows what looks like a slice of Swiss cheese rather than of a sovereign Palestinian state.

But for Trump's main supporters - people like gambling tycoon Sheldon Adelson and his wife, Miriam Adelson, who stood in the front row during the announcement ceremony in the White House - this was yet another win.

These days, it is people like Adelson, rich conservative donors to the Trump campaign, along with the president's evangelical base, who are calling the shots in Washington and Jerusalem. They are always there, in the front row. They appeared satisfied and beaming at the 2018 inauguration of the US Embassy in Jerusalem - a move they had badgered and cajoled the president to make. He obviously did not regret it, even though the Palestinians severed ties with Washington as a result.



As far as Adelson is concerned, "the Palestinians are an invented people" whose sole purpose on Earth is to destroy Israel. Adelson was also among those who encouraged Trump to pull the US out of the nuclear agreement with Iran. He thinks Iran should have been nuked.

The corrupt symbiosis of money, power and media is no secret. In a June 2019 opinion piece in the freebie Israel Hayom newspaper, the Adelsons' biggest endowment to Israel's political right, Miriam Adelson gushed, "Trump should enjoy sweeping support among US Jews, just as he does among Israelis. That this has not been the case (so far; the 2020 election still beckons) is an oddity that will long be pondered by historians. Scholars of the Bible will no doubt note the heroes, sages, and prophets of antiquity who were similarly spurned by the very people they came to raise up. Would it be too much to pray for a day when the Bible gets a 'Book of Trump'?"

She ended her article suggesting, "Until that is decided, let us, at least, sit back and marvel at this time of miracles for Israel, for the United States, and for the whole world". No less.

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will find it hard "to sit back and marvel". He will need a real miracle to extricate himself from criminal conviction. All of Adelson's billions cannot stop the wheels of justice spinning in Jerusalem.

While Netanyahu was waxing poetic in Washington about a "historic moment", history was being made in Jerusalem with the first-ever court filing of a criminal indictment against an incumbent Israeli prime minister. Unlike Trump, whose Senate-majority support is expected to save him from removal after the impeachment, Netanyahu has lost his majority in the Israeli legislature.

That led him this week to withdraw the request he submitted to the Knesset for immunity from prosecution. Since first losing the Knesset elections in April 2019, Netanyahu has led an interim government that does not enjoy a Knesset majority.

Nor did the September 2019 elections provide him with the needed majority to form a government. Polls indicate that the upcoming March 2 elections will not break the tie between the right-wing bloc led by Netanyahu and the centre-left bloc led by Blue and White party Chair Benny Gantz.

Netanyahu, however, is not giving up. He is seeking to turn the elections from a referendum on immunity, which he gave up on for lack of majority, into a "trial by the people". As his mouth-piece, Knesset member Miki Zohar, opined last June, "The Attorney General and the legal system will have to consider the election results, because the people are the sovereign."

Israeli law does not support this populist, dangerous opinion. Netanyahu, however, hopes that if the results of the country's third elections in less than a year perpetuate the political chaos, and necessitate a fourth round, a Knesset majority will be bound to support a unity government and the postponement of his trial till the end of days.

Although the latest polls indicate that at least 50 percent support the plan while only 24 percent oppose it in order to turn it to an exit from prison, Netanyahu will first have to obtain approval from the attorney general, the president and/or the Supreme Court. They will need to set a shameful precedent that the Israeli democracy allows a person to form government despite criminal indictment against him. Currently the law obliges an indicted minister to resign, but not a prime minister.

Meanwhile, the "peace plan" has become an election football. Netanyahu and Gantz are competing to see which of them embraces the plan more tightly before he chokes it to death. Both know there is no chance - or more precisely for them, no danger - that the Palestinians will adopt it and thus force them to deal with the truly tough issues of handing over sovereign Is-





raeli land to a Palestinian state.

Netanyahu's pro-Israel friends in the Trump administration, chief among them US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and White House adviser Jared Kushner, helped sow numerous landmines among the pages of the "plan" to ensure the Palestinians will not even be tempted to discuss it.

American and Israeli archives are overflowing with position papers explaining why the Palestinians will never cede sovereignty over Jerusalem's Holy Basin and control of al-Haram al-Sharif. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has stated numerous times, both privately and publicly, that he cannot sign a document determining that Israel is the state (exclusively) of the Jewish people. No less of a major landmine is the precondition that Hamas be disarmed. If the Palestinian Authority will be tempted to accept this, it will lead to a Palestinian civil war.

A couple of hours after the announcement of the plan, Netanyahu promised to pass a resolution that will allow the annexation of the Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank as soon as Sunday. A few hours later, Kushner told him to hold the horses and keep the status quo until the March elections.

Right now, it seems that even Netanyahu's casino mogul friend will not be able to turn back the dice and save him from prison. What he will leave behind is despair in the Arab and Israeli peace camp and a "deal of the century" that may turn out to be the bluff of the millennium.

**Source:** al-Jazeera



◆ Yusuf Abdullah

# Quds Day is the only Measure Relevant for Quds Liberation



*In the name of Allah who states "Glory be to Him Who made His servant go on a night from the Sacred Mosque to the remote mosque of which We have blessed the precincts, so that We may show to him some of our signs; surely He is the Hearing, the Seeing" Quran, 17:1*

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon His chosen servant, our master Muhammad, and his purified progeny.

While giving an open invitation to Muslims and the world on August 7th, 1979 to observe the day, Imam Khomeini of blessed memory said "I invite Muslims all over the globe to consecrate the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, which is a day of fate and which could also become the day on which the fate of Palestinian people might be determined as Quds day and to proclaim the legitimate right of the Muslim people of Palestine" The day expresses solidarity and global support to Palestinians, and indeed all other oppressed.

Observed through processions, conferences, and rallies by nations, human rights activists and civil liberties organizations, this insightful declaration of the Imam evidently received borderless acceptance.

Established after World War II, Israel was promulgated and recognized by Western powers in 1948. Zionism as a movement developed in the late 1800's which united Jews and saw the forceful creation of the illegal state in place of Palestine, then occupied by only 5% Jewish inhabitants. To quote from Zariani Abdul Rahman's book - HITLER AND THE WANDERING JEW, 1994. Just a few days ago, the diplomacy of the dignified and handsome Semitic Prince Faisal Abdul-Aziz al-Saud was lost on the hysterical crowd of New York Jews who were bent on literally spitting HRH.

Nine centuries ago, while Christian Crusaders were burning Jeru-

salem's Jews alive in their synagogue, it was the Muslim Saladin who kindly brought back Jews to Jerusalem, along with his Muslim followers. And 800 years later, within the UN headquarters in Flushing Meadow, New York, this was how the Muslims were paid back for their past kindness to the Jews.

America was the apparent negotiator and chief architect of all road maps regarding the domination of Palestinians by Israel or what others ignorantly refer as incessant Mid-east conflict. Among other questions arising; was any tangible achievements made in the over seven decades of peace talks? Any optimism in the future? To what extent is the negotiator accused of a double standard? Then, in whose interest does America work in the process? The other side of the conflict reveals the gainful arms trade to American and other European manufacturers.

On the ambitious liberation of Palestine, many thought the Arab league formed in 1945, with the aim of strengthening ties among member states, could coordinate their policies and protect their common interests. But what were the achievements of the league? To what extent did the league and its sister Palestinian liberation organization (PLO) achieve their stated objectives?

The question is how could the Arab league and PLO, established on the basis of Arabism or Nationalism lead to emancipation of Pal-

estine while the same Nationalism was used to destabilize the grand Ottoman Empire and establish Israel in its place? No doubt, Quds Day is the only measure relevant for Quds liberation; the third holiest mosque and the first direction of Muslims.

Unity is the force behind the call of this great Islamic personality, and ultimate hope for liberation of Palestine and other world oppressed. George Curzon, the British Secretary of state for foreign affairs, 1911-1921 said "we must put an end to anything which brings about Islamic unity between the sons of the Muslims.

As we have already succeeded in finishing off the caliphate, so we must ensure that there will never arise again unity for the Muslims, whether it be intellectual or cultural unity" "And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves" Q3:103. That is why the spiritual leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei maintains that the ISIS clearly serves the American interest in the Middle-east accusing any cooperation with the U.S. to resolve the Iraqi or Syrian situation of sowing discord and divisions in the region.

In a borderless sympathy, the day basically sympathizes with Palestinians and other oppressed regardless of all odds, and to fight oppression and injustice as common enemies. The Imam bitterly debunked apartheid and





helped Nelson Mandela in the fight against it. On the other hand, Mandela said: "the independence of South Africa was incomplete without the freedom of Palestine". And on his first visit to Tehran after release from long incarceration, he appreciated the fatherly role of the Imam and Iran's historic support. Late Hugo Chavez observed the day where he would be seen at the forefront of the events among other protesters in his country.

The world is aware of the unfortunate Saudi military campaign against Yemen since 2015. Ironically, it's deliberate aggression by the richest and most influential Muslim Arab nation against the poorest and closest neighbor. The consequence of the aggression in Yemen is what the United Nations described as the worst humanitarian crises in contemporary history. We use this occasion to champion the cause of other world oppressed in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Nigeria, and Central Africa among others.

Since the unfortunate 2015 Zaria massacre, and non-response of the government, endless questions are raised; what was the actual rationale behind the attack on the Islamic movement? On what ground was the Sheikh arrested? In whose interest are the elderly and ailing Sheikh, his wife and other disciples being detained? What is the government's stand on the Federal High Court verdict?

Why does the government disre-

gard calls of millions of Nigerians on the need to take him abroad for medication? And to what extent will the detention continue? What is the stand of the government on the over one thousand Nigerians killed in Zaria, Kano, and Abuja evidently recorded, and related incidences? This also exposes the lies of the so-called developed nations who claim leading positions in protection and promotion of fundamental human rights across the world.

What a double stand! If peace, unity, and progress of this country were the uncompromising yardsticks to assess significant relevance of the citizenry, who can dare to compare his eminence, the indefatigable leader of the Islamic Movement, Sheikh Ibraheem el-Zakzaky with any scholar, politician or else in our contemporary history?

With the access of the London-based Islamic Human Rights Commission; an august umbrella of about 30 Islamic and other nongovernmental organizations of a global network for justice, to the ailing Sheikh and his wife last month, an assessment of their health was made by a team of experts mainly from India. The development was consequent to the Sheikh's lawyer's incessant notice on their client's health in court sessions as known to all for which the judge mandated the exercise for the duo.

It is imperative to acknowledge the effort by the people wishing peace to reign and justice to pre-





vail all over the world. As emphasized by the Imam "the Quds Day is a universal day. It is not an exclusive day for Quds itself. It is a day for the oppressed to rise and stand up against the arrogant."

Presently, the world is aware of the US and its allies heightening pressures on Iran fuelling fears for a possible war. The Iranophobia is meant to limit its growing might and influence in the region which is apparently non-achievable. America's withdrawal from JCPOA, continuous moral and military support to Israel and incessant interference in the region is not unconnected with Iran's impressive role in its security and wellbeing. There is no doubt that there is always a limit to oppression. At this juncture, the famous words of Sheikh el-Zakzaky, as he gave hope to oppressed especially Palestinians are relevant "Israel was created by terrorism. No matter the years of oppression, it will crumble"

While sympathizing with the Palestinians on this day, we denounce the enemies' unending brutality and bloodshed especially in Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria among others. We use the same medium to emphasize the urgent need for the unconditional release of Sheikh Ibraheem el-Zakzaky (H) and his disciples. As we mark the day of the oppressed, we also appreciate the role of all justice-seeking and concerned individuals and organizations on the plight of Palestinians and other oppressed.

Source: Tehran Times



◆ Thierry Meyssan

# **The Deal of the Century Is a Vile Plot and People Should Revolt To Nip It in the Bud**



When the foundations of international law were laid in 1899 at the Hague Conference, the aim was to prevent wars between states by means of arbitration. When the British Empire decolonized Mandate Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict erupted, international law was of no recourse because there was neither a Palestinian nor a Jewish state. So they tinkered with incoherent rules that we, wrongly, consider to be immutable.

The principles that the founding states of the United Nations, including Syria, drew up in the plan for the partition of Palestine were rejected by both sides. When the Yishuv unilaterally proclaimed the State of

Israel and immediately carried out extensive ethnic cleansing (the Nakba), the UN recognized the new state, but sent Count Folke Bernadotte to verify the reality on the spot. He noted Israel's crimes, advocated limiting by two thirds the territory allocated to the Yishuv, but was assassinated by the Lehi of Yitzhak Shamir, before he could present his report in New York. More than 700 General Assembly resolutions and more than 100 Security Council resolutions later, the conflict had escalated and no solution was in sight.

President Trump had imagined that he would be able to square the circle before the end of his mandate.

As soon as he was elected, he was mistakenly considered pro-Israel when he is just a New World businessman.

He started from the following observation: Israel ethnically cleansed the territory it self-allocated in 1948. It fought the 1967 war, which it won.

The Palestinians fought the 1970 war with Jordan, the 1973 war with Israel, the 1975 war with Lebanon, the 1990 war with Kuwait, and the 2012 war with Syria, all of which they lost. But neither group intends to assume the consequences of its actions.

The debate has been distorted since Yasser Arafat, refusing to be marginalized by the Madrid process, abandoned the project of a binational State based on equality between Arabs and Jews and violated the 1948 partition plan by signing the Oslo Accords. The principle of the "two-state solution", devised by Yitzhak Rabin, the former ally of the South African apartheid regime, is nothing more than the creation of Palestinian Bantustans, an extension of what President Jimmy Carter called "Israeli apartheid".

Trump has therefore devised a peace plan that he has begun to implement silently over the past two years.

On December 6, 2017, he recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, without specifying its borders, hoping in vain that the Palestinian Authority would move from Ramallah to East Jerusalem.

He withdrew US funding from

UNRWA in order to force the international community to stop sponsoring the status quo. This provoked the fury of the Palestinian Authority and severed diplomatic relations between Ramallah and Washington. As heir to the people who had stolen the land from the Indians, he recognized Israel's conquest of the Syrian Golan, hoping to open negotiations with Damascus, but reaping only the condemnation of 193 States.

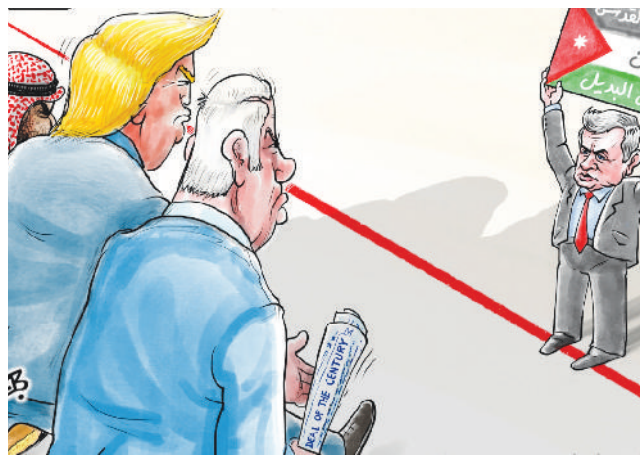
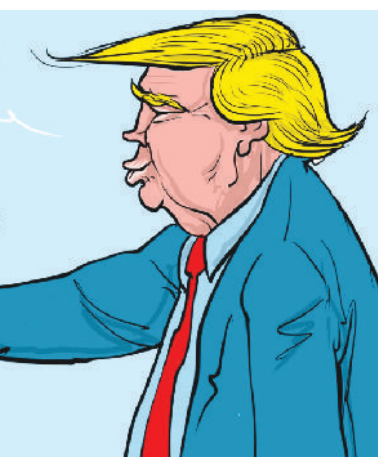
He secretly negotiated an agreement between Israel and Hamas that led to the payment of Gaza officials by Qatar.

The document published by the White House this week is presented by its authors as unenforceable because it does not have the support of both parties (page 10). It presents a process in four years, that is to say during the next US presidential term. It is therefore a document for electoral use in the United States, not a final peace plan.

Rather than whining and denouncing a fait accompli, we need to understand where the White House is going, especially since we reject Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Donald Trump is a businessman who has put an unacceptable plan on the table in order to achieve much less, but to achieve peace. He is a disciple of President Andrew Jackson who substituted negotiation for war with the Indians. Certainly, the agreement he signed with the Cherokees was sabotaged by his own army and gave rise to





the atrocious episode of the Valley of Tears. But today, the Cherokees are the only Native American people to have survived European immigration as such.

The publication of this document was also a trap into which Benjamin Netanyahu fell headlong. Without waiting, the Israeli Prime Minister loudly welcomed the plan in order to eclipse his competitor, General Benny Gantz. Netanyahu had cause to regret this. All the Arab League states stood united, including Qatar, which is secretly participating in the plan. The years of Israel's efforts to break the Arab front by relying on Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan and Oman have been wiped out.

After Israeli Channel 13 reported Jan. 23 that the Donald Trump administration would reveal its plan for Middle East peace, Palestinian leaders reiterated their rejection of the so-called deal of the century even before learning of the details. In the lead up to elections in Israel scheduled for March 2, Trump invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his political rival Benny Gantz, leader of Blue and White, to visit the White House Jan. 28 for details and unveiling of the deal. With Palestinians publicly rejecting the proposal even before its public presentation, approval of it at some later date appears unlikely and will deepen the current rupture with Washington. According to recent media reports, Abbas is refusing to take Trump's calls.

On Jan. 15 in Ramallah, Fatah dep-



uty leader Mahmoud al-Aloul had said in a meeting with members of the international press that the Palestinian leadership still has no specifics about the plan's proposals, but nonetheless feels certain that it neither includes the establishment of a Palestinian state, East Jerusalem as the capital of that state or the right of return for refugees. For these reasons, he said, the Palestinian leadership will oppose the plan. On Dec. 19 Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas had told Fatah's Revolutionary Council of his rejection of Trump's deal and of the tremendous pressure he was under by the United States to accept it. Abbas has consistently refused to communicate with Trump's rep-

resentative to discuss the plan's details despite the negative consequences he stands to suffer.

In a Jan. 23 press statement, Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem pledged that his organization would foil any deal. Khalil al-Haya, a top Hamas official, had said at a Jan. 16 press conference that on a recent tour of capitals, Hamas' political bureau chief, Ismail Haniyeh, had sought to raise awareness about the threat that the US proposal poses to the Palestinian cause. Bassem Naim, former Palestinian health minister and head of the Gaza-based Council of International Relations, told Al-Monitor, "Palestinian reactions to the imminent declaration of the deal of

the century are not serious enough. The Palestinians are preoccupied with their internal disputes, and the discussions about the deal are not Palestinian-Israeli or US-Palestinian but rather US-Israeli. Palestinians are present absentees, and they cannot accept the deal of the century, as it does not grant them components of an independent entity, even if Israelis were to retreat from parts of the West Bank. The deal of the century is not a viable solution, and people should revolt to nip it in the bud."

One reason the Palestinians oppose Trump's proposal is the belief that it will render the cantonization of the West Bank permanent. Instead of Israeli exploitation of the territories through overt occupation, the deal would uphold the status quo in the West Bank with areas remaining under Israeli military and security control and Palestinian civil administration. It would also strike the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem and maintain Gaza's isolation and the blockade against it.

Wasel Abu Yousef, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, told Al-Monitor, "The implementation of the deal began before its declaration, when the US declared Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel in December 2017, moved its embassy there in May 2018 and declared Israeli settlements legal in November 2019. It is therefore not surprising that the Palestinians reject the deal without even knowing its details."

He further stated, "At best, it would give us limited self-rule

rather than an independent state. We initially rejected the deal, and we are aware of the repercussions. Even if withdrawals from Palestinian areas take place, they will only give rise to a Palestinian state lacking sovereignty and will maintain Israel's occupation of most West Bank areas."

Palestinians view the timing surrounding the presentation of the peace proposal, ahead of Israeli elections, as part of the Trump administration's support for the Netanyahu-led right in Israel, given their strategic political alliance. Palestinians also envision the deal as backing Israel's intention to annex Jewish settlements on the West Bank, including in the Jordan Valley, designate the West Bank and Gaza as the territory of a transitional state, New Palestine, and grant Palestinians limited administrative powers.

Mahmoud Mardawi, with Hamas' National Relations Office, told Al-Monitor, "If Israel wants to withdraw from part of the West Bank without the Palestinians' signed approval of the deal, the resistance will take advantage of this without facilitating an Israeli move or participating in it. It is inconceivable to stand in the way of Israel's retreat from an area. Even if the Palestinians have not signed the deal or made commitments to the US and Israel, nothing stops them from benefiting from the potential outcome of the deal."

Emad Abu Awad, a researcher at the Istanbul-based Vision for Political Development, told Al-Moni-



tor, "The declaration of the deal of the century will put Palestinians, whether Hamas or the [PLO], in a quandary. The [PLO] will not be able to make serious decisions against the deal, save for condemning it, which might push a current within Fatah to revolt against the official leadership and demand that it take serious stances. Hamas is also in a pickle, as its organizational presence is limited in the West Bank, and in Gaza it cannot take a stand regarding the deal. Add to this that Hamas will not jeopardize its understandings with Israel aimed at improving the situation in Gaza. The Palestinians' stances will not technically affect the deal, as relations between the

PA and Hamas are tense, and each will work single-handedly toward a response."

Trump took office in 2017 promising the "deal of the century," and as his deal has been unfolded, the Palestinians have had no serious public reactions to it, except for expressions of anger and condemnation. This is unlikely to change after the proposal's unveiling although its presentation could pave the way for implementation through US-Israeli agreement without the Palestinians' consent, imposing the deal as a *fait accompli* as with the US actions on Jerusalem and the settlements and suspension of US financial assistance.

Source: volatire



◆ Binoy Kampmark

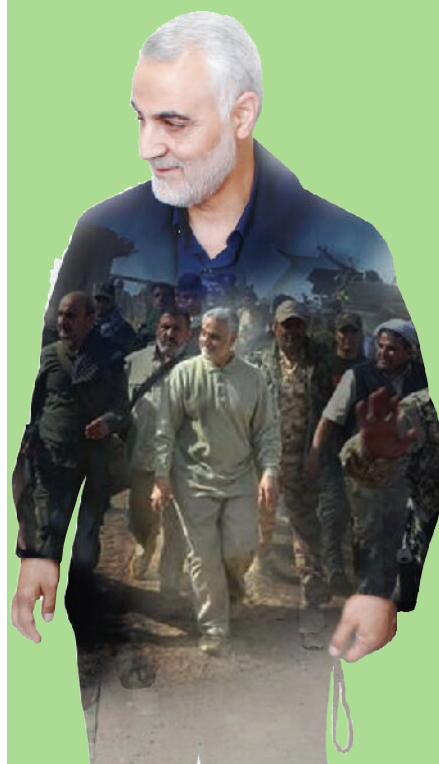
# **Illegality of US Foreign Policy, Pre-emptive Force and Qasem Soleimani**

International relations is typified by its vagueness of definition and its shallowness of justification. Be it protecting citizens of a state in another, launching a pre-emptive strike to prevent what another state might do, or simply understanding the application of a treaty provision, justifications can prove uneven and at odds.

The pre-emptive jerk behind the killing of Major General Qasem Soleimani of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps-Quds Force was one such occasion. (It transpires that there was another effort, failed as it turned out, against the Quds commander Abdul Reza Shahla'i.) The ingredients behind the drone strike were supposedly clear: the now vanquished leader of the Quds operational arm was planning attacks on US soldiers and interests. In any case, he had killed many US personnel before. The attack could therefore be seen as an adventurous, and advanced reading, of self-defence, billed by the legal fraternity as "anticipatory self-defence".

Article 51 of the United Nations Charter qualifies the use of force against another state by imposing two conditions. There must be authorisation by the Security Council to use force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The second arm of the provision legitimises the use of force where a state is exercising its recognised right to individual or collective self-defence. But the boundaries of the latter are often unclear; they include "preventive"

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military action and "pre-emptive" military action, with the former focused on targeting the enemy's acquisition of a capacity to attack, the latter focusing on foiling an imminent enemy attack.

Both the United States and Iran duly resorted to Article 51 letters in light of Soleimani's killing. US Ambassador to the UN, Kelly Craft, claimed that the strike took place as a response to an "escalating series of armed attacks in recent months" by Iran and its proxies on US personnel and interests in the Middle East "in order to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran from conducting or supporting further attacks against the United States or US interests". The addition purpose of the attack was to "degrade the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Qods Force-supported militias' ability to conduct attacks."

Iranian Ambassador Majid Takht Ravanchi obliged with a counter letter to the UN on Wednesday justifying its January 8 actions in retaliation against a US airbase in Iraq for the killing of Soleimani. The retaliatory strikes were deemed "measured and proportionate", "precise and targeted", and left "no collateral damage to civilians and civilian assets in the area."

The United States' Assassination of Iranian Military Leader Violates International Law

For all the padding offered, the Soleimani killing could be considered a legacy of a tenuous, and

precarious reading of self-defence offered by the United States since 2001. US policy makers have done their obfuscating bit to compound the sheer vagueness of anticipatory self-defence since President George W. Bush occupied the White House. The US National Security Strategy of 2002, followed by its 2006 variant, showed the sloppiness that comes with imperial overconfidence in the pursuit of enemies. Pre-emption and prevention lose their distinct forms when the drafters search for legitimate uses of force against a shady enemy that prefers to play by different rules.

NSS 2002 acknowledges that centuries of international law “recognized that nations need not suffer an attack before they can lawfully take action to defend themselves against forces that present an imminent danger of attack.” But the scope is given a good widening. “The United States has long maintained the option of pre-emptive actions to counter a sufficient threat to our national security. The greater the threat, the greater is the risk of inaction – and the more compelling the case for taking anticipatory action to defend ourselves, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy’s attack.”

Embracing such a broad reading of pre-emption was conditioned by “the capabilities and objectivities of today’s adversaries. Rogue states and terrorists do not seek to attack us using conventional means.” So it goes: the enemy

obliges us to adjust, alter and repudiate conventions. Flying civilian planes into the Twin Towers in New York on September 11, 2001 constituted such an unconventional manner of attack.

The 2006 National Security Strategy stated unequivocally that “the place of pre-emption in our national security strategy remains the same” though conceding that “no country should ever use pre-emption as a pretext for aggression.” Using such force would take place after “weighing the consequences of our actions. The reasons for our actions will be clear, the force measured, and the cause just.” Four years later, under the Obama administration, the position had not much improved, and the muddle remained.

The killing of a senior Iranian commander in circumstances that could hardly be seen as a matter of combat revived that hoary old chestnut of imminent threat. When US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was pressed about the nature of such imminence in a press conference, the old tangle of interpretations became manifest. “Mr. Secretary,” came one question, “the administration said this strike was based on an imminent threat, but this morning you said we didn’t know precisely when and we didn’t know precisely where. That’s not the definition of ‘imminent’.”

Pompeo was not exactly helpful, resorting to the classic rhetorical device of circularity. “We had specific information on an immi-

nent threat, and those threats included attacks on US embassies. Period. Full stop.” He conceded to not knowing, with exact precision, “which day it would’ve have been executed. I don’t know exactly which minute.” But the evidence was sound enough: Soleimani “was plotting a broad, large-scale attack against American interests. And those attacks were imminent.”

Each time he was confronted with a question on clarification, Pompeo dissembled. In not taking any action to stall the efforts of Soleimani, the Trump administration “would have been culpably negligent” in not recommending the president to “take his action”.

President Donald Trump, for his part, has given the impression of justified clarity. “I can reveal,” he told Fox News, “that I believe it would have been four embassies.” Before a campaign rally in Ohio on Thursday, he suggested that Soleimani had been “actively planning new attacks, and he was looking very seriously at our embassies, and not just the embassy in Baghdad.”

None of this really matters in the final analysis. Uses of force must be justified after the fact, and the tradition of big power statecraft shows that the more formidable a power, the more likely threats against it will be magnified. The attack on Soleimani had as much to do with inflated claims of US security as it did with chronic insecurity.

Source: Global Research

Ayatollah Khamenei:

The Deal of Century will die  
before Trump's death

عقد القرن

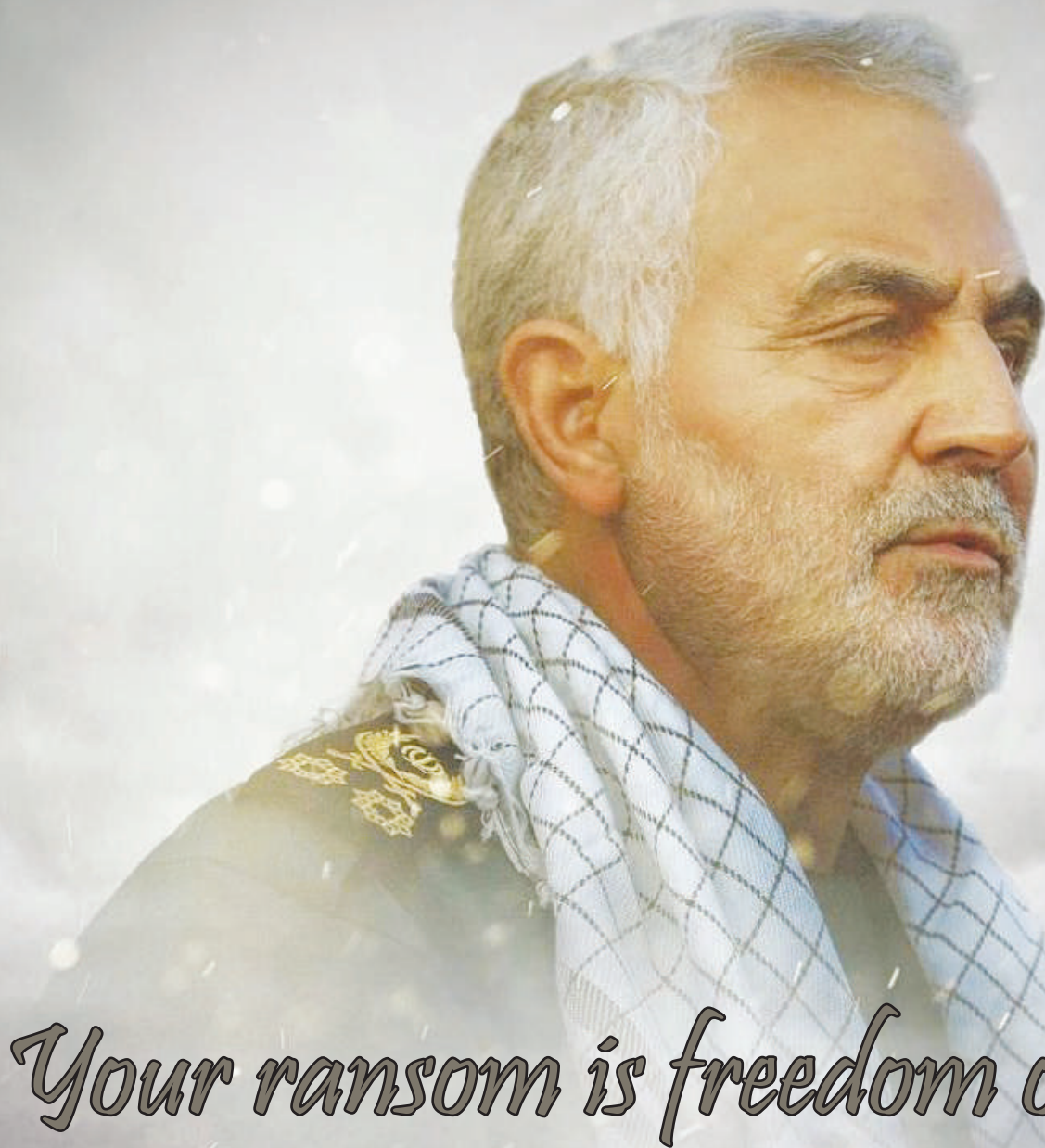
THE DEAL OF

THE CENTURY

عقد القرن

مجلس

العلماء



*Your ransom is freedom of Quds*  
GENERAL SOLEIMANY

