

Straight Truth

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Special issue on 4th anniversary of General Soleimani assassination in English & Arabic

ARCHITECT

How Gen. Soleimani designed a new regional geometry



This is the cover photo of the 16-page special issue on the 4th anniversary of General Soleimani's martyrdom that is published in English and Arabic. The special edition is free of charge.

Hamas deputy leader al-Arouri martyred in Israeli drone attack on Beirut

Iran says al-Arouri assassination is the result of 'heavy defeat' in Gaza

Hezbollah's al-Manar TV reported that Saleh al-Arouri, the deputy Hamas politburo chief, was assassinated in an Israeli drone strike in southern Beirut late on Tuesday.

The Lebanese al-Mayadeen channel also reported that al-Arouri has been killed. Reuters reported the deputy Hamas politburo leader was the target, citing three security sources.

Lebanese PM Najib Mikati said the killing of al-Arouri "aims to pull Lebanon into a new phase of confrontations in light of the ongoing daily attacks on the south of the country".

Mikati also warned against "the Israeli political upper echelon resorting to exporting its failures in Gaza to the southern border to impose new facts on the ground and change the rules of engagement".

The Iranian foreign ministry also condemned the "assassination" of the Hamas official by the Zionist regime.

Nasser Kanaani said the killing was a result of Israel's "heavy and irreplaceable defeat from the resistance factions".

The spokesperson added, "We condemn the violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Zionist regime."

Meanwhile, Imad Harb, an analyst, says Israel carried out the attack in Beirut in search of what has become an elusive win.

"So far, the Israelis have not been able to call a victory in Gaza, so assassinating Hamas leaders is partly something that they wanted to do anyway," Harb told Al Jazeera. "This is an achievement for the Israeli army and for the Israeli politicians."

Despite the enormous firepower it has unleashed in Gaza, Israel has not been able to eliminate Hamas, kill the group's top leaders in Gaza or free Israeli captives in the territory.

Meanwhile, UN secretary-general spokesperson Florencia Soto Nino said the situation is "extremely worrying".

Israeli troops withdraw under Palestinian fire

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN- Residents of the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City have told news media outlets that the Israeli army has withdrawn from the area after what they described as the most intense ten days of combat between the Palestinian resistance and the regime's military since the Israeli war on the enclave began.

The Israeli military has also pulled its tanks out of Gaza City's districts of Mina and Tel al-Hawa.

Gaza City is located in the northern strip and it is where the Israeli army first began its ground offensives in the enclave after initially bombarding the region indiscriminately, in particular the north, for 20 days to try and clear the path for its ground forces to invade.

Three months later, the Israeli regime claimed to have been in control of the northern part of the Gaza Strip.

News emerging from the north indicates that the resistance has inflicted heavy losses on Israeli ground forces, compelling them to withdraw against their will.

According to residents of Gaza City, the regime's tanks have retained some positions in the suburb where they are occupying the Gaza City's main road leading out of Gaza and where residents used to head to the south.

This is the same road which has been deserted since the war started after Israeli warplanes repeatedly bombed it, rendering it out of service.

This shows the regime's failure to defeat the resistance, despite widespread claims by its military and government officials that the northern part of Gaza is under Israeli control. ► Page 5

11th intl. IRAN LAB EXPO kicks off

TEHRAN – The 11th exhibition of Iranian-made laboratory equipment and materials named 'IRAN LAB EXPO 2024' opened in Tehran on Tuesday and will wrap up on Friday, January 5.

Supported by the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, the international exhibition is showcasing 10,500 innovative products, IRNA reported.

A total of 366 technological companies are presenting their latest technological achievements, laboratory equipment, and advanced testing.

Moreover, some nine technological products of knowledge-based companies are planned to be unveiled during the exhibition.

The 2024 exhibition of Iranian-made laboratory equipment and materials will display Iran-made products in 14 thematic sections including "Oil and Petrochemical"; "Electricity"; "Electronics and Software"; "Civil and Construction"; "Mechanics"; "Chemistry and Metallurgy"; "Agriculture and Environment"; "Basic Physics"; "General Laboratory Equipment"; "Laboratory materials"; "Medical engineering and biomaterials"; ► Page 7

Iran's exports to China rise 24% in November 2023

TEHRAN – The value of Iran's exports to China increased by 24 percent in November 2023 as compared to the same month in 2022, according to China's Customs data.

Iran exported \$405 million worth of products to China in November 2023, while the figure was only \$326 million in November 2022, Tasnim News Agency reported.

As reported, the trade between Iran and China reached \$13.4 billion in the first 11 months of 2023, registering a seven percent decline, year on year.

According to China's Customs data, the value of trade between the two countries stood at \$14.4 billion in January-November 2022.

China's imports from Iran reached \$4.2 billion in the 11-month period of 2023, which was 30 percent less than the figure for the same period in 2022. From January to November 2022, China imported \$6.0 billion of goods from the Islamic Republic.

Oil is China's main imported item from Iran, which is not included in the country's official customs data. ► Page 4

ECO Cultural Institute in Tehran hosts "Afghanistan's Night"

TEHRAN- The ECO Cultural Institute (ECOCI) hosted the "Afghanistan's Night" ceremony on Sunday, in its International Conference Hall in Tehran.

Attended by numerous cultural and artistic activists, this cultural-artistic event aimed to highlight the significance of language, art, and culture in reconnecting individuals with their ancestral heritage, the institute announced.

In his speech, Saad Khan, the Pakistani president of ECOCI, emphasized the vital role that these elements play in allowing people to delve into the historical depths of their predecessors. Furthermore, Khan stated that the ECO region stands out as one of the most culturally diverse and historically rich areas in the world.

It is home to numerous ancient civilizations, making it a treasure trove for those interested in exploring the past, he noted.

Afghanistan, in particular, holds a special place not only within the region but globally, with its invaluable historical and cultural background, he added. ► Page 8

Cartoon exhibition on Zionists' crimes in Gaza launched in Tehran

TEHRAN-A cartoon exhibition titled "Operation al-Aqsa Storm" kicked off at the Iranian House of Cartoon in Tehran on Monday.

On show there are 42 cartoons and caricatures by Iranian artists Mohammad Hossein Niroomand, Massoud Shojai Tabatabai, and Maziar Bijani about the continuous crimes of the Zionist regime in the Gaza Strip, the Art Bureau website reported.

Israel's relentless bombardment of Gaza for nearly three months has destroyed 70% of the homes in the besieged Palestinian enclave, according to the Government Media Office.

About 300,000 out of 439,000 homes have been destroyed in Israeli attacks. The 29,000 bombs dropped on the strip have targeted residential areas, Byzantine churches, hospitals and shopping malls and all civilian infrastructure has been damaged to an extent that they cannot be repaired. ► Page 8

TEHRAN PAPERS

Strategic patience does not mean passivity

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

In a note, the Iran newspaper addressed Iran's mutual reaction to Israel's crimes and quoted Dr. Bijan Pirouz, Professor of International Relations at Tehran University, as saying: «It must be said that 'reciprocity' is not a complicated task that anyone considers Iran incapable of doing. The basic strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in dealing with crimes is 'strategic patience' and 'pursuing and punishing criminals' instead of reciprocating. In a situation where a range of opinions are based on maintaining and strengthening the system's deterrence through direct action to take revenge for Israel's ungenerous assassinations; the evaluation of some others is based on the belief that the Zionist regime seeks to get Iran directly involved in the Gaza war and the formation of a full-scale regional war. So, accordingly, Iran should not play into the Zionists' hand. The fact is that, contrary to the media propaganda, none of the officials of the Zionist regime have dared to accept responsibility for the air attack on Damascus on (December) Dey 4, 1402. But even in the case of official acceptance of responsibility for this crime, it should be noted that basically 'reciprocity' instead of 'pursuing and punishing criminals' will never be among the choices of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a strategy.

Hamshahri: Iran among emerging powers

In an analysis, Hamshahri discussed Iran's regional diplomacy and joining BRICS. The paper said: Iran's official membership in the BRICS group along with 4 countries Saudi Arabia, UAE, Ethiopia, and Egypt has started to open new doors for Iran's regional and international role-playing. Upon the Islamic Republic joining the world's group of emerging economies, a new chapter in Tehran's regional and international cooperation will take place, with the approach of a more active presence in the global economy. This membership is while during the last year, Tehran has taken significant steps to play a balanced role at the regional and international levels, and by following the strategy of soft balance in international interactions, it has succeeded in creating an effective deterrence against the Western hegemonic trends and approaches. Considering that BRICS has chosen global multilateralism approaches as its strategic priority, Iran's joining BRICS has brought vast political-economic opportunities and advantages to Tehran. Moving towards «de-dollarization» and «justly and multilateralist order» is considered one of the most important strategies.

Iran FM says U.S. mired in Gaza quagmire

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, has stated that U.S. law-makers are stuck in a "quagmire" in the besieged region, making it expensive for them to escape, since they are supporting the Israeli regime in its "genocidal campaign" against the Gaza Strip.

Amir Abdollahian mentioned in a speech at the University of Tehran on Monday that the U.S. is "facing a challenge" and is searching for a "face-saving option" to exit the Gaza conflict.

"Today the politicians in the White House are facing a serious challenge. Some believe that Washington has gone too far and should not have provided full support for Israel's genocide and crimes over the past three months in Gaza and the West Bank," he said.

Iran's top diplomat went on to add that "today, the fact that American politicians have made a mistake and entered a quagmire in Gaza represents a challenge in the White House," he added. "Getting out of this quagmire will be quite costly."

He also underlined that the Tel Aviv regime followed its dreams of "destroying Hamas" but they did not come true.

"They announced that they would disarm Hamas through military, air, ground, and sea operations, but that did not happen," he said, adding, "They said they will continue the offensive in tunnels and hospitals' basements in Gaza to release Israeli captives, but they suffered a defeat and could not free one captive."

He went on to say that Israelis had "reached

Siasat-e-Rooz: Iran does not respond to Russia's positions on regional issues

In a commentary, Siasat-e-Rooz discussed Iran's reaction to Russia's recent positions and wrote: According to Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran is not responsible for Russia's positions on regional issues. It is obvious that the relations between Iran and Russia are constructive and moving forward and based on the interests of the two countries. Even in the course of developing Iran's relations with neighboring countries and within the framework of the neighborhood policy and improving the status of cooperation with important and effective countries in the region, we were witnessing an increase in the relations between the two countries in different fields. However, the existence of diverse relations in different fields does not necessarily mean the consensus of the two countries in all regional and international fields. The three islands will always be for Iran, and Iran has declared its clear official position in this regard, and in the conversation with Russian officials, including the foreign minister of this country, the clear view of the Islamic Republic of Iran was also raised. Iran has stated its principled positions on issues related to sovereignty and territorial integrity, and it is not kidding about it.

Sobh-e-No: Modern cooperation with traditional friends

In an article, Sobh-e-No discussed the benefits of Iran's membership in the BRICS group. It wrote: The news of the implementation of Iran's membership in BRICS can have many advantages for Iran in terms of politics and economy. After the Islamic Republic of Iran became a member of the Shanghai Organization, now joining BRICS is another turning point in Iran's economic and diplomatic record. These memberships show that Iran's traditional cooperation with China and Russia has reached a more modern era and these cases of cooperation have benefits for Iran, which now reaches the executive stage with Iran's official membership in BRICS, and will have an important effect in neutralizing sanctions. One of the agendas of the BRICS group can be seen as confrontation with the Western economic system, which covers the entire world relations. Now, Iran stands in the form of a modern coalition of the countries of the world against Western and American monopolization and has become a member of the BRICS group in the global transit competition. Of course, this point is significant that the internal infrastructure must also be optimized to keep up with the external conditions.

a dead end," and that Americans, who had spoken of "eradicating Hamas," are now conveying messages to Hamas and obliquely discussing captive-prisoner exchanges and ways to control post-war Gaza in foreign nations.

"It indicates that the resistance is following the right path and has snatched another major victory in the past 80 days."

According to Amir Abdollahian, Israel suffered a "political and intelligence defeat" on October 7 when it started the cross-border Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. Since then, the Israeli regime has suffered a "military and psychological" defeat as a result of Hamas' 80 days of resistance and retaliation to Israel's genocide, with the U.S. assistance.

He issued a dire warning, saying that Israel's allies had two choices: either carry on with the war, get farther into the maze, and suffer a "embarrassing defeat," or accept a "political solution" by meeting the demands of the resistance front.

"The first option is the continuation of Israeli war on Gaza, but the continuation of war means the continuation of massacre and the continuation of a humiliating defeat for Israel and the U.S.," he added.

As people around the world enjoyed spectacular fireworks displays that lit up the skyline of major cities to welcome 2024, the Israeli regime pushed ahead with its campaign of targeting Palestinian civilians at a hugely indiscriminate rate.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran submits second official notification on assassination of Gen. Soleimani

TEHRAN- The Iranian Foreign Ministry has tendered the U.S. government with a second official notification, seeking arbitration for the 2020 U.S. drone strike that assassinated Iran's top anti-terror commander, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, in Baghdad.

Declaring it on Monday, Tavakol Habibzadeh, the head of center for Iranian President's Legal and International Affairs, said that the second notice was written and sent after the United States failed to respond to the first one on holding negotiations.

The notification requesting arbitration was drafted in accordance with the Protection of Diplomats Convention, a 1973 United Nations anti-terrorism treaty aimed at preventing and punishing crimes against internationally protected individuals, including diplomatic agents.

According to Article 13 of the convention, the first notice seeking negotiation is delivered to the opposing party, and if it does not answer, the second letter requesting arbitration is issued.

According to the convention, if the Americans do not respond within six months of the date of the request for arbitration, the next step would be followed, which is to bring the matter to the International Court of Justice, he added.

Habibzadeh stated that the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued the second notification to the U.S. to request arbitration between Tehran and Washington approximately a month and a half ago, adding that the U.S. administration has until



the end of April to react.

On January 3, 2020, a U.S. drone strike authorized by then-U.S. President Donald Trump assassinated General Soleimani, commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), and their companions near Baghdad International Airport.

Legislators in Iraq passed a bill two days after the assault mandating that the government remove all foreign forces, including those headed by the United States, from the nation.

Due to their crucial contributions to the battle against the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group in West Asia, notably in Iraq and Syria, both commanders were held in the highest regard throughout the region.

The IRGC launched a barrage of missile strikes against the U.S.-run Ain al-Asad facility in the western province of Anbar, Iraq, on January 8, 2020, in vengeance for General Soleimani's assassination.

Amir Abdollahian hails Ansarullah for resolute pro-Palestine position

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, praised Ansarullah of Yemen for its resolute support of the oppressed Palestinian people against the aggression and atrocities of the Israeli regime.

Amir Abdollahian said this at a meeting on Monday with Mohammed Abdul-Salam, the spokesman for Ansarullah of Yemen, who is in Tehran for negotiations with high-ranking Iranian officials.

The Iranian foreign minister expressed Iran's support for the advancement of talks with Saudi Arabia and the development of peace in Yemen in his remarks.

The top Iranian diplomat expressed Tehran's support for Yemen's will and demand.

For his part, the top Ansarullah official thanked Iran for its steadfast political backing of the resistance front and briefed the Iranian foreign minister of the most recent advancements in the promotion of peace in Yemen.

Back in September, in an effort to settle the kingdom's eight-year conflict with its southern neighbor, Ansarullah was represented in discussions with a delegation from Saudi Arabia, which resulted in "positive results".

In a statement, the ministry supported a political solution to the Yemen conflict, after the Yemeni team, along with an Omani mediator, returned to Sanaa following five days of talks with Saudi officials in Riyadh.

After the Palestinian resistance group, Hamas, carried out the cross-border Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the usurping regime in punishment for its increasing atrocities against the Palestinian people, Israel launched the genocidal war on Gaza on October 7.

Despite killing 21,978 Palestinians, predominantly children and women, the Tel Aviv re-

gime has failed to fulfill its aims of "destroying Hamas" and finding Israeli hostages 87 days into the assault. 57,697 persons have been injured as a result of the conflict.

Qalibaf blames U.S. for Israel-Gaza conflict

In a separate meeting with Abdul-Salam on Monday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf chastised the U.S. for Israel's continued aggression against Gaza.

He went on to add that without the presence of the U.S. and its military assistance, the Israeli regime would not have been able to sustain the first blow dealt to the regime as a consequence of the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, which was started on October 7 by the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

He labeled the U.S. the primary source of issues facing the Muslim world and reiterated Iran's backing for the resistance front.

For his part, Abdul-Salam expressed the Yemeni people's unwavering support for the Palestinians in their conflict with the Israeli regime.

He praised Iran's assistance to the Yemeni people, noting that Yemen's armaments and all other capabilities are geared toward serving the interests of Muslims.

Yemen is presently capable of assuming an operational posture alongside the resistance front, according to Abdul-Salam, who also stated that his country has a strategy that opposes Israel and the U.S. in the region.

Iran, Ansarallah officials discuss regional developments

In another meeting on Monday between with Abdul-Salam and the Iranian foreign minister's senior advisor for special political affairs Ali Asghar Khaji, they discussed the latest developments on the ground in Yemen as well as the political and humanitarian situation in the country.

Shahid Sattari Aviation University is Iran's drone hub: general

TEHRAN- Brigadier General Majid Fakhri, the head of the Geographical Organization of the Armed Forces, has recognized Shahid Sattari Aviation University as a leading center for space and drone technology in Iran.

General Fakhri also said, "Locational information is of particular importance in all wars, and military students and commanders must have locational information to be successful on the battlefield," the general noted in the end.

He emphasized the paramount importance of locational information in warfare.



He noted that military students and commanders must possess accurate locational information to achieve success on the battlefield, underscoring the strategic significance of the university's contributions.

During a meeting with Brigadier General Majid Fakhri, Brigadier General Marvi Nam, Head

As per the Pentagon, the counterstrike on the base resulted in "traumatic brain injuries" for over 100 American soldiers. Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic called the missile attack on Ain al-Assad a "first slap."

During an afternoon meeting on Sunday with the family of Martyr Soleimani, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, stressed, «The fact that Martyr Soleimani's name, memory, and characteristics are becoming increasingly well-known is because of his sincerity.»

He underscored that «Martyr Soleimani's most significant role and service was to revive the Resistance Front in the region.»

The Leader of Islamic Revolution highlighted that Gaza's resistance in the past three months has been due to the existence of the Resistance Front.

He stated, «Martyr Soleimani worked diligently to revitalize the Resistance Front, and he did this with sincerity, foresight, intellect, and moral behavior.»



The two sides also discussed recent developments in the region, particularly the situation of Gaza, and urged for an immediate halt to the Zionist regime's atrocities as well as the formation of a swift and inclusive permanent truce there.

Khaji and Abdul-Salam both emphasized the need of finding a political solution to the Yemen issue.

The Iranian diplomat applauded the progress in the peace negotiations and stated that Iran is willing to assist in furthering the process.

On Sunday, Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and Abdul-Salam met and talked about matters of mutual concern.

The topics of shared interest and regional security were discussed by the two parties. Ahmadian praised the Yemeni government and people for their bravery in standing up to the Zionist regime's savage attacks and aggression against the Palestinian people during such hard times.

The Yemeni military has increased its strikes against Israeli-affiliated ships in the Red Sea and launched missile and drone assaults on Israeli sites during the last several weeks.

They declare that unless the conflict ends and Gazans are provided with the food and medication they require, the attacks will go on.

of Shahid Sattari University underscored the significant advancements in drone technology achieved at the university.

According to the general, Shahid Sattari Aviation University provides comprehensive training to students, covering all stages of drone operations. He highlighted the diverse applications of drones, extending beyond military purposes to include mapping urban areas, towns, and remote, inaccessible regions. Notably, the high-speed capabilities of drones in mapping non-urban areas were recognized as a key advantage.

On Monday, a top Iranian Judiciary official announced the submission of the indictment related to the assassination of General Soleimani to the court.

Abbas-Ali Kadkhodaei, who heads a special committee formed to follow up on General Soleimani's murder case from legal and international aspects, made the remarks while addressing a meeting delving into the legal aspects of the martyred commander's terror carried out by the United States' forces.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Office of Political and International Studies.

Kadkhodaei stressed the national and international significance of the Martyr Soleimani, acknowledging the widely recognized brutal assassination of this prominent figure.

Additionally, Kadkhodaei highlighted Martyr Soleimani's dedication to defending the oppressed people of the region, referencing the Leader of Islamic Revolution's recent statement on the necessity of strengthening the spirit of Resistance Front in the region, with General Soleimani playing a pioneering role.

The member of Assembly of Experts affirmed that the actions of the martyr in the fight against terrorism were legitimate, emphasizing the inherent illegitimacy of assassination and criminal acts by the United States. "Consequently, the United States government must be held accountable," he commented.

Iran committed to fight against terrorism, says human rights official

TEHRAN – Iran's top human rights official says the Islamic Republic is committed to bringing the members of terrorist groups to justice.

Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, made the remark on Tuesday during the fourth trial session of the members of the anti-Iran terrorist group MKO.

He continued, "Iran is a major victim of terrorism, with 23,000 innocent lives lost to terrorist activities, 17,000 of which are attributed to the MKO."

He also informed reporters that Iran has formally requested Iraqi authorities to extradite 38 key members linked to separatist and terrorist groups situated in the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in Iraq.

Highlighting Iran's commitment to security, Gharibabadi urged both the central Iraqi government



and Kurdistan authorities to fulfill their commitments, especially in securing the border. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has responded to threats posed by these groups through multiple airstrikes targeting their positions in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Notably, on November 21, 2022, these groups faced coordinated attacks deploying missiles and

kamikaze drones. The strikes targeted the positions of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) and the Komala Party in northern Iraqi Kurdistan. Simultaneously, kamikaze drones struck Komala-associated positions near the city of Sulaymaniyah.

Gharibabadi expanded on Iran's legal actions, revealing a broader

approach beyond MKO. Measures have been taken against Pakistan-based Ansar-ul-Furqan and Jaish-ul-Adl terrorist groups. The latter is implicated in a terrorist attack on Rask County's police headquarters in Sistan and Baluchestan in December, resulting in the tragic loss of 11 police personnel.

Gharibabadi emphasized that Iran has the necessary means to implement court rulings against these terrorists. He stated that countries providing shelter to these individuals will face pressure to withdraw support or expel them once verdicts are issued.

Highlighting the need to defend victims, enforce justice, and confront the impunity of MKO's terrorist acts, Gharibabadi added, "These principles are integral to the fight against terrorism and the promotion of human rights."

Iran to continue cooperation with Eleni Kapogianni

TEHRAN – Iran Basketball Federation is going to continue its cooperation with Greek head coach Eleni Kapogianni.

Under her leadership, Iran's Women's National Basketball Team reached the final of the Asian Championship in Division B, where Team Melli suffered a narrow 55-54 loss against Indonesia and failed to advance to Division A.

After winning back-to-back Greek Women's Basketball League Championships with Panathinaikos Women's team, 54-year-old head coach Kapogianni took charge of Iran.

Kapogianni had a contract with the Iranian Basketball Federation for about three months which ended in August 2023.

According to Fattaneh Malek, vice president of Iran Basketball Federation, Kapogianni will travel to Tehran in February to sign a new contract.

"Greeks and Iranians have many similarities as nations. We are old nations with big history, huge culture and civilization so I always enjoy to see this high numbers of educated and cultured people. These are the things made me feel at home and welcoming since my first days in Iran and I believe we are very much alike," she said.

"It is still difficult to say these similarities between countries were as much important to be a main driver of our success. They might have helped me to manage our team better and maybe they have not. I guess what is clear is that personality, human and coaching skills would be a more acceptable answer for your question, I mean how we connect with people and when it comes to my job, how we connect with our players."

"I am the kind of coach tend to connect with heart, not with brain, and I believe on my own mantra which says 'if you want to get the best results of something, you should connect with heart'. That's all, I try to see my players and the whole team staff as my partners and love, so these are the things may help me a lot through every journey I enter," Kapogianni concluded.

Azmoun to join Iran football team after Atalanta match

TEHRAN – AS Roma striker Sardar Azmoun will join Iran national football team after the match against Atalanta.

The media outlets had reported that the Seria A club will not release Azmoun but it seems the forward has been allowed to join Team Melli.

Azmoun is a mainstay player of Amir Ghalenoei's team in the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

Iran have been drawn in Group C along with the UAE, Hong Kong and Palestine.

Roma are scheduled to host Atalanta on Jan. 7 in Stadio Olimpico. Azmoun will travel to Doha after the match.

"The Football Federation has sent an official letter to the Roma club and according to FIFA rules, Sardar Azmoun has requested the presence of Sardar Azmoun in the national team and is negotiating with the Roma management to obtain approval for the presence of this player, therefore the Football Federation awaits the end of the AFC ultimatum (in 12 days): the Italian club's decision to release this player and join him in the national team's training camp is awaited, after which the final list will be drawn up and the 26 national team members who will participate."

Golmohammadi steps down as Persepolis head coach

TEHRAN – Persepolis head coach Yahya Golmohammadi stepped down on Monday from his role.

He has resigned from his role due to financial problems.

Golmohammadi was going to strengthen Persepolis in the January transfer window but it seems the club have failed to meet his expectations.

Persepolis, the most decorated Iranian football team, are going to defend their title but they have the difficult task ahead since Esteghlal, Sepahan and Tractor are also title contenders in the 2023/24 Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) season.

The Iranian top-flight club have yet to react to Golmohammadi's decision.

Persepolis on Monday share the spoils in a 2-2 draw with Mes Rafsanjan and remained in third place, two points behind archrivals Esteghlal.

Faraji top of ITTF world ranking

TEHRAN – Benyamin Faraji from Iran sits top of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Youth Ranking.

Faraji leads the ranking in the Boys' Single U15 with 3220 points.

South Korean Lee Seungsoo is second with 2080 points and Steven Moreno from Puerto Rico sits third in the ranking with 1925 points.

Faraji claimed a gold medal at the WTT Youth Contender Almaty 2023 in July.

Inter offer €3m in annual salaries to Taremi: Report

TEHRAN – Iranian striker Mehdi Taremi is expected to leave FC Porto to join Italy's Inter Milan when his current contract with the Dragons comes to an end, in June 2024, SAPO a Portuguese portal has announced in its latest report.

About to end Mehdi Taremi's contract with FC Porto, Taremi should even head to Italy to represent Inter Milan, SAPO announced in its report.

The website added that Tarami's wage in Inter Milan will be €3 million per year.

Born on July 18, 1992, Taremi has been nicknamed the Persian Gulf Boy in Portugal since celebrating his 100th match in Porto's jersey on August 20, 2022.

Iran handball to participate in Russia's tournament

TEHRAN – Iran's men's handball team will take part at a four-team tournament in Russia.

Team Melli will depart for the Moscow Wednesday morning to compete at the event.

The tournament will bring Russia, Belarus, Morocco and Iran together.

Iran will participate in the event as part of preparation for the 2024 Asian Men's Handball Championship.

The Asian championship will be held in Manama, Bahrain from January 11 to 25, 2024.

Iran have been drawn in Group B along with South Korea, China, and New Zealand.

The 2024 Asian Men's Handball Championship will be the 21st edition of the championship, under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation (AHF).

It will be the third time in history that the championship will be organized by the Bahrain Handball Federation. It also acts as a qualification tournament for the 2025 World Men's Handball Championship, with top four teams from the championship directly qualifying for the event.

If New Zealand finishes inside the top five, they are qualified as well as the representative of Oceania.



TEHRAN- Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf has called for a more comprehensive explanation of the role

Taliban urges Iranian investment in Afghanistan

TEHRAN – In a recent diplomatic overture, the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Taliban engaged in extensive discussions with key economic stakeholders from both Afghanistan and Iran.

This diplomatic exchange took place during the Minister's official visit to Mashhad, as reported by the Tasnim News Agency.

The primary focus of these high-level meetings was to encourage and promote increased participation in the Afghan economic market. The Taliban's Foreign Minister emphasized the untapped potential and numerous economic opportunities that could be harnessed through proactive engagement. The discussions



were not merely about economic transactions but aimed to lay the groundwork for a sustained and mutually beneficial collaboration between the two nations.

The diplomatic visit underscored the importance of fostering a strong economic partnership between Afghanistan and Iran. The Foreign Minister's message resonated with

economic actors, urging them to assume a more active role in shaping the trajectory of the Afghan market. This emphasis on collaborative economic efforts reflects a strategic move towards building a resilient and interdependent relationship.

In his statements, the Taliban's Foreign Minister conveyed a positive outlook for the future, expressing hope for a trajectory of mutual benefit and shared prosperity. Gratitude was extended for the warm reception accorded by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the officials of Khorasan Razavi Province, signaling a diplomatic gesture aimed at strengthening ties.

Notably, the diplomatic discussions did not shy away from addressing geopolitical challenges. The Minister highlighted the unsuccessful attempts by external forces to sow discord between the two Muslim countries. Despite these efforts, he maintained an optimistic stance, citing the prevailing atmosphere of trust and cooperation between Afghanistan and Iran.

This positive sentiment, cultivated through diplomatic exchanges and economic discussions, is seen as a solid foundation for a promising and collaborative future between the two nations.

Gaza war exposes intelligence failures in Israel, America: IRGC advisor

TEHRAN- An advisor to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) asserted that the ongoing conflict in Gaza is indicative of the intelligence failures of both Israel and the United States.

Hossein Taeb, speaking on Monday, highlighted that extensive background work over two years was carried out for the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, and yet, the Zionists remained oblivious to these preparations.

Taeb described the Gaza war as a significant showcase of liberal democracy's crimes, emphasizing that it reveals both human and environmental atrocities.

The conflict, according to him, serves as

an exhibition of genocide throughout history, where the Zionists show no discrimination, causing destruction to individuals, educational institutions, residential areas, infrastructure, and religious sites.

He underscored that the Zionist strategy involves targeting any perceived threat without distinguishing between friend or foe.

Taeb argued that the model of liberal democracy not only impacts Muslims negatively but also affects Jews.

In conclusion, he pointed out that the Gaza war highlights the failure of Western hegemony, challenging the American belief that the 21st century would be dominated by the United States. After 248 years since



America's establishment and 76 years since the establishment of the Zionist regime, Taeb suggested that Israel is now on the brink of collapse.

Iran's defense minister sends New Year wishes, condemning Gaza violence

TEHRAN- Iran's Defense Minister has sent New Year greetings to his counterparts in several countries, calling for a year free of violence.

Brigadier General Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani also wished a new year filled with peace, justice, freedom, spirituality, morality, and progress.

In his New Year message to his counterparts in various countries, the Iranian Defense

Minister extended his warm greetings and expressed heartfelt wishes for a year brimming with love, friendship, and peace. He highlighted the significance of the New Year as a time to reflect on the past and embrace new beginnings, fostering harmonious relationships and striving for a more peaceful world.

Brigadier General Ashtiani sent the message to his counterparts in Indonesia,

Armenia, Uzbekistan, Italy, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Russia, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Poland, South, Burkina Faso, Bolivia, Thailand, Philippines, China, Zimbabwe, Japan, Syria, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Congo, Kenya, Cuba, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Venezuela, India, Korea and Vietnam.

The Minister of Defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran conveyed

Over 61.7m tons of oil products loaded, unloaded in ports in 9 months

TEHRAN – As reported by Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), 61,741,198 tons of oil products were loaded and unloaded in the ports of country during the first nine months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2023).

As reported, the loading and unloading of oil products in the mentioned nine-month period rose 5.3 percent, year on year. The PMO has also reported that the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran increased by 6.1 percent in the first nine months of the present year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As the organization reported, 172,767,051 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the nine-month period.

During the said period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 1,917,354 TEUs, which was 4.3 percent more than the figure of the same time span in the previous year. Based on the data previously released by the Transport and Urban Development Ministry, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

The ministry's data show that the loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading

operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million TEUs with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said. The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector, the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the oil sector grew by 22.5 percent.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in five years.

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

1,000 units of National Housing Movement completed

TEHRAN - As announced by the head of the National Land and Housing Organization, 1,000 units of the National Housing Movement have been completed across the country and are ready to be handed over to applicant, Mehr News Agency reported.

"Our priority at the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development is to accelerate the progress of the National Housing Movement program and we must know that the faster completion of these projects, even for one day, means solving the housing problem for a family," Arsalan Maleki said.

After National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide

affordable housing units for the low-income classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of the National Housing Movement began in February 2022.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by former Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi.

Also, in July 2022, the minister inaugurated a project for the construction of the first group of affordable housing units for laborers under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

Manufacturing of heavy vehicles up 21% in 9 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – The production of heavy vehicles including trucks, mini-trucks, and tractors increased by 21 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2023) as compared to the same period in the previous year.

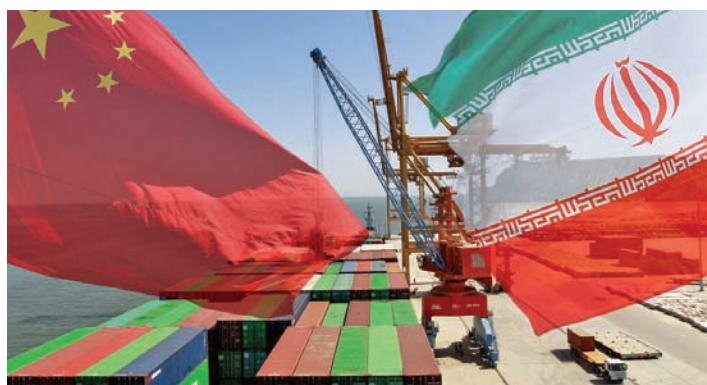
Based on the Industry Ministry data, 27,829 heavy vehicles were manufactured in the mentioned nine months while the figure was

23,089 in the previous year's same nine months, Fars News Agency reported.

Car manufacturing in Iran rose 13 percent in the said nine months as compared to the same period in the previous year.

Iranian carmakers managed to manufacture over 989,913 vehicles in the first nine months of the current year while the figure stood at 887,612 in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Iran's exports to China rise 24% in November 2023



From page 1 ▶ The Asian country's exports to Iran, however, grew by nine percent in the first 11 months of 2023 to reach \$9.2 billion. In the same period of 2022, China exported \$8.4 billion worth of goods to Iran.

In late December, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced that the country exported commodities valued at \$10.3 billion to China during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21).

According to Mohammad Rezvani-Far, China was the top export destination of Iranian goods in the mentioned nine-month period.

Also, exporting commodities valued at \$13.7 billion to Iran, China was Iran's second source of imports in the first nine months of the present year, the IRICA head announced.

According to the data released by China's customs administration, the Islamic Republic and China traded \$15.795 billion worth of commodities in 2022, \$1.035 billion more than the figure for 2021.

As reported, China's exports to Iran grew by 14 percent in the period under review compared to the preceding year to reach \$9.44 billion. The Asian country exported \$8.258 billion worth of goods to Iran in 2021.

The value of Iran's non-oil exports to China, however, registered a two-percent decrease in 2022, reaching \$6.355 billion. Iran exported \$6.502 billion worth of goods to China in 2021.

Iran's share of China's total global trade last year was only 0.25 percent. China's trade with the world reached \$6.308 trillion in 2022, of which \$3.593 trillion was the share of the country's exports and \$2.715 trillion was related to imports. China's global trade grew by 4.4 percent last year.

China is one of Iran's main trade partners that has maintained strong trade ties with the Islamic Republic despite the strict U.S. sanctions.

Iran's Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said the 25-year strategic partnership plan between Iran and China has entered a new phase with new agreements being reached between various ministries of the two countries.

According to Khandouzi, the mentioned agreements have been reached between the two sides

during the visit of Iran's delegation to the 6th China International Import Expo (CIE).

"Specific projects were defined between the government departments of the respective ministries of Iran and China, and agreements were reached on the details of the implementation of the mentioned projects," Khandouzi said.

Regarding the private sectors of the two countries, some Iranian companies operating in China and some large Chinese companies operating in Iran faced obstacles, which were discussed and resolved by the relevant authorities, he explained.

"We are going to witness a significant growth in economic cooperation and investment between the two sides with the implementation of these projects," the minister noted.

Headed by Iran's First Vice President, Mohammad Mokhber, a senior delegation comprised of Economy Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Abbas Aliabadi, as well as the deputies of various ministries and the economic deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited China in early November to attend the 6th CIE.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

The document was signed between Iran's former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 memorandums of understanding (MOU) under the framework of the two countries' strategic 25-year agreement.

The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the

presence of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

The summit was focused on four areas explored by four committees between the two countries with the aim of paving the way for the implementation of the 25-year agreement.

Iran and China also signed 20 memoranda of understanding in the presence of the presidents of the two countries in Beijing in mid-February.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was on a three-day state visit to China starting February 14.

During President Raisi's visit to China, Tehran and Beijing signed a number of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of agriculture, trade, tourism, environmental protection, health, disaster relief, culture, and sports.

The documents include agreements in the field of transportation and industry worth \$12 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively; the agreements cover various joint projects like the high-speed rail link between Tehran and Mashhad, and investment in the Imam Khomeini Airport City.

Investment in Iran's southeastern Mokran Coast and the purchase of Iranian oil were also mentioned in the documents.

Raisi's visit served as an example of the high level of mutual trust between China and Iran, as well as a milestone for bilateral ties.

Then in mid-July, the agreements signed between Iran and China during President Raisi's trip to Beijing in mid-February were turned into specified projects during the two countries' joint cooperation committee meeting, the Iranian finance and economic affairs minister announced.

Ehsan Khandouzi left Tehran for Beijing on July 12 to attend the Iran-China Joint Cooperation Committee

meeting, which was held after four and half years.

"With the constructive atmosphere of the committee, we will soon witness good events in the fields of business and investment", the official wrote on his Twitter account on July 16.

Khandouzi further announced that Iran and China are going to begin the execution of some joint projects agreed upon in February by the presidents of the two countries, as of the following month.

According to the minister, the necessary follow-ups regarding the mentioned projects have been made over the last five months and the final decisions for the start of their implementations were made during a joint business event on July 13.

"President Raisi had an important trip to Beijing last winter and good agreements were made with the president of China; in this regard, the necessary follow-ups were made by various ministries during the last five months, and on Thursday (July 13) the first joint committee between Iran and China was held after 4.5 years," Khandouzi said.

"China is Iran's largest trading partner and the most important destination for the export of Iranian goods and an important part of our imports are also from China. Last year, China's share in Iran's (non-oil) trade was 24 percent," the minister added.

Back in early April, the Chinese ambassador to Tehran said: "This year is a good year for Iran-China relations."

Chang Hua made the remarks in a meeting with the members of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and a number of Iranian traders and businessmen, who conduct trade with China, held at the place of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran.

Referring to China's growing economy, the envoy said this year is a good year for Iran-China relations, adding that during the meeting between the leaders of the two countries, important agreements were made, including the implementation of the 25-year cooperation agreement between the two countries, and a number of bilateral cooperation documents were signed in the fields of agriculture, tourism, culture, relief, and rescue, etc.

More than 28.7m tons of basic goods imported in 9 months

TEHRAN- According to a report released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), 28.737 million tons of basic commodities worth \$48.358 billion were imported to the country during the first nine months of

the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21, 2023).

The IRICA data indicates that the nine-month import of the basic goods shows 12.29 percent rise in value, and 6.04 percent growth in weight, year on year.

TEDPIX loses 9,500 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 9,538 points (0.44 percent) to 2,158,788 on Tuesday, which is the fourth day of Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of

the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

70% of Iran's medical equipment produced domestically

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters has said 70 percent of the medical equipment used in the country is made by domestic producers, IRIB reported.

According to Abdolreza Yaghubzadeh, currently, 100 percent of normal hospital beds, more than 95 percent of special ICU and CCU beds, and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment, such as anesthesia machines, ventilators, electrocautery, and other equipment are manufactured inside the country with advanced technical knowledge.

Putting the current imports of the mentioned products at about \$1.0 billion, Yaghubzadeh said if the government cuts the subsidized foreign currency allocated for the import of medical equipment, the annual imports of such items will be

reduced to \$600,000.

The official noted that allocating subsidized foreign currency to the import of medical equipment has resulted in the surplus imports of such products so that the imports are more than the actual needs of the country.

According to Yaghubzadeh, considering Iran's population and per capita income of the people, the medical equipment market of the country is less than one percent of the global market for such products.

"If we divide the world's medical equipment market which is 400 billion dollars to the population, one percent of this figure that is four billion dollars would be the value of Iran's medical equipment market," he explained.

Yaghubzadeh further noted that, currently over \$3.0 billion worth of medical equipment is produced inside the country, and about \$1.0



billion is imported.

According to the official, there are currently over 1,000 medical equipment production units active across the country of which up to 400 are knowledge-based or startups.

"We export to more than 60 foreign countries, and many European countries are among the export destinations of our products; the value of our exports in the past few years has been up to 30 million dollars," he said.



Iranian offshore Engineering & Construction

Call for Tender 2st Announcement for the Purchase of Compressed Air System Package Related to the Belal platform project, Tender No. 942548

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to purchase the Tender of **Compressed Air System Package Related to the Belal platform project** through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 10 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Tel: +9821-82841902 (or) with Tel: +9821-82842740 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

Israeli troops withdraw under Palestinian fire

Regime pulls out units of military from Gaza amid fierce clashes with the resistance

From page 1 ▶ These claims have all turned out to be fake propaganda and depict a heavy failure for the regime that initially stated Hamas command centers and its leaders were «hiding» in the north.

It also reflects the truth of the Palestinian resistance when it was regularly announcing that its fighters were “fiercely resisting” the Israeli ground forces in northern Gaza.

On Sunday, the regime’s WallaNews website reported that the Israeli army is withdrawing its 551st Brigade, the 14th Brigade, and three reservist brigades from Gaza following an assessment of the fighting there.

Israeli media reports also alluded to a significant retreat by the regime’s forces in the northwest of Gaza City.

More than a week ago, one of the regime’s oldest and most decorated units, the 13th Golani Brigades, was pulled out from the fighting, mainly in northern Gaza, after more than 72 of its troops were killed in combat.

The decision to withdraw the Golani unit came after the Palestinian resistance inflicted heavy losses on it.

Experts say the regime has also taken into account that the fatalities included a number of its most senior commanders.

In its latest statement, Hamas’s armed wing, the al-Qassam brigades, announced that during the past four days, the resistance fighters have been able to completely or partially destroy 71 military vehicles.

According to its spokesman Abu Ubeida, the al-Qassam brigades have “killed 16 Zionist soldiers and carried out 42 military missions that left a number of enemy soldiers dead and wounded.”

In the neighborhoods of al-Daraj



and al-Tuffah in Gaza City (where the Israeli regime claims to be in control of), the al-Qassam brigades announced that its resistance fighters were able, in the space of 48 hours, to target 26 Israeli military vehicles.

The number of Israeli military vehicles that the Palestinian resistance has partially or completely destroyed has reached around 1,000.

Al-Qassam said it had detonated a minefield against Israeli special forces after entering the makeshift Hebron military base east of the al-Tuffah neighborhood, where the resistance “confirmed that 15 Zionist soldiers were killed in the operation, while Israeli ambulances and helicopters were seen rushing to transport the dead and wounded.”

To the east of the neighborhood, the al-Qassam Brigades targeted five Israeli vehicles and blew up a tunnel where a number of occupation soldiers had been holed up inside, leaving them dead and wounded, according to Hamas.

Likewise, al-Qassam says its resistance fighters attacked a site where Israeli military vehicles had gathered with Tandem shells and anti-personnel bombs, which «led to the killing and wounding of a number of them», in addition to

taking control of an Israeli drone that was on an intelligence mission in Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip.

In turn, the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds brigades, announced that an Israeli tank and an Israeli caterpillar D9 military bulldozer were targeted with tandem and RPG shells in the same areas.

The operation by Palestinian Islamic Jihad highlights a strong level of coordination between its armed wing and the armed wing of Hamas.

As Israeli frustration with its failure to take control of the north grows, the regime has, in recent weeks, turned its attention to the south and in particular the city of Khan Younis and its surrounding areas.

Al-Qassam says its fighters have targeted three Israeli soldiers with an anti-personnel missile, killing and wounding them in the town of al-Qarara, just north of Khan Younis.

Reports suggest the resistance fighters also detonated a booby-trapped tunnel where Israeli ground troops entered the same town, in addition to detonating a house that had been previously booby-trapped with explosive devices after a number of occupation soldiers were

holed up inside, causing fatalities and injuries.

Furthermore, in al-Qarara, the al-Qassam brigades targeted yet another Merkava tank with an Al-Yassin 105 shell.

Smaller Palestinian resistance factions have also been in action.

The military wing of the Popular Resistance Committees, the al-Nasser brigades, has reportedly targeted a gathering of Israeli soldiers and vehicles in the city of Khan Yunis with a barrage of heavy-caliber mortar shells.

Also, the Mujahideen Brigades said their resistance forces in Khan Yunis bombed a gathering of “enemy soldiers and military vehicles east of Khan Yunis” with medium-caliber mortar shells, leading to “direct and certain casualties”.

Meanwhile, in the central Gaza Strip, al-Qassam said its forces succeeded in sniping an Israeli soldier east of the Bureij refugee camp and confirmed his death.

Al-Qassam also announced that its resistance fighters set up a complex ambush in the refugee camp, killing and wounding an Israeli force and targeting an Israeli Merkava tank, with the resistance fighters returning safely to their bases.

For its part, the al-Quds brigades targeted an Israeli troop carrier with a Tandem shell in the same camp where Israeli ground forces are trying to advance.

The al-Quds brigades has also announced that it targeted a gathering of Israeli soldiers and vehicles with Badr 1 missiles in the al-Taqaddum area, east of the camp.

The fate of the Israeli army in the south of the Gaza Strip appears to be leading to the same destiny as the Israeli army experienced in the north of Gaza.

Al-Aqsa Storm originates from Hajj Qassem’s mature strategy

The entire Axis of Resistance may have played a role in planning, training, and such issues, but the decision to require and when to do this operation was entirely up to the Palestinian Resistance.

Al-Aqsa Storm is one of Hajj Qassem’s grand strategies of conceding the decision and independence of the Resistance’s cores, whose result has shown itself in the intellectual maturity and decision-making of the Resistance in Gaza.

The role of Hajj Qassem in Palestine and the development of Palestinian Resistance movements is clear in the manner that Ismail Haniyeh, representing the people of Palestine, attended Soleimani’s funeral and addressed him as the martyr of Quds.

“The American’s plan was to make the issue of Palestine be forgotten and to keep the Palestinians weak so that they would not dare to speak of fighting. This man empowered the Palestinians,” Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said.

“He did something to help a small region like the Gaza Strip to stand up to the Zionist regime despite all their pretensions. They (the people of Gaza) brought such adversity upon them (the Zionists) that they asked for a ceasefire after just 48 hours! This was done by Hajj Qassem Soleimani.”

But did only military assistance and training and the delivery of various weapons over the decades turn martyr Soleimani into a martyr of Quds? The answer is no.

General Soleimani enjoyed the military genius of a strategic and military attitude. His mastery of military issues and the acquisition of this precise and sensitive knowledge and expertise in a practical but not merely theoretical way was the result of his actual presence on the battlefield and his continuous presence.

General Soleimani had tried at least three major battlefields namely the holy defense field, the battlefield against armed miscreants, and finally the battlefield in the cross-border and regional arena in Iraq and Syria.

But his most important characteristic was not his military ability, but his precise strategy in the way of confrontation and expansion of the Axis of Resistance.

One of the strategic thoughts of General Soleimani that shaped the intellectual system and

personality of this great martyr was the macro strategic outlook in the Islamic world and the Axis of Resistance.

This is what we see today in the wide range of movements, tribes, attitudes, and thoughts among the movements and military groups of the Axis of Resistance. A thought that was tied to a proper understanding of the Palestinian position and the unifying issue of al-Aqsa Mosque.

Some individuals look at the relations between Iran and the Resistance movements in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Palestine as if they were the proxies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in decision-making, execution, strategy, and evolution.

But when we look at the actions of General Soleimani over the past four decades, it is obvious that he has given independence to these movements with a careful and accurate belief.

Al-Aqsa Storm is the current maturity of the Resistance Axis in design, decision, understanding, and operational strategy. The operation was carried out correctly and tactfully by the Palestinian decision.

The entire Axis of Resistance may have played a role in planning, training, and such issues, but the decision to require and when to do this operation was entirely up to the Palestinian Resistance.

Al-Aqsa Storm is one of Hajj Qassem’s grand strategies of conceding the decision and independence of the Resistance’s cores, whose result has shown itself in the intellectual maturity and decision-making of the Resistance in Gaza.

There have always been and will always be disagreements or even analytical gaps between the Resistance Movements on various regional issues, but General Soleimani managed these relations with an exemplary and intelligent policy.

The General has pursued and managed Tehran’s relations with other movements while managing alignment, meeting needs, and designing progress, but in the puzzle of the same context and regional and national interests of actors. For example, you can pay for the emergence and emergence of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF).

The type of operation, structure, and management of the PMF is quite different from that of the Ansarullah in Yemen, the Resistance groups in Syria, and even the Shiite model of Hezbollah in Lebanon. The PMF is fully formed

and established in accordance with the interests of Iraq, its special authority, and the culture of the people and ethnic considerations of Iraq.

Another feature of General Soleimani’s macro and strategic vision is the belief in the people’s place in Resistance and changing equations in every part of the region.

This can be seen in Soleimani’s remarks: “Ninety-nine percent of the population of Palestine is Sunni. What do we want from Palestine today? Are we looking for the benefits of Shia? No, if someone in Palestine is seeking the interests of Shia people, we will not cooperate with them. I don’t work with him.”

The Leader believes that for each group at the regional level in the Resistance Front, a special role should be assigned in such a way that Resistance must not be limited only to Palestine, but Resistance must be spread at the regional level, so that the task of anyone facing the Israelis becomes clear, Khaled al-Qaddoumi, the Hamas representative in Tehran pointed out.

Martyr Hajj Qassem Soleimani, as Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah put it, was not an individual, but a school. A school sincerity. To understand this school and continue on that path, it must be understood accurately, thoroughly, and comprehensively.

Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the significance of Hajj Qassem’s School on the Friday prayer on January 17, 2020: “Whenever purity exists, Allah the Exalted blesses it and He blesses His pure servants. Then our affairs become blessed, they grow and everyone will benefit from them. The results will prevail among the people. This originates from purity. The results of purity are the people’s love and loyalty, their tears and sighs, their presence and the revival of revolutionary spirit among the people.”

“However, if we wish to put these events in history, to value and appreciate them, and if we would like to see how precious they are, this happens only when we refuse to look at Hajj Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi – our dear martyrs – merely as two individuals, but rather we should look at them as a school of thought. We should view our dear Shahid Sardar as a school of thought, as a guideline, and as an instructive lesson. Only then will the significance of the issue become clear.”

WORLD HEADLINES

Japan Airlines plane bursts into flames on Tokyo runway after collision

Hundreds have been evacuated from a Japan Airlines plane after it burst into flames at Tokyo International Airport, also known as Haneda.

The plane was reportedly involved in a collision with another aircraft after landing on Tuesday, according to local news reports. NHK TV reported that all 379 passengers on board the Japan Airlines (JAL) plane got out safely.

Turkey arrests 33 for involvement in Mossad plot: Report

Turkish authorities have announced they detained 33 people suspected of being involved in a plot for Mossad, the Israeli espionage agency, according to the state-run Anadolu news agency.

They said operations took place in eight Turkish provinces, and authorities are seeking 13 other suspects. The top prosecutor’s office in Istanbul also announced that arrest warrants have been issued for 46 suspects in another investigation into an alleged plot by Mossad to target foreigners in Turkey.

Hamas targets Israeli army in Bureij refugee camp

The Qassam Brigades says its fighters clashed with an Israeli force on foot from a close distance, east of the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, and “eliminated” it.

Earlier, the Qassam Brigades also said that it had targeted an Israeli Merkava tank with a Yassin 105 shell east of the Bureij camp.

Palestinian Foreign Ministry condemns infant’s ‘kidnapping’ in Gaza

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry has condemned the “kidnapping” of an infant Palestinian girl by an Israeli soldier in Gaza.

“The kidnapping of the infant girl from the Gaza Strip is evidence that the occupation army is committing the most heinous crimes against civilians without oversight or accountability,” it said in a statement. “The Ministry calls on the occupation authorities to immediately hand over the infant to the Palestinian National Authority.”

An associate of an Israeli captain, Harel Itach, who was killed in Gaza, earlier told Israel’s Army Radio that the soldier took the baby to Israel after discovering her in a house.

The parents of the infant were not present and were likely killed during Israeli attacks.

International pressure ramping up on Israel with ICJ case looming

For Israeli society, genocide is a very tough word. South Africa is accusing Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of war crimes, mass displacement, and indiscriminate bombings, and they say there are actions that constitute genocide.

Israel is a signatory to the UN Convention on Genocide so it has to take this seriously. Its National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi came out with a

statement after discussions with the top brass in the Israeli army, the coalition government, and the war cabinet, and said they will challenge this in court.

He used pretty strong language, saying they would vehemently counter what he called an absurd lawsuit. But there is a lot of international pressure ramping up now. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation agreed that this is a genocide, and said it will support this ruling and for the ICJ case to go ahead.

More than 4,000 Palestinian students killed: ministry

The Palestinian Ministry of Education says that 4,156 students have been killed in Israel’s ongoing war in Gaza.

At least 381 schools have also been bombed or damaged, the ministry added.

Israel Supreme Court strikes down judicial reforms

Israel’s Supreme Court has struck down a controversial judicial reform that triggered nationwide protests last year against the Netanyahu government.

The change would have limited the power of the Supreme Court in overturning laws it deemed unconstitutional.

Critics say it would have severely undermined the country’s democracy by weakening the judicial system. There is strong opposition to the current Netanyahu government, seen as the most right-wing in Israeli history.

The Supreme Court’s decision to overturn the law passed by the government in 2023 follows months of internal turmoil.

In July, the government passed into law what is now known as the «reasonableness» bill.

This removed the power of the Supreme Court and lower courts in Israel to cancel government decisions it deemed to be «extremely unreasonable».

The law caused widespread anger and division, prompting hundreds of thousands of protesters to take the streets calling for the reforms to be scrapped – and for the resignation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Organisers said the weekly protests were the biggest street demonstrations in Israel’s history.

Tribes reject Israeli plan to strengthen their role in controlling Gaza Strip

The Supreme Authority of the Palestinian Tribes in the Gaza Strip has denounced the Israeli army’s proposed plan regarding the possibility of enhancing the role of the tribes to control the Gaza Strip.

A post-war scenario in Gaza has come to light, according to which the Israeli army could divide the coastal enclave into areas ruled by Palestinian tribes or clans rather than a single political entity, Israeli public broadcaster KAN 11 reported.

According to the plan, the clans would be tasked with the civil administration of the Gaza Strip and would oversee the distribution of humanitarian aid for a temporary period.

According to KAN 11, the plan was devised by the Israeli army and was expected to be presented to the war cabinet on Tuesday.

Akef al-Masry, the commissioner-general of the Supreme Authority for Palestinian Tribes, has issued a warning against the plan, which is due to be discussed in today’s war cabinet meeting.

“The occupying state seeks to cover up its failure in Gaza and create confusion and strife in Palestinian society,” al-Masry said in a statement.

Al-Masry called for the end of the Hamas-Fatah division and stressed the need for a unified national leadership “to strengthen the people’s steadfastness and to prevent opportunities for all the occupation’s plans”.

Yazd's wind-catchers to be documented



TEHRAN - The Chair of the Tourism Commission of the Islamic Council of Yazd has announced plans for the official documentation of wind-catchers within the city, citing their significant architectural value and the necessity to protect these historical landmarks.

Bibi-Fatemeh Haqirolsadat elaborated on the importance of wind-catchers as an intangible heritage.

She highlighted the diverse range and sheer number of wind-catchers in Yazd, suggesting their potential for global recognition and registration.

Emphasizing Yazd's unique status in the global scene, she said the city is home to a diverse array of wind-catchers, boasting some of the tallest structures of their kind globally. She stressed the crucial need to preserve and maintain these architectural marvels.

Haqirolsadat further underlined Yazd's historical significance, noting it as the world's

first adobe city and the second-oldest historical city globally. Given this heritage, she emphasized the urgent necessity to ensure the proper preservation of historical structures within Yazd, including the iconic wind-catchers.

Wind towers, also known as wind catchers or "badgirs" in Persian, are traditional architectural elements found predominantly in Iran. These towers have been ingeniously designed to capture and channel natural breezes to cool and ventilate buildings, particularly in hot and arid climates.

In July 2017, the historical core of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage site. Yazd is regularly referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mud-brick houses that are equipped with innovative wind catchers, atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Quebrada de Humahuaca

Quebrada de Humahuaca, situated in Argentina's province of Jujuy, follows the line of a major cultural route, the Camino Inca, along the spectacular valley of the Rio Grande, from its source in the cold high desert plateau of the High Andean lands to its confluence with the Rio Leone some 150 km to the south.

The UNESCO-designated valley demonstrates substantial evidence of its use as a major trade route over the past 10,000 years. It features visible traces of prehistoric hunter-gatherer communities, of the Inca Empire (15th to 16th centuries), and of the fight for independence in the 19th and 20th centuries.

According to UNESCO, the property is a highly representative example of the south Andean valleys, with an exceptional system of communication routes and economic, social, and cultural coordination.

This is the most important physical linkage between the high Andean lands and the extensive temperate plains in south-eastern South America. Its impressive natural environment is kept almost intact, with hundreds of archaeological and architectural

sites that bear witness to its long and rich history. The valley shows substantial evidence of its use as a major trade route over the past 10,000 years. Scattered along the valley are extensive remains of successive settlements whose inhabitants created and used these linear routes. They include prehistoric hunter/gatherer and early farming communities (9000 BC to 400 CE), large structured agricultural societies (400 CE-900), flourishing pre-Hispanic towns and villages (900-1430/80), the Incan empire (1430/80-1535), Spanish towns, villages and churches (153/93-1810), and traces of Republican struggles for independence (1810-20th century).

Of particular note are the extensive remains of stone-walled agricultural terrace fields at Coctaca, thought to have originated around 1,500 years ago and still in use today; these are associated with a string of fortified towns known as pucarás. The field system and the pucarás together make a dramatic impact on the landscape one that is unrivalled in South America. The valley also displays several churches and chapels and a vibrant vernacular architectural tradition.

Fars province sets priorities for pilgrimage, cultural tourism development

TEHRAN – The tourism chief of Fars has outlined his directorate's priorities for bolstering pilgrimage and cultural tourism in the southern Iranian province.

Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi emphasized that Fars province boasts an average of 37% of the country's historical, cultural, and natural attractions. However, he pointed out that necessary attention hasn't been directed towards stimulating demand in the tourism sector, which could drive tourism development and ultimately invigorate the tourism economy.

He made the remarks on Monday during a press conference on the thirteenth edition of the Pars International Tourism Exhibition in Shiraz, adding: "One of the primary initiatives highlighted by the directorate is to bolster pilgrimage tourism."

Referring to global statistics on foreign tourists, the official revealed that over 82% of inbound tourists worldwide come from neighboring countries. He noted that Iraq accounts for the highest number of incoming tourists, primarily motivated by pilgrimage, with Mashhad being their foremost destination.

Elaborating on the preferences of Iraqi tourists in Iran, Sabet-Eqlidi underscored the significance of their inclination



toward pilgrimage, primarily centered around Mashhad, which harbors the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam. He also mentioned areas in Tehran where Iraqis reside, indicating their connection to the city.

Sabet-Eqlidi further articulated the goal to establish a meaningful connection between Mashhad, Qom, and Shiraz, home to Shah Cheragh, envisioning marketing strategies that would yield exceptional results.

Touching upon cultural tourism in Fars province, he highlighted the region's abundance of magnificent historical and cultural sites, citing various artifacts and sites like Bishapur inscriptions in Kazerun, Tang-e Chogan, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Persepolis, which depict historical narratives.

Sabet-Eqlidi expressed hope

to undertake various detailed activities to explain these inscriptions and narrate historical events through film and urban element design. He stressed that such efforts would contribute to the development of the tourism economy.

Addressing the priorities of the department, the official emphasized the necessity of placing Sasanian centers on the tourism map. He underscored the importance of creating a growing market for tourism services and the tourism economy.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Sabet-Eqlidi highlighted the depth of the tourism economy, emphasizing the significance of providing services that cater to both domestic tourists and foreign visitors.

The ancient region of Fars, also

spelled Pars, or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital in Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, the capital city of Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from generation to generation. It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794. Moreover, Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital.

Afif-Abad Garden, the Tomb of Hafez, the Tomb of Sa'di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists. The ancient city is also home to some magnificent historical gardens, such as Bagh-e Narenjestan and Eram Garden, which are top tourist destinations both for domestic and international sightseers.

Sunni lawmakers laud cultural coexistence, minister's efforts for inclusivity

TEHRAN – A recent gesture from a group of Sunni lawmakers in the Iranian Parliament has highlighted Iran's long-standing legacy of ethnic and religious coexistence.

In a letter addressed to Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili, the MPs acknowledged his commitment to considering the capacities of the Sunni community within various cultural and artistic domains.

The representatives commended Iran as a historical testament to harmonious cohabitation

among diverse ethnicities, emphasizing its embodiment of the constitutionally accepted principle of cultural diversity.

"Iran, the land of cultural coexistence for centuries, stands as a testament to peaceful cohabitation of diverse ethnicities alongside each other, recalling the accepted principle in the Constitution," the letter affirmed, reflecting on the nation's enduring commitment to fostering unity amid diversity.

They further illuminated Iran's unique trajectory, wherein the peaceful coexistence of

various religions and ethnicities has not merely been a norm but has evolved into a global model of harmonious cohabitation. The lawmakers lauded this mosaic of coexistence as a blueprint that has continued to strengthen national and Islamic unity, fostering resilience against divisive forces.

Moreover, the lawmakers expressed a collective hope that the Islamic world could overcome the challenges imposed by global arrogance seeking to sow discord among Islamic nations.

Tehran exhibit unveils hidden treasures of 19th-century photography

TEHRAN – A mesmerizing display of 19th-century photography techniques, image retouching, and printing methods has been unveiled at an exhibition titled "Hidden Treasures".

The exhibit, a collaboration between the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, and the UNESCO-designated Golestan Palace, will be running through January 18th at the Golestan Palace's photography atelier.

Organizers of the exhibition aim to shed light on a new perspective of historical glass plate photography, marking the foundational moments of photography in Iran.

To mark the inauguration, a specialized session was held where Mohammadreza Tahmasbpour, a researcher, writer, and photographer,

introduced the research potential present within the albums of the Golestan Palace and proposed strategies for easier access to the artworks and available information within this collection.

Another speaker, Sahar Nouhi, presented a detailed examination of historical retouching in glass plate negative photography during the Qajar era. Nouhi clarified the techniques and materials employed in historical retouching, counting the reasons behind these modifications.

The exhibition showcases the results of Sahar Nouhi's research on historical retouching in Qajar-era glass plate negative photography preserved in Golestan Palace.

Nouhi highlighted, "Historical retouching in glass plate negative photography contributes significantly

to the historical and artistic identity of these valuable artworks.

"Unfortunately, due to a lack of awareness about their existence, as well as the materials and techniques used, they are highly vulnerable to damage."

According to organizers, the exhibition stands as a testament to the dedication of researchers and experts to unveil the concealed brilliance of historical photography techniques, offering a rare glimpse into the artistry and technical mastery of 19th-century photographers.

The palace complex once served as the official residence of Qajar monarchs who ruled Persia (Iran) between 1789 and 1925. It exemplifies the architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar epoch, as well as the introduction of European

motifs and styles into Persian art.

Experts say it displays a remarkable mixture of ancient Persian and contemporary European architectural styles, which characterized much of Iranian art in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Golestan Palace embodies a successful integration of earlier Persian crafts and architecture with Western influences. Over the past two centuries, it has become a center of arts and architecture, a source of inspiration for Iranian artists and architects to this day.

Currently, the complex consists of eight key palace structures mostly used as museums and the eponymous gardens, a green shared center of the complex, surrounded by an outer wall with gates.

Archaeologists found an extraordinary pyramid that's apparently 27,000 years old

A new study claims that the Gunung Padang site in Indonesia is a "prehistoric pyramid" from up to 27,000 years ago.

The Djoser pyramid in Egypt is known as the oldest in the world at 4,700 years old. A new paper published in Archaeological Prospection calls that record into question with the strong claims of a "prehistoric pyramid" in Indonesia that is up to 27,000 years old. Not everyone is buying the research, however, and now the journal has launched an investigation into the study.

"I'm surprised [the paper] was published as is," Flint Dibble, archaeologist at Cardiff University, told Nature, which first reported the investigation into the paper. Dibble's questions pertain not so much the data from the Gunung Padang site, but rather to the conclusions drawn by the authors.

The paper's authors write that they have "compelling evidence of a complex and sophisticated megalithic site." Using seismic tomography, the researchers have come to believe that hidden cavities or chambers

exist, showing the "presence of multi-layer constructions."

The Gunung Padang site in West Java, Indonesia, includes a raised earth site. If underneath the soil lies human-built caverns and rooms, it would offer up not only the oldest known pyramid by thousands of years, but also the oldest known use of stone masonry. This would completely undo previous beliefs surrounding civilization advancement in the Paleolithic era.

"These findings offer valuable insights into the construction history of Gunung Padang," the authors wrote in the paper, "shedding light on the engineering capabilities of ancient civilizations during the Paleolithic era."

To arrive at their conclusions, the authors used ground-penetrating technologies to uncover what they believe are four layers of construction that include rooms throughout differing phases of build. The first layer is dated to 27,000 to 16,000 years ago, and was done by carbon dating the soil drilled from the site. They also believe that the technology shows sculpted stonework—

"meticulously sculpted," to be exact—and the arranging of rocks in a planned way.

But there's two giant question marks. Does all this technology—and no visual evidence—really show the work of human (or hominin) hands, or could the ground have shifted over thousands of years, forming layers that left voids in the soil? And what does it mean that no researchers have found evidence of human activity in that area dating that far back, let alone any record of known organized settlements or societies?

Dibble, according to Nature, claims that the natural movement and weathering of rocks can sculpt stone and roll down hills to make it appear planned. But Danny Hilman Natawidjaja, geologist at the National Research and Innovation Agency in Indonesia and study co-author, told Nature that the stones were neatly arranged, shaped, and too large for easy natural transportation. Dibble counters that there's no evidence to believe that the rocks were shaped by humans.

(Source: popularmechanics.com)

Iran in frames



Foreign travelers pose for photo during their visits to Si-o-se Pol, a 17th-century arch bridge in Isfahan, central Iran.

Pharmaceutical companies to access East African markets

TEHRAN –Eleven Iranian pharmaceutical manufacturing companies have taken important steps towards presenting their products in East African markets.

Thanks to the efforts of the Iran House of Innovation and Technology (iHiT) in Kenya and the support of the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, 13 different production lines in 11 pharmaceutical companies were inspected by the ministry of health of Kenya and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certificates were issued, IRIB reported.

The move plays an important role in strengthening the status of Iran's pharmaceutical industry in the region.

In January 2021, Iran opened its house of innovation and technology in Kenya and the first center in Africa.

The center serves as a base for the creation of innovative ideas, the commercialization of these ideas, and the export of Iranian knowledge-based products and services to the East African market.

Africa welcomes Iranian medical equipment, medicine

On December 19, the deputy health minister of Libya met with the head of the Food and Drug Administration of Iran, discussing ways to cooperate on producing medical and pharmaceutical products.

During the meeting, which was held in Tehran, the officials also agreed on sharing experiences in research, education, blood transfusion, emergency services, and technology.

"Iran is a leading country in the field of health so we are ready to cooperate with Iran in various fields of health and medicine," IRNA quoted the Libyan official as saying.

He added Libya is interested in benefiting from Iran's experience and knowledge in the field of pharmaceutical production, medical equipment, and research.



Heidar Mohammadi, Mohammadi, for his part, referring to the production of 99 percent of medicines in Iran, said, "Iran has achieved self-sufficiency in the field of medicine, medical equipment, food products, cosmetics and powdered milks."

"Currently, six vaccines for coronavirus are being produced by Iranian scientists, and we are ready to jointly produce these vaccines, medicines, and other devices in the health field, as well as transferring technology to Libya," he added. He went on to say, "The export of Iranian vaccines to neighboring countries shows Iran's capabilities in the field of medicine and pharmaceutical production."

Moreover, Mohammad Hossein Niknam, the deputy health minister for international cooperation, highlighting the importance of health in the world said, "Iran is ready to identify fields of cooperation and expand collaboration in the field of health with Libya."

The parties put forward some proposals to further cooperation in the field of health. These proposals are to be reviewed and implemented in the coming days in meetings, during the visits of the delegation of the Libyan Ministry of Health to Iran's health centers.

In July, Iranian knowledge-based companies concluded contracts for exporting medical equipment and medicine to Africa.

Amir-Hossein Mir-Abadi, an official

with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, said the African market is an attractive opportunity for Iranian knowledge-based companies, IRNA reported.

Referring to the recent visit of President Ebrahim Raisi to Africa, Mir-Abadi said works are underway for exporting 50 types of medical equipment and 10 medicines to Africa.

He touched on the President's visit to the House of Innovation and Technology of Iran in Kenya, saying: "The capacities and capabilities of Iranian knowledge-based companies for exporting technological products were greatly appreciated."

He also pointed to the establishment of a medical and pharmaceutical equipment exhibition with the presence of more than 10 Iranian knowledge-based companies in Kenya.

He added that two Iranian companies succeeded in concluding contracts in this exhibition.

The process of registering more than 50 medical devices and two drugs for export to Kenya has been done, and the registration and process of exporting more than 10 other drugs to this country is in the implementation phase, he explained.

He listed agriculture, food, and livestock industries as among the fields that were highly regarded and needed by African countries.

"In his speech, the president of Ken-

ya mentioned Iran's House of Innovation and Technology several times and the infrastructure created for technological cooperation between Iranian and Kenyan companies."

During his visits to Kenya and Uganda, President Raisi emphasized the need to bolster technological cooperation, Mir-Abadi stressed.

In Uganda, an exhibition for knowledge-based products was opened. In practice, an infrastructure has been created for boosting the export of knowledge-based products and the display of Iranian capabilities, the official added.

"The products presented there were mostly in the field of the food industry, agricultural industry, medicine and medical devices, chemical products and catalysts, building materials and products related to the field of livestock and poultry, as well as medicines and herbal supplements."

In September 2022, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said that Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and that this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy.

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries, which shows an improvement of 60 steps compared to 2014, Younes Panahi, the deputy health minister for research and technology, has announced.

In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

The national budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 21, has increased the health sector's budget by 29 percent compared to the current year's budget.

The bill has proposed a budget of 2,730 trillion rials (about \$6.8 billion) for the Ministry of Health, IRNA reported.

Over 500,000 illegal Afghans deported

TEHRAN – Some 520,000 illegal Afghan migrants have been deported through the Dogharon border in northeastern Khorasan Razavi province.

These undocumented Afghan nationals were identified across the country in the last 9 months, and sent back to their country via the Dogharon border, IRNA quoted Majid Shoja, the commander of Khorasan Razavi province's border police, as saying.

No permission to stay

In October 2023, Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said unauthorized foreigners have no permission to stay in the country and receive services, IRIB reported.

Paying a visit to a center for organizing immigrants in the city of Karaj, he added illegal foreign nationals will be identified and sent to specific camps and then returned to their homeland.

"Illegal foreign immigrants are treated with dignity even though they have entered Iran's borders illegally," Vahidi added.

In November 2023, Abdollah Mobini, the head

of Iran's immigration organization said, "Iran has no longer the capacity to accept new immigrants, and if the international community does not bear the responsibility for supporting refugees in Iran, most of them will migrate to European countries."

The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently host to one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world, the majority of whom are Afghan refugees.

The country is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Today, more than 500,000 Afghan children- including undocumented Afghans and those who have newly arrived in Iran following the Taliban-takeover-are benefitting from Iran's inclusive education policies, one of the most progressive in the world.

Many of the refugees living in Iran are second and third-generation, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Services beyond expectations

Iran's generous and exceptional services for refugees despite unfair economic sanctions has

exceeded expectations and international responsibilities, an official with the National Organization for Migration has said.

Behzad Moradipour made the remarks in the meeting of the Almaty Process Experts Group which was held on November 29, 2023, in Baku, Azerbaijan. Representatives from eight states were participating in the event.

Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Turkmenistan are currently members of the Almaty process. Iran and Pakistan attended the meeting as observers.

Moradipour, who represented Iran in this meeting, highlighted that the country has been directly affected by the consequences of the massive influx of millions of refugees and foreigners for more than four decades.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has made a very generous effort to provide services to millions of refugees and foreign nationals despite difficult living conditions and oppressive economic sanctions imposed on the country, he said.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols to protect teachers, staff, and students against the coronavirus pandemic.

The opening bell of the new academic year was rung symbolically by President Hassan Rouhani at a girls' high school in downtown Tehran.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, said, more than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country.

This year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance, he noted, highlighting, all schools should strictly follow the health regulations so that the students are protected.

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

زنگ آغاز سال تحصیلی به صورت ارتباط تصویری در مراسمی به دستور حسن روحانی رئیس جمهور در دبیرستانی در تهران نواخته شد.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.

وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است.

SOCIETY

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

11th intl. IRAN LAB EXPO kicks off



From page 1 ► "Medical engineering and biomaterials"; "Industrial test equipment"; "Calibration services" and "Educational and laboratory equipment for schools" are among different sections of the technological exhibition.

Exporting laboratory equipment to neighboring countries on agenda

On December 30, Vice President for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi, said the country is planning to export laboratory equipment to neighboring countries.

Knowledge-based companies started to meet the country's technological needs in the past decade, he said, adding that the Vice Presidency supported the companies to manufacture laboratory equipment, Mehr News Agency reported.

Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products, Dehqani-Firouzabadi noted.

Foreign delegations that attend Iranian exhibitions will be familiarized with the country's capabilities, he said, adding that the export of knowledge-based products was \$300 million in the year to March 2021, but increased to \$600 million the year after.

The export has surged to \$1.5 billion so far in the current Iranian calendar year and is forecast to hit \$2 billion by the end of the year, he said.

Exports of medicine, medical equipment sharply rise

Iran has experienced a significant rise in exports of medicine and medical equipment in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year that started on March 21, 2023.

"Exports of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment grew by 300 percent in the first four months of the year," IRNA quoted

Heidar Mohammadi, the head of the Food and Drug Administration, as saying on August 13.

Last year, some 1,060 trillion rials (about \$2.1 billion) worth of medicine and medical equipment were manufactured inside the country, he added.

Around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market is produced by Iranian companies, he highlighted.

Iran plans to increase the exports of medicine to around \$200 million in the current year from some \$60 million last year, Mohammadi said in April.

Currently, the production of medicine, medical equipment, and powdered milk is supported by subsidies. So, their exports were very limited, but it is hoped that their exports will increase next year, he explained.

Nine innovative technological products will be unveiled at IRAN LAB EXPO 2024.

Referring to the shortage of 100 drug items in the country, he said: "Currently, nearly one and a half percent of the country's pharmaceutical need is imported. Along with domestic production, it is done as soon as the domestic production meets the demand."

A total of 227 knowledge-based firms are supplying medical equipment for health centers across the country, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Iranian-made pharmaceuticals are currently exported to Canada, Japan, and Europe, Faramarz Ekhteraei, chairman of the Iranian Pharmaceutical Industries Syndicate said, emphasizing that 72 percent of the country's pharmaceutical raw materials are domestically produced.

Some 40 percent of the country's total pharmaceutical exports are biotechnology products, a member of the board of directors of the Association of Manufacturers and Exporters of Medical Biotechnology Products said.



Salt harvesting from Lake Urmia

Drying of parts of Lake Urmia has exposed to salt domes in various areas of the lake. Lake Urmia, in the northwest of the country, was twice as large as Luxembourg and the largest salt-water lake in West Asia.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Heaven lies beneath the feet of mothers.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:09 Evening: 17:23 Dawn: 5:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:14 (tomorrow)

Inspector Maigret's new detective novel hits bookstores



TEHRAN-The Persian translation of “The Two-Penny Bar,” a detective novel by Belgian writer Georges Simenon featuring his character Inspector Jules Maigret, has been released in the Iranian book market.

Jahan-e Ketab Publishing House, based in Tehran, has published the book translated by Abbas Agahi, as a new volume in the ‘Neqab’ (mask) series, which focuses on detective stories, Mehr reported.

In the story, Maigret visits Lenoir, a condemned man in prison, who says he knows someone at the Two-Penny Bar, who is equally deserving of the death penalty. Lenoir further reveals that he and an accomplice had witnessed a man whom they knew from the bar take a body and dump it in the Canal Saint-Martin. Maigret is unable to find the bar, but later he chances to overhear a man mention it; following him, the inspector discovers he is M. Basso, a married businessman, who leads him to a party at an inn on the Seine at Morsang. Mingling with the crowd, Maigret is invited to join the party by James, an English bank clerk, and discovers they meet regularly there at weekends. Now part of the set, Maigret returns the following week, where one of the men, Feinstein, is shot dead by Basso after an altercation. Now Maigret has two deaths to investigate; he also uncovers blackmail, murder, and financial irregularities in the social set before unmasking the murderer.

Simenon describes Maigret's view of the turning point in an investigation; where it goes from a frustrating search for any lead

at all, to the point where they start to come thick and fast.

He also describes an investigation as a matter of painstaking labor and good luck; how after instigating a county-wide search for a suspect, he was eventually found when an off-duty policeman became suspicious of an old woman buying much more ham than she would need for herself.

Georges Simenon (1903-1989) was one of the most prolific writers of the twentieth century, who published nearly 200 novels, over 150 novellas, several autobiographical works, numerous articles, and scores of pulp novels written under more than two dozen pseudonyms. Altogether, about 550 million copies of his works have been printed.

He is best known, however, for his 75 novels and 28 short stories featuring Commissaire Maigret. The Maigret novels were translated into all major languages and several of them were turned into films and radio plays. Two television series (1960-63 and 1992-93) have been made in Great Britain.

Abbas Agahi, 83, is a prominent translator of French literature. A graduate of Paris-Sorbonne University, he has translated over 80 books, mainly works of detective fiction, which is a subgenre of crime fiction and mystery fiction in which an investigator or a detective investigates a crime, often murder.

The veteran translated has rendered works by various authors into Persian, including George Simenon, Frederic Dard, Michel Bussi, Olivier Norek, Jean-Christophe Grangé, Fred Vargas, Stanislas-Andre Steeman, Pierre Boileau and Thomas Narcejac among others.

Neqab series of Jahan-e Ketab Publishing House is a rich collection of more than 100 books in the genres of crime, thriller and mystery. Although most of the works are from French literature, there are translations from English and German literature as well.

Cartoon of Day



2024

Cartoonist: AGO from Germany

Cartoon exhibition on Zionists' crimes in Gaza launched in Tehran

From Page 1 ► In nearly three months, the offensive has wreaked more destruction than the razing of Syria's Aleppo between 2012 and 2016, Ukraine's Mariupol, or, proportionally, the Allied bombing of Germany in World War II. It has killed more civilians than the United States-led coalition did in its three-year campaign against the ISIS group.

The Israeli military campaign in Gaza, experts say, also now sits among the deadliest in recent history, killing more than 21,500 people and wounding 55,000.

The Israeli army claims it has been targeting Hamas fighters, who carried out a deadly attack called Operation al-Aqsa Storm inside Israel on October 7. Some 1,200 people were killed in that attack which triggered the current phase of the conflict.

Hamas says its attack was in response to continued Israeli blockade of Gaza and expansion of settlement in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Palestinians see the Israeli settlements – which are considered illegal under international law – to be the biggest hurdle in the realization of their future state.

But experts have criticized Israel for bombing Gaza – which is one of



the most densely populated areas in the world housing 2.3 million people on 365sq km of land.

Media reports and rights groups say an overwhelming majority of those killed are civilians – more than 70% of them children, women and elderly. More than 90% of the enclave's population is now displaced, with aid groups warning of hunger and outbreaks of disease. Delivery of aid has been restricted by Israel, worsening the crisis.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military has said little about what kinds of bombs and artillery it is using in Gaza. From blast fragments found

on-site and analyses of strike footage, experts are confident that the vast majority of bombs dropped on the besieged enclave are US-made.

The “Operation al-Aqsa Storm” cartoon exhibition will run until January 20 at the Iranian House of Cartoon located at No. 44, Golnabi St., Shariati St.

This is the second exhibition on this issue in Tehran since the beginning of the ongoing war in Gaza. The Latin America Cartoon and Caricature Exhibition was held for about two months at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA).

The cartoon and caricature exhibition, which concluded last week, showcased works by 400 artists from 15 countries in Latin America, including Argentina, Ecuador, Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, Cuba, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

The artworks on display dealt with the various subjects including Operation al-Aqsa Storm as well as anti-arrogance, anti-Zionist, racial discrimination, soft war, food scarcity, water crises, cultural invasion, and environmental issues.

ECO Cultural Institute in Tehran hosts “Afghanistan's Night”

From Page 1 ► “The country has gifted the world with renowned literature and art, which continue to inspire humanity today.”

During the event, both Afghan writer Seyyed Askar Mousavi and Afghan calligrapher Mohammad Mehdi Mirzai took the stage to discuss the vital importance of the Persian language and art within the ECO region.

Additionally, Afghan poets including Kazem Kazemi, Ali Madd Rezvani, Tahmasabi Khorasani, Ehsan Badakhshani, Zahra Hosseinzadeh, Mozghan Faramesh, and Zahra Zahedi captivated the audience with their beautiful poetry readings.

The ceremony also saw the delivery of a message from Afghan artist Salman Ali Uruzgani, which was eloquently presented by Afghan poet and writer Zainab Bayat. Following this, the music group led by Habib Mansouri enchanted the attendees with live Afghan music.



The event concluded with the opening of an exhibition featuring 43 captivating calligraphy and gilding works by esteemed masters such as Mohammad Mehdi Mirzai,

Salman Ali Uruzgani, and Shakira Alami. This exhibition will be open to the public until January 15, at the ECO Cultural Institute's premises.

Pune Intl. Film Festival picks films from Iran

TEHRAN-Six Iranian films will go on screen at the 22nd edition of Pune International Film Festival, which will be held in the Indian city from January 18 to 25.

“Terrestrial Verses”, co-directed by Alireza Khatami and Ali Asgari, will go on screen at the main section of the festival.

The film begins with a controversy over the naming of an infant and moves through stories of everyday people facing off against the system, from a frustrated, politically censored filmmaker to a teenage girl who – in one of the film's most daring episodes – confronts her school after being caught with a boy on a motorcycle.

“Winners” by Iranian-British director Hassan Nazer, “Achilles” by Farhad Delaram, “The Wastetown” by Ahmad Bahrami, “Dustland” by Kazem Daneshi, and “Ropewalker Memories” by Hamed Rajabi will be competing at the Global Cinema section of the event.

Set in a poor Iranian village, the story of “Winners” is about children who work hard to support their families. Their little hands scour through massive piles of junk in search of hidden treasures. One day, nine-year-old Yahya and his friend Leila find a precious golden statue. Sharing a passion for cinema, Yahya's boss Nasser Khan decides to help them find the owner as the curious item leads Yahya on an adventure-filled journey that doubles as a loving ode to the history of Iranian cinema.

The 2023 drama, “Achilles”, tells the story of a young filmmaker who currently works in a hospital and takes a mental patient out for a short ride to find out who she really is. Now he has to decide whether to run away with her or take her back to the hospital.

The 98-minute “The Wastetown” tells the story of Bemani, a woman who has spent

ten years in jail for killing her husband. Her child was taken away from prison and allegedly given to her husband's family. Temporarily released, she immediately starts looking for her son.

“Dustland” is about truth and secrets. The truth carries a heavy burden, whether it is said that it sets off a storm, or it remains in the heart that disturbs man. Between telling the truth and revealing a secret or being silent and expedient, one is preferable to the other.

“Ropewalker Memories” is about a young man and his father, who share a close living arrangement in the same apartment. Despite his son's objections, the father invites sex workers into their home. One day, he brings home a woman who refuses to leave. Both father and son join forces to persuade her to depart. However, when she finally departs of her own accord, her absence becomes unbearable

for the two men.

The festival will also screen “Kiarostami at Work” by Seifollah Samadian at its documentary section.

A 2023 production, “Kiarostami at Work” is a 76-minute documentary about the late Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, which is directed, edited, and produced by Kiarostami's longtime friend and collaborator Samadian.

“Kiarostami at Work” is a documentary showcasing the filmmaker's boundless passion for work and creativity. The film features images captured by Samadian during their thirty years of friendship and travels together, as well as behind-the-scenes footage of “Shirin” and “Certified Copy” by the late Hamideh Razavi, and “Taste of Cherry” by Bahman Giarostami. Juliette Binoche, Martin Scorsese, and some others have also shared insights into Kiarostami's creative works in the movie.

Griselda Gambaro's “The Walls” at Shahrzad Theater

TEHRAN-The play “The Walls” written by Argentine writer Griselda Gambaro and directed by Siavash Mohandesi is on stage at Shahrzad Theater Complex in Tehran.

Mohandesi also acts along with Amir Vaezi and Taha Shadfar in the 1963 play, which is a chilling prediction of the violence, disappearances and state torture that haunted Argentina during the Dirty War military dictatorship, which lasted from 1976 to 1983.

It is about a young man who is detained in a room where nothing is what it seems and is slowly stripped of his belongings, perceptions and sense of self. His captors tell him they're worried he might be Ruperto de Hentzau — the name of a villain in a novel. Until they can verify that he isn't, he can't leave this room. The main character — known only as the Young Man — hears distant screams in other parts of the house. But his captors promise him there's no reason to be alarmed. After all, this isn't a prison.

Gambaro, now 95, is one of the most influential Latin American writers of her generation. Her novels, plays, short stories, story tales, essays and novels for teenagers often concern the political violence in her home country that would develop into the Dirty War. One recurring theme is the desaparecidos and the attempts to recover their bodies and memorialize them.

“The Walls” will be performed until January 3 at Shahrzad Theater Complex located at No. 74, Neauphle-le-Château St., Hafez St.

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

JANUARY 3, 2024

Special issue on 4th anniversary of
General Soleimani assassination in English & Arabic

THE
ARC

*How Gen. Soleimani
designed a new
regional geometry*



The symbol of the power and grandeur of the Iranian nation



By Hojatoleslam Mohammad Qomi
Head of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization

One who emerges victorious from the test that evaluates their heartfelt faith in God can become the commander of the army of the righteous. Faith isn't realized merely through performance, but rather requires a transformation of love within the heart, as believer is kind to those around them and their love is intense.

Therefore, the most fundamental divine test is faith, which is related to the heart and how much love one holds for others. If someone holds love for God and His creatures in their heart, this love spreads to all those around them because if faith exists, it does not remain confined to the human heart but manifests in actions and relationships.

A believer doesn't confine themselves to the superficial aspects of life and is one who delves deep and possesses keen insight. Hence, in difficult times, they are patient and steadfast, someone who can be the standard-bearer of the army of the righteous and defend the truth.

If we look around ourselves, we'll be able to find these qualities fully embodied in one of the greatest figures and symbols of our Islamic Revolution, and how beautifully this embodiment exists in the minds of all people. A commander that the funeral for his sacred body, after a cowardly and villainous assassination by the invading and criminal American enemy, became a saga of the presence of all his loving admirers.

Those who held love for Hajj Qasem in their hearts saw him not only as a military commander but also as a member of their own family and were always concerned about him. People deeply acknowledged his authority, efforts, brilliance, and selflessness. Our lucky comrade, martyr Hajj Qasem Soleimani, fought for what he believed to be right purely out of his faith in God. He considered the Islamic Republic a sanctuary, and did not rest a single day to make sure that this sanctuary is preserved; this is indeed an embodiment of heartfelt faith and divine love that blazed in his heart.

Though it has been a few years since he was martyred, we are still as devastated as we used to be, and we are mourning his martyrdom as it happened yesterday. Martyr Hajj Qasem Soleimani deserves our loyalty, and we will not be able to emerge prosperous as Muslims until we get to properly honor him and his endeavors.

Hajj Qasem Soleimani is the symbol of the power and grandeur of the Iranian nation. One of our very important responsibilities is to have experts elaborate on the different dimensions of Hajj Qasem's personality. He exuded the different qualities of the Iranian-Islamic identity which we are all trying to achieve. Hajj Qasem is a phenomenon and a gem that has become part of the national identity of all Iranians. People believed in his sincerity and courage, and his astonishing funeral procession was an embodiment of people's efforts to uphold the Iranian identity.

The youth of our beloved and Islamic land, who have grown up with the love of Martyr Qassem Soleimani, have seen in him, his image, and his whispered words "resistance," "sacrifice," "struggle," and "devotion" to the defense of Allah's sanctuary. They will try to continue his path with even greater motivation and complete faith in the realization of God's promise, as they thirst to fight and avenge the criminals of the world.

We seek guidance from his great spirit so that we can take a few steps on this path. The school of thought of Hajj Qasem must be talked about everywhere, and we should take it as our responsibility to spread his values.

Architect

How Gen. Soleimani designed a new regional geometry

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - Since the early 2000s, the United States has poured trillions of dollars and deployed thousands of troops into West Asia, all in pursuit of its grand vision for a "new Middle East." This vision, also referred to as the "great Middle East," envisions a tightly integrated regional security architecture, comprising "democratic" nations aligned with the United States.

While a few countries, such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia, appeared to fit the "vibrant democracy" model Washington sought, a significant number of states in West Asia were deemed in need of substantial transformation.

To bring this ambitious plan to fruition, Washington initiated a series of invasions and lent support to insurgencies in countries perceived as disagreeable. It directly engaged in military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq, while stoking the flames of terrorism and chaos in Syria and Libya. Nations that proved resistant to direct confrontation or were not susceptible to destabilization were met with punishing economic sanctions, akin to the measures imposed on Iran.

In its endeavor to reshape the entire West Asia, the U.S. needed to eliminate any groups or movements seeking to challenge Washington's dominance. Over time, various forces emerged in the

region, launching attacks against American positions in a bid to expel U.S. troops from their respective nations. These fighters posed an increasingly significant threat to American interests, especially when a military leader succeeded in uniting and coordinating them more closely. Iranian General Qassem Soleimani swiftly became a target for the U.S. after revitalizing the fragmented resistance across the region. Fighters in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen began to leverage the commander's expertise, utilizing his guidance to reorganize into steadfast bulwarks standing against the U.S. and its allies, who sought to exploit their lands, wealth, and resources.

That's why when in January of 2020, Washington decided to assassinate the general, it struggled to justify the act based on international law. The U.S. assassinated General Soleimani on Iraqi soil, while he was there for a diplomatic mission. It did it in cold blood and did not think twice about violating the laws it so vehemently bloats, as it believes itself and its allies to be above every law and moral standard.

With the elimination of the biggest supporter of resistance forces, the U.S. saw a big opportunity to initiate the final phases of its transition toward the "new Middle East". The biggest issue of the Muslim world, the Palestinian cause, now needed to be addressed. As apart from resistance groups, Arab states in the region had

shown little to no regard towards the Palestinian issue, the U.S. began its efforts to sideline Palestinians through the Abraham Accords. The UAE and Bahrain gladly embraced the deal, and normalized their relations with Israel, while Saudi Arabia awaited its turn, feeling compelled to temper its overt alignment with Tel Aviv due to its custodianship of Islam's most sacred sites.

However, as a normalization agreement with Riyadh appeared imminent, Palestinians returned to the center of attention. A successful operation conducted by the Hamas resistance movement on October 7 dealt a heavy blow to the Israeli regime and sent shockwaves across Western political circles, which had presumed the resistance weakened following the assassination of General Soleimani. And as Israel embarked on an unrelenting bombing campaign against the Gaza Strip, other resistance groups such as Yemen's Ansarullah and Lebanon's Hezbollah swiftly came to the aid of the Palestinians.

The U.S. now watches in awe as resistance once again gains regional and even international prominence. Washington and Israel find themselves struggling to give a meaningful military response to resistance forces' attacks, as they continue to lose popularity among the masses. General Soleimani is in a fight to the finish. Even though he is not here today, his architecture for peace and security in West Asia is not going anywhere.

General Soleimani pushed for unity among Iraqi Shias, Sunnis and Kurds: Ammar Hakim



BAGHDAD - Ammar Hakim, leader of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, calls Lieutenant General Soleimani a kind-hearted person who established good interactions with all Iraqi religious and ethnic groups, including Shiites, Sunnis, and Kurds.

"His heart, inherently Islamic, remained open to all, demonstrating a humane and compassionate nature," Hakim tells the Tehran Times as Iran is marking the fourth anniversary of his martyrdom by the Trump administration.

Hakim also says General Soleimani, an anti-terror hero who led the IRGC Quds Force, was "universally recognized as a charismatic, brave, and revolutionary personality."

Following is the text of the interview:

Can you share your first encounter with Martyr Qassem Soleimani?

In the name of God. Martyr Soleimani was a figure of great prominence, well-known for his significant responsibilities, especially in relation to Iraq. My uncle, Martyr Ayatollah Seyyed Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, and my father, Sayyid Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, were already in contact with him due to the specific tasks and expertise he possessed.

Although I had heard of him, I hadn't met or spoken to him before, as I was deeply immersed in my academic pursuits in Qom.

As the fall of the Ba'ath regime neared and the United States initiated actions against Iraq, it became crucial to strategize for the era after the (Saddam) regime. Filling the political vacuum was a pressing concern, and one of the key aspects was dispatching scholars, missionaries, and preachers. Iraqi society needed to bridge not only the political gap but also the religious and cultural void.

Given my background and expertise, my father approached me, emphasizing the urgency of preparing preachers and clerics from various provinces. He informed me that Hajj Qassem Soleimani's brother had discussed this matter in a meeting, recognizing the need for technical and logistical coordination, including border issues. My father instructed me to liaise with the official party in the Islamic Republic, which was the Quds Force, to address these details.

Shortly after, I received a call on the same day. It marked the initiation of my first direct conversation with Hajj Qassem Solei-

mani, may God have mercy on him.

During our initial phone conversation, we laid the groundwork for our collaboration, and our first face-to-face meeting took place in the presence of Martyr Ayatollah Hakim. The focus of our discussion was centered around the deployment of missionaries. It's worth noting that we had already conducted several meetings two or three months before the (Saddam) regime's collapse.

After the fall of the regime, with the new mission at hand and our presence in Iraq, coupled with Martyr Soleimani's expertise in navigating such situations, our interactions intensified. From 2003 to 2009, my primary responsibility was the cultural sector, and we engaged in numerous meetings, calls, and discussions during this period.

Following Mr. Wald's passing and my transition to Baghdad, where I entered the political arena, our consultations naturally extended into political domains. Over the six years, I occasionally carried messages from my father, and during the tenure of Martyr Ayatollah Hakim, I conveyed messages from him as well. These initial six years were marked by political discussions.

Our relationship endured from 2003 until his penultimate trip. During his stay in Baghdad on that occasion, we met several times. Over these extended years, characterized by mutual feelings, interest, and understanding, our connection extended beyond work matters. Martyr Soleimani exhibited genuine interest in the Hakim family, my late father Sayyid Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, and us. Reciprocally, we shared similar feelings and interest in him. Thus, our bond comprised both emotional and work-related aspects.

Did Martyr Soleimani engage with Iraqi political forces independently, or did he strive to unite and bring them together?

One notable characteristic of Martyr Soleimani was his profound love for his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran. His heart, inherently Islamic, remained open to all, demonstrating a humane and compassionate nature. He consistently prioritized the general interests of Muslims, even in his interactions with Iraqi Arab Shiites.

I've heard accounts from Pakistanis, Afghans, and others who worked with him, attesting to an unparalleled sense of camaraderie. A person's true nature often reveals themselves through their language and actions during extended collaborations. Martyr Soleimani's warm-hearted approach fostered a sense of inclusion. One never felt alienated or perceived him as belonging to another country or ethnicity.

While there may have been some misunderstandings among Sunnis regarding political developments in 2003, his deep and longstanding relationships with Shiites and Kurds spoke volumes about his character and commitment.

Therefore, he initially focused on building

relationships with the Shiites and Kurds, gradually expanding communication bridges as subsequent developments unfolded. Our continuous encouragement aimed at fostering interaction between the Islamic Republic and all Iraqi groups. While relations with Sunnis were initially weak, it was not due to a lack of interest on Martyr Soleimani's part but rather a result of misunderstandings among these political groups. Over time, these relationships evolved, and he actively engaged with all factions during his visits to Iraq.

How did martyr Soleimani deal with the fatwa of jihad against Daesh?

Martyr Soleimani demonstrated remarkable dimensions in his efforts and activities, universally recognized for his charismatic, brave, revolutionary, and pioneering personality. His involvement began immediately after the fall of Mosul, preceding Imam Sistani's fatwa on defensive jihad.



Gen. Soleimani and Ammar Hakim in each other's arms



An immortal national hero



Iranians stand as one of the world's most ancient civilizations, boasting a history replete with tales of triumph and tribulation, ascent and descent, and prosperity and adversity. Amidst enduring some of the most harrowing periods in history, the nation has steadfastly held its ground for millennia.

From enduring invasions by the Greeks and Romans to Arabs, and Mongols, Iran's unique geopolitical position has made it a target for both minor and major aggressors throughout its history, resulting in irreparable damage to its culture, civilization, and national heritage.

Despite having to face off the enemy at times, and coexist with it at some others, the country has valiantly navigated tumultuous tides throughout history, avoiding submersion in the hostile seas of foreign influence seeking to erode its wealth and identity.

One recurring theme across the vast expanse of the nation's borders has always been the emergence of remarkable military leaders. These individuals, some previously obscure, have orchestrated pivotal changes on the battlefield at critical junctures. These men and women have restored glory and peace to their homeland while safeguarding ancestral borders, etching their names in the annals of Iran's history.

Amidst the tumultuous modern era of Iran, where historical patterns often resurface, it is not surprising that such exceptional leaders are destined to emerge once more to protect their nation. Hence, as today's generation delves into the legacies of figures such as Ariobarzanes, Shah Ismail I, and Mirza Kuchik Khan, future generations will certainly come to recognize yet another celebrated military leader in their history lessons: Qassem Soleimani.

While Soleimani is similar to all those figures in terms of his endeavors and patriotism, one thing that makes him stand out among all of Iran's national heroes is the fact that despite his martyrdom, his legacy still goes on.

Early life

The man revered as one of the most influential figures of the 21st century in West Asia, was born in a remote village in the southeastern province of Kerman. He was the third child of his farmer parents, who had a total of five kids.

Like many notable people in history, Soleimani had a difficult upbringing. Though he was raised by loving parents, he had quite a humble background and had to grapple with deprivation for several points in his childhood and teens. As villagers, his family relied on their produce and animals to survive and make money, which proved to be a measly amount at the end of each year.

From the tender age of five, Soleimani spent his days assisting with farm work and tending to livestock as a shepherd. As his annual allotment, he received nothing more than worn-out garments and two sets of dilapidated rubber shoes. Clad in these meager belongings, he diligently tended the sheep, often endangering himself to ensure their well-being. "I used to go to the wild almond forest without fearing the wolves that were waiting to hunt the sheep in the winter," he wrote in his memoir. Yet, amid these struggles, his feet endured the harsh terrain, at times causing his tattered shoes to fail, leaving his toes exposed and bloodied from their encounter with the rugged path.

Once Soleimani reached his teenage years, he figured he had to look for an additional stream of income despite being a student. He left the village for the city after school ended and knocked on the door of every business in town to find a job. "I knocked on the door of every shop, café, restaurant, and workshop asking, 'Do you need a worker?' Everyone would look at my small stature and turn me down."

Despite feeling insignificant and out of place in the bustling urban environment, Soleimani resolved not to yield, seizing every opportunity to assist his parents with their expenses. Ultimately, he secured employment at a construction site, where his daily tasks involved the strenuous lifting of heavy objects. Yet, the gratification of providing for his parents eclipsed every hardship and struggle he endured. Additionally, the extra income afforded him the chance to acquire possessions he had never previously enjoyed.

"With two rials, I bought a pack of small Minoo biscuits and four bananas for five rials. I enjoyed them. All the tiredness I had been

feeling was gone. It was the first time I ate a banana," he recalled in his memoir.

During his late teens, Soleimani's frail physique underwent a remarkable transformation into a robust and muscular form, attributable to his fervent engagement in Martial Arts and Zurkhaneh—a traditional Iranian sport. This newfound strength and agility empowered him to evade the clutches of the Shah's forces amidst the fervent protests of the days preceding the triumph of the Islamic Revolution. He did end up getting trapped and badly beaten eventually, but soon realized that in order to preserve what he truly valued, he needed to put up a good fight. "I could not move for three days because of the extreme pain, but I felt a new energy in me. The fear of being beaten and tortured had disappeared because I thought to myself that whatever could have happened has already happened."

Beginning of military career

Soleimani ended up working several jobs in the city following his first one at a construction site. But after the Islamic Revolution prevailed, Soleimani was appointed as an honorary member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Kerman in February 1979. It was two years after the onset of the devastating war waged against Iran by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, supported by the U.S., that Soleimani officially joined the IRGC. Despite entering the army at the lowest rank, he eventually assumed a direct role in numerous pivotal operations during the arduous 8-year conflict.

The 23-year Soleimani ended up as the commander of a volunteer force from his home province of Kerman in what became the 41st Sarallah Division. He led several operations against separatists inside Iran, and became familiar with military strategizing pretty early in life.

From the outset of his command, Soleimani appeared impervious to vanity and arrogance. "He was consistently devout, prioritizing his religious duties even in the most arduous moments of the war. His conduct also astonished many; he treated everyone, including prisoners of war, with the same respect, ensuring the dignity of every individual under his command," remarked General Gholamreza Baghbani, a long-time comrade who fought alongside Soleimani for 39 years. "He sustained injuries three times during the war, some of which were severe and required him to temporarily withdraw from the battlefield for recuperation. Yet, I recall he almost abhorred being confined to bed rest; it was as if he felt unsettled resting while aware that his compatriots and people may be in peril," General Baghbani recounted. Despite his numerous accomplishments on the frontlines, Soleimani consistently sought to remain inconspicuous and eschewed personal recognition. "His every action was for the nation; he was unconcerned with personal glory. His sole aim was the safety and security of our country."

First tenure post-war

Soleimani, one of the youngest commanders during the Iran-Iraq war, remained largely unknown after the war in comparison to other generals who had garnered national recognition in the aftermath of the conflict.

Following the war, Soleimani dedicated the next decade to combatting widespread organized crime, including arms and drug trafficking, in the provinces of Kerman and Sistan-Baluchestan.

By 1998, amid Iran's recovery from the aftermath of Saddam's invasion, Soleimani assumed leadership of the IRGC's Quds Force. Although still relatively unknown to the Iranian public at the time, his renown among foreign entities, particularly amidst various warring factions in Afghanistan, was palpable.

Soleimani reportedly played a crucial role in brokering peace in war-torn Afghanistan, mediating between diverse Afghan political groups, and ultimately contributing to the formation of Afghanistan's first post-Taliban government after the 2001 Bonn conference.

Recognizing the importance of regional stability, Soleimani embarked on a mission to secure not only Iran but also its neighboring countries. He extended support to groups and governments in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Palestine, each entangled in prolonged conflicts with either the Israeli regime or occupying U.S. forces. Notably, he played a pivotal role in expelling Israeli forces from Lebanon during the 2006 conflict. Soleimani is also credited with aiding Iraq in regaining its sovereignty following

the U.S. and UK invasion in 2003.

2010s and fight against Daesh

Soleimani, though a longstanding influential figure, rose to nationwide prominence upon his deployment to Syria and Iraq to combat the advancing threat of Daesh terrorists, who had aggressively taken control of vast territories in both nations.

In the face of global horror sparked by Daesh's gruesome acts, including beheadings and immolations showcased in chilling videos, General Soleimani took to the battlefield despite daunting odds.

"When we entered Syria, only 16% of the territories remained outside Daesh's grasp. The outlook was daunting, but General Soleimani instilled in us the belief that we could overcome the terrorists by keeping our spirits high and our faith steadfast," recounted Mohammad Reza Fallah Zadeh, a commander who stood alongside Soleimani in Syria. "He led many operations personally, displaying resolute determination amid adversities. He even lost his father while we were planning one of the missions. I witnessed his tears when alone, but he only projected strength when he came face to face with the soldiers."

Despite all the odds against him, the military leader ended up dismantling every stronghold of Daesh one by one. He eventually defied global expectations in 2017 by accomplishing what seemed to be an absolutely insurmountable task.

Soleimani announced the end of Daesh in a letter to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. While attributing the victory to the power of God, he wrote, "With the liberation of Abu-Kamal, the lowering of the US-Zionist Daesh flag, and the raising of the Syrian flag, as your soldier on the battlefield, I humbly declare the end of the cursed tree's corruption and dominance."

U.S. assassination of Gen. Soleimani

Soleimani's remarkable life was intertwined with extraordinary events, and his passing followed a momentous trajectory. In early January 2020, former U.S. President Donald Trump ordered a drone strike that tragically ended Soleimani's life upon his arrival in Baghdad, Iraq. This targeted killing was widely condemned as a grave transgression of international law, given that it occurred during Soleimani's diplomatic mission in another sovereign nation.

Following this unlawful act, the Trump administration presented a convoluted array of justifications, fostering international discord and disapproval. Reportedly, the decision to carry out this act was intended to appease Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and secure support from the Zionist lobby in the U.S. But more importantly, Soleimani's role in fostering the axis of resistance, standing against U.S. hegemony and exploitation in West Asia, had drawn vehement ire from the U.S. administration.

In the wake of his untimely death, Soleimani was posthumously promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, a testament to his enduring impact. The overwhelming turnout at his funeral cortege underscored his unprecedented public standing, despite his relatively low public profile during his active years as a military leader.

Despite concerted efforts by anti-Iran and Western-backed media outlets to vilify Soleimani, he remains a cherished national hero in the hearts and minds of millions of Iranians.

Resistance forces in 2024

The U.S. may have anticipated that the assassination of Soleimani would diminish Iran's influence in the region and dishearten resistance factions. However, the events of 2023 demonstrated that all such U.S. expectations were fundamentally misplaced.

According to numerous global analysts, 2023 emerged as an exceptional year for the resistance movement. Operation al-Aqsa Storm, spearheaded by Hamas, and the subsequent successful confrontation with Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip, alongside pivotal operations conducted by Yemen's Ansarullah movement in the Red Sea, unequivocally conveyed to the world that, if anything, the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani has galvanized resistance groups, fortifying their resolve and empowerment in combating the U.S. and its allies.



A symbol of struggle and resistance: analyst

‘General Soleimani’s strategic approach fostered a strong bond with the Arab masses’



Mohammed Hassan al-Bahrani, political commentator and former manager of the offices of Al Jazeera and Al Mayadeen TV channels in Tehran, explains how Iranian General Qassem Soleimani possessed the qualities to confront the United States hegemony and the Zionist entity in the region.

Al-Bahrani tells the Tehran Times these qualities include “confidence (that) stemmed from his meticulous preparation for the promised victory, with a key element being the necessity of sincere and sacrificial leadership.”

He also touches on how the martyr Iranian general’s legacy “lies not only in military triumphs but also in his strategic foresight and commitment to fostering unity among Arab nations” as well the martyr’s “meticulous preparation”.

Below is the full text of the interview.

What was the vision of the martyr General Soleimani regarding the conditions for achieving victory over the enemies, especially the American arrogance and the Zionist entity?

Some of the most prominent and powerful qualities of the martyr General Qasem Soleimani include his unwavering faith, dedication, and confidence in the divine victory of Allah for the front of truth against falsehood.

His sincerity and trust emanated from his absolute belief that Allah’s victory is inevitable for the believers, as stated in the holy Quran: “If you support Allah, He will support you and make your foothold firm.”

The late martyr firmly believed that achieving this victory required thorough preparation and readiness for the front of truth against falsehood.

His life and journey reflect his commitment to facing the global powers of arrogance, particularly the United States, and their presence in Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Yemen.

Throughout his two-decade-long leadership of the Quds Force, he confronted discord, division, and terrorism deployed by these arrogant powers in the region.

Martyr Qasem Soleimani had absolute confidence that Allah’s victory for the resistance movements in Iraq was inevitable.

This confidence stemmed from his meticulous preparation for the promised victory, with a key element being the necessity of sincere and sacrificial leadership. His unwavering faith, dedication, and preparedness embodied the qualities essential for achieving the promised victory.

What was the vision of the martyr General Soleimani regarding the conditions for achieving victory over enemies, especially American imperialism and the Zionist entity?

In our countries, whether in Iran or Iraq, with Iran leading, it is crucial to have dedicated leadership in nations supported by Iran, such as Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Yemen, and other places, including Latin America.

These countries have been arenas for confronting enemies, including imperialist powers like the United States and Western nations, along with their followers in the region, including various terrorist groups.

Martyr General Soleimani worked towards achieving several goals, including raising awareness among Islamic populations about the justice of their cause and the need to confront the forces of imperialism.

The divine victory he sought required an understanding of the nature of the confrontation, as achieving triumph involves awareness of the challenges posed by global imperialist powers, led by the United States.

General Soleimani’s journey highlighted his success in raising continuous awareness in the region about the challenges posed by imperialist forces and the terrorism they fostered in Islamic countries.

This was particularly evident in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. His efforts aimed to inform people about the nature of these challenges and the ambitions of imperialist powers, primarily the U.S. administration and how it fostered terrorism in Islamic nations.

How did the late martyr manage to achieve all those successes and victories in various fronts against American imperialism and the Zionist entity?

The late martyr Qassem Soleimani’s remarkable success in this arena can be attributed to his adept cultivation of trust with influential Arab elites. His strategic approach fostered a strong bond with the Arab masses, effectively preparing them to confront common adversaries, including colonial powers, imperial forces, and terrorist factions.

Soleimani’s influence extended across Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon, where he orchestrated notable achievements. In the context of Palestine, a region deeply aware of the Zionist threat, Soleimani played a pivotal role in reinforcing the Palestinian cause.

His support, both in terms of weaponry and financial resources, significantly contributed to the resilience of the Palestinian people in their struggle against Zionist aggression and occupation.

The resilient spirit of resistance instilled by the martyr General Soleimani in our region has borne tangible fruit. Clear victories began to unfold in 2017, as he foresaw the waning influence of terrorism in Syria and Iraq. By the close of 2017 and the onset of 2018, there was a substantial reduction in terrorist activities in both countries.

It is noteworthy that these achievements occurred despite strenuous efforts by the U.S. administration to sow discord and instability in Syria and Iraq.

The martyr Soleimani’s legacy lies not only in military triumphs but also in his strategic foresight and commitment to fostering unity among Arab nations. The impact of his efforts reverberates through the region, leaving a lasting imprint on the geopolitical landscape.

Justice will prevail for martyr Soleimani



By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN- Iran remains steadfastly committed to bringing to justice those responsible for the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, says the head of the Constitutional Council’s Research Institute.

Abbasali Kadkhodaei, a law expert who has also been appointed as the chief of the special committee for legal and international follow-up on the assassination of General Soleimani, says the assassins of the legendary anti-terror commander “will face justice in a fair and impartial court.”

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Kadkhodaei says General Soleimani was a “selfless soldier” who dedicated his life to protecting the lives of Iranian civilians and the people of the world in general from the savagery of the terrorist groups, particularly Daesh (ISIS/ISIL).

As a hero whose legacy will never be forgotten, the commander “rescued countless innocent lives, including women and children, from the clutches of death, captivity, and enslavement” by the Daesh terrorist group, Kadkhodaei notes.

The general faced immense challenges but he ultimately succeeded in defeating Daesh and other dangerous terrorist groups in the region.

Following is the full text of the interview:

What steps have been taken to bring the perpetrators of General Soleimani’s assassination to justice?

The name and the memory of this high-ranking martyr will always remain eternal in the hearts of the people of Iran and all the free people of the world at national and international levels.

The special committee for legal and international follow-up of the assassination of Hajj Qassem Soleimani has been diligently pursuing legal action both domestically and internationally. In the domestic realm, the judicial branch has issued an indictment for the defendants, and the trial proceedings are expected to commence shortly after the completion of preliminary formalities.

On the international stage, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been actively engaged in the case for months, preparing Iran’s lawsuit against the United States government at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the provisions of the 1973 Convention on Internationally Protected Persons. Once Iran files its petition, the ICJ will officially begin the proceedings.

What international mechanisms can be used to bring those responsible for the assassination to book?

One of the key international obligations the United States government has undertaken by ratifying the 1973 Convention is to safeguard internationally protected persons from harm. However, the U.S. government blatantly violated this commitment when it assassinated General Soleimani, a high-ranking Iranian official under international protection.

The 1973 Convention also mandates that member states either

prosecute or extradite individuals accused of assassinating internationally protected persons. Articles 6 and 7 of the convention specifically require governments to surrender suspects to the country where the accused is performing their duties, and if not, to initiate legal proceedings.

Despite these clear obligations, the United States has failed to honor its commitments. The 1973 Convention, with its emphasis on articles 7 and 8, serves as the cornerstone for the extradition and prosecution of those involved in General Soleimani’s assassination. However, the U.S. government has blatantly disregarded these obligations, demonstrating a pattern of broken promises.

While the international system’s mechanisms provide limited tools for seeking justice in such instances, the special committee tasked to pursue the General Soleimani case has thoroughly reviewed all available international arrangements. We are committed to taking appropriate action that upholds the dignity of the martyrs and the Iranian people.

How would the establishment of an international court between Iran and Iraq facilitate the prosecution of the perpetrators of General Soleimani’s assassination?

First and foremost, it is the responsibility of governments to bring to justice individuals accused of violating international criminal law. Domestic courts in the country where the crime occurred or the victim’s country of origin generally preside over such cases. These courts are considered the most appropriate ways for investigation and accountability, adhering to the principle of supplemental jurisdiction.

The proposed establishment of a joint international court between Iran and Iraq stems from the potential to maximize international involvement in the prosecution of General Soleimani’s assassins and bolster the legal capacity of the respective nations to address this crime.

A significant impact of the International Court of Iran and Iraq would be the implementation of fair trials for those responsible for the assassination, utilizing international elements to the fullest extent.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge that the establishment of this court hinges upon the political will of the parties involved. By incorporating effective international elements and interventions, the relevant court, acting on behalf of the international community’s interests, can safeguard the rights of Iran and Iraq and ensure that the crime does not go unpunished.

How do you assess the Iraqi government’s cooperation with Iran in pursuing the case of General Soleimani’s assassination?

The Iraqi government, the country where the crime occurred, has been relatively cooperative with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the pursuit of justice for Martyr Soleimani. Currently, a criminal case has been filed against Donald Trump under the charge of terrorist act in the Iraqi judicial system, once the case concludes, a red notice will be issued to him by the international police.

Furthermore, four joint judicial investigation committees have been convened between Iran and Iraq, facilitating the exchange of crucial documents and judicial correspondence. These meetings will undoubtedly aid in advancing the case at both domestic and international levels.

The U.S. has a reputation for acting with impunity and disregarding international norms. In light of this fact, what do you expect to be the outcome of legal action against the U.S. for the assassination?

The U.S.’s disregard for international law is indeed evident in the case of General Soleimani’s assassination, which is ongoing in the international arena. The U.S.’s blatant violation of international conventions and customary laws is undeniable. Despite Iran’s repeated requests through diplomatic channels and in accordance with the 1973 Convention, the U.S. has failed to respond or acknowledge its responsibility for this heinous act.

Iran has pursued a multifaceted legal and political strategy in its international efforts to bring those responsible for General Soleimani’s assassination to justice. However, the U.S. has consistently evaded its obligations and demonstrated a blatant disregard for international norms.

“The perpetrators of this heinous crime (the General Soleimani assassination) will face justice in a fair and impartial court. There is no escape for them.”

Our only hope now lies in the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which can hold the U.S. accountable for its unilateral actions and bring the truth to light.

Despite the U.S.’s attempts to distort the narrative and block justice, there are credible international documents that support Iran’s position. The 2020 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, presented at the 44th session of the Human Rights Council, explicitly states that the assassination of General Soleimani was a “first-of-its-kind” attack against a high-ranking official of a foreign government in the territory of another country, and it constituted an “unjustifiable crime” by the U.S. without any legal grounds.

The endorsement of this report by the Human Rights Council lends

it significant credibility, and serves as a testament to the U.S.’s wrongful act and its international responsibility. Iran has every right to bring its case to the UN General Assembly to expose the U.S.’s crimes and seek justice for General Soleimani.

What international hurdles have hindered the pursuit of justice?

In the international arena, the lack of a government’s consent often impedes legal proceedings against individuals involved in such crimes. This limitation underscores the underdeveloped structure of the international community and its shortcomings in upholding justice.

Furthermore, the U.S.’s substantial influence on international bodies and its propensity to exert pressure and intimidation have presented obstacles in addressing this case through established international bodies. However, the unwavering determination of the Islamic Republic of Iran to overcome the U.S.’s influence and pursue justice has enabled the country to overcome many of these inhibiting factors and advance the case to its current stage.

Despite these obstacles, the Islamic Republic of Iran has utilized its limited tools to their fullest extent, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to bringing those responsible for General Soleimani’s assassination to justice.

How much are you confident that the assassin of General Soleimani and his associate will face justice?

Without a doubt, the unjust killing of Martyr Soleimani and his companions will not be in vain. It will serve as a catalyst for a positive change in the world. The perpetrators of this heinous crime will face justice in a fair and impartial court. There is no escape for them.

It is important to remember that the efforts being made to achieve justice for Martyr Soleimani are like a drop of water in a vast ocean compared to the sacrifices made by this selfless soldier. He dedicated his life and family to protecting his country’s children and the security of people worldwide.

Throughout his illustrious career, spanning over four decades, Martyr Soleimani unwaveringly supported the defenseless people of the region, regardless of their faith or beliefs. He tirelessly safeguarded the well-being of humanity.

In his relentless struggle against injustice, this high-ranking martyr rescued countless innocent lives, including women and children, from the clutches of death, captivity, and enslavement. He faced immense challenges and resisted, ultimately defeating Daesh and other dangerous terrorist groups from the world.

The United States’ brutal act of assassinating Soleimani will forever be etched in the minds of the Iranian people, those in the region, and all freedom-loving individuals around the globe. His legacy will never be forgotten.

The task of bringing those responsible for this terrorist crime to justice is a solemn duty we carry out with unwavering commitment. We will not rest until justice is served and the righteousness of this noble martyr is resoundingly affirmed throughout the world.



How two unique martyrs headed to the history books

General Soleimani and al-Muhandis were the epitome of humanity, compassion, and leadership



When marking the fourth anniversary of the assassination of Iranian Lieutenant-General Qasem Soleimani, commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Quds Force, and Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis, the deputy commander of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), it is not sufficient to just concentrate on the martyrs.

Essentially, one must focus and differentiate between the martyrs and the assassins.

To be more precise, who and what the martyrs represented while taking into consideration who and what the assassins represented.

On one hand, martyr Qasem Soleimani characterized everything the Islamic Republic of Iran stands for.

For instance, when the Daesh terrorist group took over one-third of Iraqi territory and in Iraq's most difficult hour in the summer of 2014, it was General Soleimani who was the first to arrive on the battlefield.

Representing Iran, he traveled to Iraq with other Quds Force military advisors to help the newly formed PMU, the only force that could counter the threat of the Daesh terrorism.

The terrorist group was slaughtering civilians, treating women as slaves, destroying holy Muslim and Christian sites, and other vicious acts based on its stated mission to take control of the entire country and expand its terrorist acts to the region and the world. However, their barbaric acts were put to a halt by the two martyrs.

Alongside Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis, General Soleimani trained the PMU members, raised their morale and fighting spirit, and joined them at times of pain when many were martyred and also at times of celebration after the success of military operations. They together also faced hunger, thirst, and other problems on the battlefield.

Essentially, these two anti-terror icons embedded themselves with the PMU.

Unlike other military commanders who sit back in the barracks and give orders from a place of safety, these two legendary commanders led the forces against Daesh and oversaw the operations from the line of fire.

The social media footage and photos that went viral show they were eating

for in representing the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this is what Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis stood for in representing the PMU under the fatwa (decree) of Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali al-Sistani in Najaf.

Their faith also played a major role in their humanitarian characters.

Whenever Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis led a battle in largely Sunni-populated areas of Iraq, he first held a meeting on the floor with Sunni tribal sheikhs to reassure them that the PMU poses no threat to their people.

This is what drove so many Sunni Muslims to enlist with the PMU.

However, these two icons were assassinated in drone strikes on January 3, 2020, upon the order of Donald Trump, who was occupying the White

The names of General Soleimani and al-Muhandis will go down in the history books as the commanders who defeated Daesh in three years while U.S. commanders were saying it would take ten years to finish the job.

simple food, sitting under the heat of summer or cold of winter, and sleeping or resting in the deserts where they planned military operations under fire. They were the epitome of humanity, compassion, and leadership.

This is what General Soleimani stood

House at the time.

Donald Trump openly declared he had ordered the drone strikes in the vicinity of Baghdad International Airport. He gave explanations as to why he had ordered the strikes, which were all lies.

One only has to look at how the U.S.

has dealt with Iraq over the past two decades.

Putting aside its ongoing illegal occupation and violating its land and airspace, the U.S. has left a dark stain on Iraqi society.

The United States' invasion of Iraq in 2003 is replete with many crimes and scandals. The U.S. itself has admitted that during its occupation of the country, it committed numerous crimes against Iraqi civilians.

The U.S. military destroyed the country's vital infrastructure and other services, imprisoned hundreds of thousands, and conducted barbaric forms of torture against Iraqis, both men and women.

The scandalous treatment of American troops against Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib, the gang rape of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl along with the murder of her family by drunken soldiers in Mahmudiyah will stay in the memory of the world. The list of American crimes in Iraq is endless.

This is the same United States before it assassinated General Soleimani and Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis.

By the will of the Iraqi resistance, the Americans were kicked out of the country and their dark occupation came to an end in 2011.

However, based on the admissions of Trump and his secretary of state and spy chief Mike Pompeo, as well as high-ranking American military commanders, the U.S. created Daesh, which experts say was the pretext the Penta-

gon used to reoccupy Iraq.

With the creation of Daesh, Washington put Iraq under an existential threat.

The list of American crimes in Iraq is endless.

Daesh did not operate as an army, so U.S. airstrikes to allegedly fight them only reduced Iraqi cities to rubble. It also allowed Daesh to flourish with more Takfiri extremists joining the group. The U.S. is responsible for all the crimes that Daesh committed in Iraq.

The only way this terrorist group could have been defeated was deploying foot soldiers on the ground to engage in street battles. This is what the U.S. knowingly refrained from doing so.

And this is what martyrs Qasem Soleimani and Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis achieved themselves.

Their names will go down in the history books as the commanders who defeated Daesh in three years while U.S. commanders were saying it would take ten years to finish the job.

They will also go down in history for their unique military wisdom, humanity, compassion, and valor. They courageously entered the heart of the battlefield and shed tears when the PMU members were killed by Daesh.

Iraq is now a much safer country today thanks to the courage that these

two iconic martyrs displayed by putting their own lives on the line on multiple occasions in many battles against Daesh, for the sake of Iraqi civilians.

The U.S. and its military will be remembered for the exact opposite: Cruelty and cowardice in assassinating the anti-terror icons and censoring the world from telling the truth in the aftermath of the assassinations.

Can any fair-minded Iraqi individual trust the U.S. which delayed the shipment of weapons to Iraq that the government had already paid for them to prevent the advance of this horribly bloodthirsty group as a friend, and instead portray Iran, which its legendary general rushed to the help of Iraqis on the first day of Daesh's territorial gains and provided weapons and logistical support to the country, as an enemy?

Can anyone in Iraq conclude that it is the U.S. which is an ally or Iran!?

In the worst-case scenario, every now and then, you hear some voices in Iraq whose pockets are filled with dollars from the American embassy in Baghdad saying the U.S. is our friend, despite all the crimes it had committed in Iraq (in particular, its torture of the jailed Iraqi women), and Iran is just a neighbor.

This is where corruption comes into play. And not just financial corruption but corruption of the mind, awareness, and consciousness. An open blindness to history and individuals who have been brainwashed by the U.S. embassy in Baghdad.

General Soleimani thwarted U.S. and Israeli plots in the region

The Iranian Lieutenant-General Qasem Soleimani thwarted many plots by the United States to destabilize West Asia.

All these American plots were intended to guarantee the stability of Washington's regional proxy, the Israeli regime, to carry out their joint sinister plans of dividing West Asia and turning one neighbor against another.

At one stage, the principle of divide and conquer was working at its best. The Israeli regime did most of the project to divide, and the United States conducted most of the project to conquer.

This was especially true since the September 11 attacks and America's so-called "war on terror" in the immediate aftermath. This so-called "war on terror" saw the highest level of terrorism against civilians that the West Asia region had ever witnessed in modern history.

It also saw the highest level of

division among neighbors in the region.

As the commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Lieutenant General Qasem Soleimani played a crucial role in strengthening the Palestinian resistance in the besieged Gaza Strip against one of these two sinister players, namely the Israeli regime.

As a military advisor, he guided the Palestinian resistance to build a network of underground tunnels and helped its missile program to flourish.

Over time, the resistance against Tel Aviv grew in strength, which slowly drained the Israeli regime's energy. It was forced to focus on the threat it now faces from the Gaza Strip to the extent that it has been besieging the coastal strip since 2006, in a bid to prevent arms from reaching the enclave.

But as we saw in Yemen, you

can blockade a country or a territory, but what you cannot do is prevent a group from building on its capabilities with the help and advice of General Soleimani.

Contrary to remarks by Western leaders and media outlets and the regime itself, Hamas did invest in hospitals and expanded them.

But the tunnel network and missile program were an integral part of defending the Gaza Strip from Israeli wars and bombardments in the first place and then undermining the regime's plots to turn countries against each other.

General Soleimani was the brain behind such missions.

Today, the Israeli regime's ground forces are trapped in a messy quagmire in Gaza where Tel Aviv has no clue how to withdraw without declaring victory. And if it doesn't declare victory, its prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ministers will end up in prison.

On the other hand, the world is seeing how the plots of the US and the Israeli regime have failed again thanks to martyr General Soleimani's efforts in West Asia.

The iconic commander's missions ranged from dismantling terrorist groups such as Daesh, which wreaked havoc in the region, to putting the occupation regime of Israel in great trouble and nullifying Washington's sinister plots.

Amid such missions, relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have seen a detente after seven years of severed diplomatic ties. This has effectively helped end the war in Yemen, which saw Tehran and Riyadh backing opposing sides.

Syria was also brought back to the Arab fold in 2023. It attended its first Arab League summit in Saudi Arabia after a 12-year suspension.

Arab states have accepted that the government of Bashar al-Assad has survived in Syria, and many held bilateral discussions in Damascus to restore diplomatic ties.

This is another achievement of General Soleimani, who helped the Syrian government defeat a variety of terrorist groups.

Also, the U.S. withdrew from Iraq in 2011 after committing many crimes against Iraqi civilians, thanks in part to the efforts of General Soleimani.

The U.S. has withdrawn from Afghanistan as well after a disastrous and deadly occupation that lasted for two decades. The withdrawal was about as disastrous as the occupation itself.

The Palestinian resistance has also changed the equation against the Israeli regime. Lebanon's Hezbollah inflicted a heavy loss on the Israeli regime in the summer of 2006 after Tel Aviv

waged war on Lebanon, a victory that has been largely attributed to General Soleimani.

Wherever there is a defeat for the United States and its proxy regime in the occupied Palestinian territories, and wherever reports emerge of a restoration of ties in the region, the image of General Soleimani stands in the background.

For two decades, the late General thwarted America's sinister plots to the extent that Washington turned its attention away from the region and focused on Russia and China to let its military-industrial complex reap huge benefits.

This has allowed the neighbors in the region to breathe again, reevaluate their diplomatic positions, and foresee that the only option for a prosperous future is one of a united front without the interference of Washington and Tel Aviv.

Quds Force chief helped change the equation in Gaza

General Soleimani helped promote the Gaza resistance's courage and deterrence



TEHRAN- Before Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani offered his vast military insight to the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli regime had occupied the coastal enclave and committed mass atrocities against its civilian population.

Over time, and with the assistance and advice of General Soleimani, the resistance movement in Gaza grew in strength to the extent that now its missiles are reaching Tel Aviv and built an underground tunnel network in the tiny territory. It is now mostly because of this network of tunnels and the sacrifices of valiant resistance forces that the Israeli army finds itself trapped inside Gaza with no military strategy on how to win the war it has loudly declared.

These elements of deterrence have forced the Israeli military to be extremely careful in conducting its ground offensive in Gaza.

In the previous Israeli wars in Gaza, its military refrained from an all-out ground battle against the Palestinian resistance forces as it was wary of the heavy losses it would suffer.

What General Soleimani created was a change in the equation, where today the long-cultivated powerful army in the region, is unable to carry out its much-publicized claim of eliminating the Palestinian resistance groups of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

Today, the Israeli regime is paying a heavy price for entering the Gaza Strip. Despite about three months of barbaric carnage in Gaza in which all the laws of war have been violated, the resistance forces are killing Israeli troops, continuing to fire missiles at Tel Aviv, and destroying a record number of Israeli military vehicles.

The number of Israeli tanks that have been destroyed in Gaza is unprecedented.

This all goes back to the wisdom of General Soleimani in creating an underground network of tunnels that has allowed the resistance fighters to ambush Israeli soldiers and tanks from a point of safety and inflict heavy damage on the Israeli army's morale.

As has been witnessed in many wars that the Israeli regime has waged against Gaza, these tunnels stretch to the regime's military bases inside the occupied Palestinian territories, where the resistance movement has been able to enter the bases and make surprise attacks on the enemy forces.

These are some of the deterrent tools that General Soleimani created for the resistance, which the Palestinians later expanded.

Contrary to claims by Western leaders and media, this does not mean that Hamas did not invest in developing hospitals and other social welfare activities for the people of Gaza.

What General Soleimani offered to the Palestinians in Gaza was a real element of resistance, which today, we see, has grown in power to take revenge for the regime's mass slaughter campaigns of women and children.

The latest Israeli war on Gaza has seen a

record number of Palestinian women and children killed and injured by the Israeli army.

Yet the Israeli army that was once considered the most powerful in the region is today struggling to defeat the Palestinian resistance in Gaza, which is operating in an area no larger than 365 square kilometers.

We also saw this in Operation Sword of al-Quds (Jerusalem) in May 2022, which opened a new chapter in the battle between the Hamas-led Palestinian resistance and the occupation army.

All these developments are taking place after the martyrdom of General Soleimani. They show how powerful the Palestinian resistance has grown from the seeds the martyr General had planted.

In all the battles against terrorism and American hegemony, General Soleimani's eyes were constantly focused on the Palestinians.

He commanded the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Quds (Jerusalem) is the capital of Palestine, and whilst it is occupied by the Israeli regime, the resistance General Soleimani helped develop from Lebanon to Iraq and Syria to Yemen was all for the sake of the liberation al-Quds (Jerusalem) and ending the American hegemony in the region, which is guarding the occupation regime of Israel.

Today, the Palestinian resistance in Gaza has killed hundreds of Israeli troops and injured thousands of others, many of them disabled for life.

Many experts believe the number of Israeli army casualties is even higher as Tel Aviv is known to downplay its casualty figures during the wars it wages against the Gaza Strip and elsewhere.

This is while the Palestinian resistance has destroyed nearly 1,000 Israeli military vehicles as the occupation regime is lying about its military achievements. There is not a single spot in the Gaza Strip where the Israeli army has managed to take full control of in its ongoing campaign of indiscriminate attacks against Palestinians.

The missile program that General Soleimani helped the Palestinians to develop has grown in scope and strength and its projectiles are now raining down rockets on Tel Aviv nearly 13 weeks after the regime started its current war on Gaza's civilian

population.

General Soleimani also promoted the Palestinian resistance movement's courage and resilience whilst offering the Palestinian people hope of the state that has been taken away from them with al-Quds as its capital.

At the end of each war, Israel wages war against the civilians in Gaza. The Palestinian resistance always thanks the parties that back it to bring the stated missions of Tel Aviv to a failure, and on top of the list always is a special praise for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

This is who the late martyr Qassem Soleimani represented, and this is who the Palestinian resistance refers to both before his martyrdom and after his martyrdom.

How Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis grew into a force of resistance



Former Iraqi diplomat Abdul Hassan Masood spent a significant part of his life with the deputy commander of the Popular Mobilization Units, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Speaking to the Tehran Times, he recounts how the late Iraqi military commander possessed qualities of "assurance" and "comforting thoughts."

"These qualities influenced his choice of the path of resistance since he was young, qualifying him to become a leader in the resistance," Abdul Hassan states.

He also discusses how al-Muhandis confronted the tyranny of Saddam's regime without fear and how his numerous noble qualities likened him to General Soleimani, in addition to his special connection with the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units.

Below is the full text of the interview.

You spent a lot of time with Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis. How would you define his personality?

In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful.

In the realm of personal studies or understanding someone's biography, there are two types of readings. One involves reviewing a series of events that the person experienced and recorded in their name, depicting the dimensions of their personality and life story. The other is analytical, where we comprehend the person through their actions and deeds. It elucidates their qualities, outlines their character, and serves as a constant measure throughout their life. For instance, when we say Imam Ali (peace be upon him) is courageous, it doesn't merely limit his courage to battlefields but extends to all aspects of his life. In the marketplace, he is courageous; in administration, he is courageous; in his speeches, he is courageous; and even in the judiciary, he is courageous. This becomes the central theme to describe Imam Ali's courage, as affirmed by the Egyptian writer Abbas Mahmoud Al-Aqqad in his encyclopedia on the genius of Imam Ali (peace be upon him).

This introduction is useful for our discussion about the blessed martyr Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, Hajj Jamal. To understand the central aspects of martyr Jamal (Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis), we explore his behavior, relationships, and how he dealt with the tasks entrusted to him or those he handled, driven by a sense of responsibility towards them. If we were to ask, what is the central trait of the personality that characterized martyr Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Certainly, I have investigated this matter in his personality through my relationship with him and all stages of his life, as well as the collaborative work that brought us together directly in the seventies at the Technological University in Baghdad.

It's evident that tranquility was a prominent characteristic in his university studies, professional endeavors, and within the ranks of the Islamic Dawa Party, as well as in all aspects of daily life. Assurance was the central axis around which the features of his personality converged.

Certainly, this is reflected in his biography and his handling of responsibilities, resulting in excellence marked by precision, good performance, and the invocation of intellect and wisdom. All of these were nurtured in the embrace of tranquility, a constant presence with him.

What stands out for you about his role during the era of the former Ba'athist regime in Iraq under Saddam Hussein?

One of the memories I hold, which had an impact on my life and is related to tranquility, is when our direct supervisor, martyr Muthanna Mohammed Abdul Rahman, asked me and the martyr Jamal (Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis) for a sudden and unusual favor. It was for our future meetings to take place in the small gardens opposite the General Security Directorate in Baghdad (the White Palace), to avoid intense surveillance by security personnel and the heightened presence of the military at that time.

So, the orders were received by martyr Abu Mahdi, and he welcomed them with clear reassurance and positive engagement. He didn't inquire about why this particular location was chosen at this stage. He indeed arrived on time



in front of the General Security Directorate, bringing along some food, and spoke about his work with utmost tranquility.

He boldly discussed the network of preachers, their connections, circles, evaluations, and many names within his plans. What caught my attention was his audacity, as he would pull out from his pocket the fabric of the preacher network and circles within the university.

Our presence in front of the General Security Directorate, challenging them in their own stronghold, contributed to the magnitude of performance, determination, and responsibility.

It was as if he was creating a direct challenge for himself, asserting that the battlefield extended from his seat in front of the most powerful security institution controlling Iraq and its people. This institution knew only the rule of execution, even in the simplest matters.

This attitude fueled a sense of reassurance within him. When he completed his work at the university and smoothly handed over his duties, I personally received from him all the documents, statistics, lists, and the network of circle connections.

He was extremely cautious in entrusting these, following the principle that "actions are judged by their conclusions". With a high level of reassurance, I can't exaggerate if I say that martyr Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis is inconceivable without the element of reassurance.

Having lived between Kuwait and Iran, he excelled in fulfilling his religious duty and exuded tranquility.

What made him special during the days of resistance against the American occupation, Daesh and his role with the Popular Mobilization Units?

Honestly, his loyalty and support for the Islamic Revolution and his close relationship with the commander of the Quds Force, martyr Qassem Soleimani.

All of that defined the personal characteristics of martyr Abu Mahdi. Abu Mahdi stood out with qualities and behaviors during his presence in Iraq that distinguished him from everyone bearing responsibility over the last two decades. If we delve into them, we find the predominant trait was tranquility. Let's take some examples from his daily life and how he faced them with high reassurance.

He was keen to check on the fighters, get to know aspects of their lives, wipe their heads with his affectionate hand, and individually embrace them. This wasn't just a result of his humility and contentment.

Consider how he sat with them, exchanged conversations on the simplest matters of life, then shared his portion of food without any pretense and without leaving any impact but from a natural humane view.

He never made them feel that their relation-

ship was one where he was in control of them but rather a relationship of love and shared responsibility with different roles.

Even to the point where all the members of the Popular Mobilization Units began to experience his affection towards them. This was expressed in our lives through what circulated about him. In our households, when a venerable man or grandfather in the family emanates emotions and tenderness, people refer to him as "elder" acknowledging the warmth he provides.

In all his encounters, he was keen to instill positive and comforting thoughts, encouraging them to bear life's challenges with kindness, reflection, and consideration. He emphasized that we shape our lives with our own hands, facing them with benevolence and contemplation.

Yet, the crucial aspect is to live in a state of tranquility as long as we are with God. He is our comfort and companion on the journey, for whoever is with God, God is with them.

Thus, he nurtured them with profound and noble meanings and ideas. With these attractive virtues, he captivated the hearts of every member of the Popular Mobilization Units and the general public, especially those who had the privilege of meeting and living with him.

He dealt with transparency, unswayed by titles or names; his focus was on revealing the truth and expressing his mission. Fearless of anyone but Allah, his aim was to acquaint people with the values and principles for which he struggled. His behavior consistently aligned with his declarations, a result of the deep sense of tranquility that enveloped him.

Indeed, for most people, their primary concern is the compensation they receive for their work, even for the dedicated and diligent, to meet their needs and livelihood. However, the late martyr Abu Mahdi was a special case.

One of his close associates, concerned with collecting his monthly entitlements, which amounted to six months' worth due to his absence from his direct duties in Iraq on one of his missions. Despite being informed of this, his calm response was, "I don't deserve these six months' pay," and he requested the amount to be returned to the state treasury.

Such instances, along with similar stories, encapsulate the meanings and values embedded in the behavior of the martyr, Hajj Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

In the tranquility that enveloped him, the culmination of his life was to draw near to God through martyrdom, striving to uphold the truth and support the cause of God. It was indeed fitting for Allah to receive him with the reception of the reassured, as affirmed by the Almighty in his holy book.



National event of Shahid al-Quds: a journey of artistic commitment



Southern Iranian city of Kerman, the birthplace of Martyr Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, recently hosted a national visual event titled “Shahid al-Quds” (Martyr of al-Quds) to honor his blessed name.

Organized by Kerman’s Art Bureau in collaboration with the Kerman General Department of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the National Iranian Copper Industries Company, and the Public Relations of the Sar-Cheshmeh Copper Complex, the event aimed to pay tribute to Martyr Soleimani and the other Iranian martyrs, gathering more than one hundred artists from across the country.

During the opening ceremony held on December 20 at the newly established Culture and Art Hall in Kerman, prominent visual artists added a special touch to the event. Mojtaba Asadi, the director of Kerman’s Art Bureau, warmly welcomed the artists, expressing gratitude to Martyr Qassem Soleimani for bringing together talent from all corners of Iran.

The national Shahid al-Quds

event, which is part of the “Narration of Habib” program, spanned three days in Kerman and involved 120 artists creating works inspired by recent events in Gaza and the memory of the esteemed martyr.

Notable artists and organizers of the national Shahid al-Quds event, including Mohammadreza Dustmohammadi, Mojtaba Majlesi, Hamed Maghruri, Mohammad Saber Sheikh Rezai, and Mehdi Sohrabi Nasr, emphasized the significance of art in shedding light on oppressors and shaping public opinion. Calls were made for artists to use their creativity as a weapon against crimes, particularly those in Gaza. The event also featured regular visits by executive officials, providing guidance and support to the participating artists.

Following the formal ceremony, the artists immersed themselves in their projects, demonstrating unwavering dedication despite the cold weather. The organizers, in tandem with some officials, intermittently approached each artist to offer guidance. The artistic

commitment was palpable as time flew by unnoticed. Eventually, the participants were informed that it was time to visit a holy place. Buses lined up, and the artists departed in groups, heading towards the sacred shrine of Martyr Soleimani. The atmosphere grew more profound as the mosque of Sahib al-Zaman (AS) next to the Kerman Martyrs Cemetery came into view. Visitors were moved to tears, taking solace in quiet contemplation. Mohammadreza Miri, an artist, captured the moments and emotions on canvas.

The second day commenced early in the morning, and while participants could have spent the day with their families celebrating Yalda, their devoted commitment kept them kilometers away. Officials made intermittent visits, with Mohammad-Mehdi Fadakar, the governor of Kerman, Mohammad-Reza Pourebrahimi, the representative of the honorable people of Kerman and Raver in the Iranian Parliament, and Mohsen Ruhi, the Director-General of Culture and Islamic Guidance in Kerman, spending significant time at the event.

As the third day arrived, the sense of farewell permeated the air. The ideas and designs had matured, hinting at remarkable outcomes. A small Yalda gathering was organized at the end of the day for artists and event organizers. Later, a panel evaluated the artistic pieces created during the event, and cash prizes of 70 million rials, 50 million rials, and 30 million rials were awarded to the top three works respectively.

The national visual event of Shahid al-Quds does not culminate in a closing ceremony but instead represents an ongoing journey, with revolutionary artists committed to pursuing it until the re-appearance of Imam Mahdi and the fall of oppressors.

Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, a distinguished Iranian military visionary and essential planner within the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), devoted his life to safeguarding Iran’s interests. Born in Qanat-e Malek, Iran in 1957, he played a crucial role in various military operations, notably the campaign against ISIS in Iraq

and Syria. His adept strategic planning, exceptional leadership abilities, and unwavering commitment to defending Iran against external threats earned him widespread admiration.

General Soleimani, known for his charisma and fearlessness, commanded immense respect from his colleagues and the Iranian population. His steadfast dedication to upholding Iran’s security and sovereignty transformed him into an emblem of strength and resilience.

Undeterred by numerous challenges, such as international sanctions and political tensions, Soleimani remained an indispensable figure in Iran’s military and foreign policies. The shockwaves caused by his assassination in January 2020 reverberated throughout the region, with Iranians deeply mourning his loss and sparking a period of heightened tensions between Iran and the United States. General Qassem Soleimani’s significant contributions to Iran’s defense and his enduring impact on the region’s geopolitical landscape ensure that he will always be remembered.

Gen. Soleimani destroyed Israel’s invincibility



Hakam Amhaz says that Soleimani’s role in the recent Palestinian victories turned the Israeli regime from a so-called great power to a weak force at war with the Axis of Resistance.

The role of Martyr Soleimani is pivotal and highly strategic in the Palestinian issue. In this regard, he promoted the Palestinian Resistance from using light weapons to employing very important weapons such as ballistic missiles, advanced drones, and important fighting technologies, he added.

We can also introduce and describe martyr General Soleimani as the central authority in the operations of the Resistance in Palestine because he was the initiator of tunneling in Gaza and transferring arms to Palestine in certain ways, the analyst added.

Soleimani changed the equations between the Islamic Resistance of Palestine and the Zionist regime by arming the Palestinians, to the point where wars were already taking place in the Arab region, not inside the occupied territories of Palestine, Amhaz further noted.

Today, we see the role of martyr Soleimani in the war inside occupied Palestine, which means that the Palestinian Islamic Resistance is targeting Tel Aviv and the areas of Zionist settlements, and these wars are not taking place outside occupied Palestine, he underscored.

Also, martyr Soleimani transferred to the Palestinian Islamic Resistance a strategy of war so that he provided tactical and planned engineering that was considered a threat in the fight against the Zionist regime, he added.

Today it is the Islamic resistance of Palestine that imposes the equations on the enemy in the battlefield, which was not the case in the past, he pointed out.

In fact, we are analyzing an era before the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Amhaz said. What was the situation of Palestine and the Palestinian Resistance before the Revolution? What was the status and condition of the Arab and Islamic nations?

In the worst-case scenario, there was disappointment, frustration, and failure.

As a result, there was no hope for the liberation of Palestine and victory over the Israeli regime, but today there has been a great change.

The disappointment has turned into hope, and this hope has opened up the possibility of freedom and great victory. There is evidence that Lebanon liberated itself from Israel, and Gaza liberated itself from the Israeli military, and the Resistance changed Israel’s equations, and the myth of Israel. The Israeli military’s domination has collapsed.

The wish and dream of Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile were destroyed, as well as the destruction of this false slogan; Israel is behind walls in the West Bank, on the second border on the Gaza border, so all these creations and initiatives put forward by Martyr Soleimani.

One of the strategic changes in the battle with Israel was realized through many achievements and long jihadist routes. Therefore, we cannot limit the role of martyr Soleimani in certain areas in defense of the Resistance.

For instance, when we talk about the arming of the Resistance by Soleimani, not that he was directly behind this support, but that he trained the Resistance and was the innovator of a strategic way to fight the Zionist regime and teach how to apply missile bombing strategy and strategic targeting.

Martyr Soleimani also brought about many changes and changes. When we talk about changing the equations, or about the tunnel and many other issues, we see martyr Soleimani behind all of these plans, and many political observers have repeatedly elaborated on the issue.

For example, regarding the subject of the tunnels; Palestinian leaders acknowledge that Soleimani and Emad Mughniyeh put forward the idea. The novel initiative helped weaken the Zionist regime so that this regime needs help against the Axis of Resistance today and is on the verge of collapse. In return, Palestine’s liberation has climbed up on the priority list while it was already at the bottom.

Soleimani could be considered a thinker and international combatant. When we talk about Che Guevara’s role in Latin America, he was just an international revolutionary against imperialism in the US, the analyst stated.

But it can be said that the Commander had a more comprehensive role because he resisted and fought against imperialism, the Zionist regime, the terrorists, and the Takfiris of Daesh and had a comprehensive resistance, Amhaz added.

“He played a pivotal role in changing the equations at regional and international levels, and we can even say that his role was pivotal in changing strategic equations at the level of conflict and bipolar arena between the United States, Russia, and China.”

Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani’s cultural vision: art, morale, and social impact



By Mohammadreza Seyedagha

TEHRAN-On January 3, 2024, marking the fourth anniversary of the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, the Iranian theater director Kourosh Zarei will present a play titled “The Court” in Baghdad, Iraq.

The performance will feature a cast of Iraqi theater actors and is scheduled to take place at the Baghdad International Airport. This location holds historical significance as it is where General Soleimani and eight others were assassinated in the early hours of January 3, 2020.

Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and Iraqi commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis were killed in a U.S. drone attack at Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020. The attack was ordered by the U.S. President at the time, Donald Trump, and they were on a diplomatic mission when they were killed. Soleimani, born in 1957, served in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and was the commander of the Quds Force from 1998 until his assassination, overseeing extraterritorial and clandestine military operations.

Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani played a significant role in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). While the Western coalition had withdrawn, Soleimani assisted Iraqis in countering ISIS, preventing further advances and contributing to the defeat of the terrorist organization in the region.

Within Iran, Soleimani emerged as a popular figure, revered for his role in resisting perceived external threats. His image became synonymous with resilience and defiance. His strategic contributions, particularly in the fight against ISIS, have left an indelible mark on the military landscape of the Middle East.

Tehran Times interviewed Kourosh Zarei, 52, who is also the director of the Art Bureau’s Center for Dramatic Arts. During the interview, Zarei shared insights into the cultural perspective and views of General Soleimani.

“Prior to and more than having a military spirit, the general had a cultural spirit and that is how he could relate to the people of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. In fact, one of the reasons for Hajj Qassem’s achievements and popularity among the people of Arab countries was this cultural spirit,” Zarei said.

Need for artistic, cultural work

“After the war with the ISIS was over in Iraq and Syria, the general emphasized that cultural and artistic programs needed to be carried out in those countries. It was with his order that our filmmakers and theater directors started to make movies and produce plays there. He was of the opinion that such works would be necessary to improve the morale of the afflicted people in the war-stricken countries,” Zarei added.

“Regarding Iran, he also believed that cultural and artistic programs could address some issues in the society,” the stage director noted.

As Zarei said, the general often visited the art and cultural projects such as behind the scenes of film sets and congresses of martyred commanders in different provinces. One of the movies the general visited its production site several times was “Damascus Time” (2018) directed by Ebrahim Hatamikia, which is about two Iranian pilots who embark on a mission to try and save the residents of a Syrian city who are surrounded by the terrorists.

“Hajj Qassem advised others to do artistic and cultural work as he deeply believed in the impact of art on people and society. He encouraged his friends and the people around him especially the cultural sections of the IRGC to carry our art programs and relate to people via art,” Zarei said.

According to him, the general had a kind behavior with all sorts of people, whether young or old, men or women, and had a fatherly attitude toward others, especially teenagers and young adults.

Last memory

Recalling the last time he met Hajj Qassem, Zarei said: “During the severe flooding in Khuzestan Province in 2019, I went to the flood-stricken regions in the southwestern province together with a group of about 50 theater actors to per-

form several plays to uplift the spirits of the afflicted people there. On our flight back to Tehran, we met the general and I had a short conversation with him about the projects which were produced on his own suggestions. He was supposed to attend a play that was staged in Syria and a work for the martyred commanders congress in Kerman Province; however, he couldn’t make it due to his busy schedule. ‘We were expecting you,’ I told him. ‘I will come and see your next play, inshallah,’ he said. Nevertheless, this never happened as he was martyred less than a year later and it remained a bitter regret for us to see him attending one of the performances produced on his own recommendation”.

Zarei holds a degree in dramatic arts. He has also a long career in the management of art events such as presiding the 41st Fajr International Theater Festival last January.

He was also the director of the 7th edition of the Arbæen Pilgrimage International Theater Festival last August. Held in both countries of Iran and Iraq, coinciding with the large gathering of Shia Muslims in Iraq, the festival included theatrical performances, tazieh, Naqqali (Iranian dramatic storytelling), and Pardeh-khani (a type of storytelling combined with a laudation, accompanied by pictures) for the pilgrims at the Shalamcheh, Khosrovi, Chazabeh, Bashmagh, and Mehran borders as well as in Najaf, Karbala, and along the path of the Arbæen Walk.

Zarei has previously directed plays in Iraq, Syria, and Tunisia. Among his foreign productions, the play “The Sun Rises from Aleppo” was performed by Syrian actors in the Syrian capital Damascus and the city of Aleppo.

It narrated an account of Karbala captives who were captured and taken to Sham during the event of Karbala. The piece focused on the events that are related to a Christian monk who lived in a church close to the city of Aleppo at the time that the Karbala massacre happened.

Zarei has also appeared in some TV series including “Jabir ibn Hayyan” (2006), “Prophet Joseph” (2008), “Mokhtarnameh” (2010), “Kimia” (2015), and “Anam” (2018). The movies in which he appeared include “Light of Dawn” (2010), “Hussein Who Said No” (2014), and “Emperor of Hell” (2018).

General Soleimani's unseen impact: behind the scenes of "The 23"



By Mohamadreza Seyedagha

TEHRAN-One of the recent and notable films in Iranian Sacred Defense cinema, focusing on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, is "The 23" directed by Mehdi Jafari and produced by Mojtaba Faravardesh, released on December 11, 2019.

On the first day of filming in October 2018, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani visited the film's production set and interacted with the cast and crew on location in Tehran.

The general was present at the behind the scenes of the war drama "The 23," which is based on the novel "Those 23 People," written by Ahmad Yousefzadeh, depicting the true story of 23 Iranian teenage volunteers held captive by enemy soldiers early in 1982 during Iran-Iraq war. The members of the young group, which included the author Yousefzadeh, were between the ages of 13 and 17. They belonged to the 41st Tharallah Brigade, a division of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps formed in 1980 in Kerman Province. General Qassem Soleimani served as the commander of this unit throughout the Iran-Iraq war.

The 23 teenagers were captured during Operation Beit ol-Moqaddas in various areas of the front. On May 24, 1982, during the Liberation of Khorramshahr, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein sought to exploit them for his benefit. He separated the teenagers from other Iranian captives and brought them to his palace, where he purportedly sympathized with them, and his daughter Hala presented them with flowers. Hussein claimed they would be released soon with Red Cross approval. The Iraqi press created videos and photographs of the teens, publishing them alongside Hussein's famous quote, "All the children in the world are ours." Despite these assurances, the 23 teenagers remained in captivity for over 8 years until August 26, 1990.

In addition to General Soleimani, Yusefzadeh, and 21 other teen captives, now adults, attended the set of "The 23" on its first day of shooting. Unfortunately, the group was not complete as one of them had passed away.

In an interview with Tehran Times, Mojtaba Faravardesh, producer of the film, discussed General Soleimani's visit to the film's location, which was organized by Owj Arts and Media Organization, the sponsor of the movie.

"I was informed about the general's visit but almost everybody else at the location was shocked when they saw him coming as they did not know about it beforehand," he said.

"It was my first time to see him but he greeted me so warmly as if he knew me for years. After that, I provided him with information about that day's sequence we were filming, which was a prison in Iraq where the teenagers were to be interrogated," the producer added.

General Soleimani kindly hugged and kissed all the young cast members of the film, as well as all the real teen captives who were now in their 50s, and the rest of the crew. The young actors were particularly surprised to see the general, who was the commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), had gone there to meet them.

After the shooting of the sequence was over, one of the young actors in the film approached the general and said, "It has been one of my dreams to have a photo with you." The general's reply was humble and heartwarming, "You are artists, and it should be our wish to have a photo with you. Tell all the 23 people to come." Afterwards, several photos were taken with the general standing among the cast and crew, smiling.

At the end of his visit, recalling a memory from a young soldier during the war, the general said, "if we could spray the elixir of zeal, spirituality, courage, and religiosity on the whole nation, that would be the basic treatment of all problems in the country".

"His presence in the film location that day and the positive energy he gave us left a lasting memory for all of us," Faravardesh noted.

Despite this, the film producer lamented that the general could not see the film when it was released as he was assassinated at Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020. General Soleimani was accompanied by his Iraqi trenchmate, Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), and some of their deputies when they were killed by an armed drone strike directly ordered by the White House.

Both commanders, Soleimani and Al-Muhandis, gained immense respect across the Middle East for their pivotal role in combating the Daesh (ISIS) Takfiri terrorist group, particularly in Iraq and Syria.

Having led the elite force for over two decades, General Soleimani played a crucial part in Iran's strategic efforts to safeguard its interests and extend its influence throughout the Middle East.

General Soleimani held a dual role as both the "shadow commander" of covert Iranian forces and a revered figure in an anti-American alliance that transcended sectarian boundaries across the region.

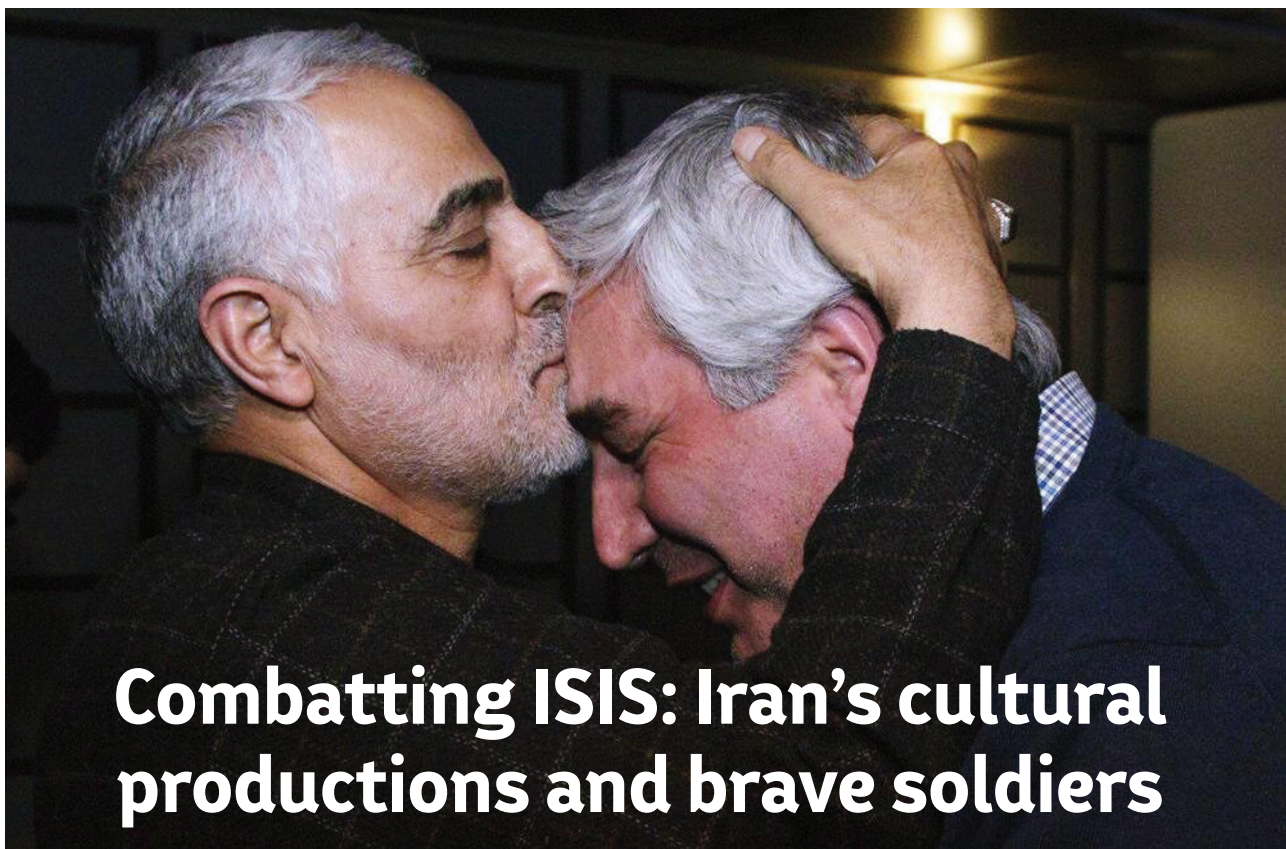
Renowned for his reserved demeanor, General Soleimani radiated charisma and intelligence, earning the respect even of those who opposed him. His influence stretched far beyond military strategy, making him a prominent and multifaceted figure in the complex geopolitical landscape of the Middle East.

"The 23" vividly portrays the bravery and heroism of the 23 teenage boys who were prisoners of the Iran-Iraq war. Their selflessness for their country has inspired numerous authors and filmmakers to undertake projects about their remarkable story.

It was filmed in the capital city of Tehran and the southern Iranian city of Abadan over a three-month period.

The film received a highly positive response from audiences during its premiere at the 37th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran and secured nominations for six awards, ultimately winning one. Additionally, it earned the prestigious title of Film of the Year from the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO.

Further accolades include the Golden Butterfly Award for the Best Film at the International Film Festival for Children and Youth and the Phoenix Cinema Award at the Revolution Cinema Celebration. These recognitions underscore the film's impact and contribution to Iranian cinema.



Combatting ISIS: Iran's cultural productions and brave soldiers

Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani kisses the forehead of filmmaker Ebrahim Hatamikia in an undated photo.

By Samaneh Aboutaleb

TEHRAN- The emergence of ISIS in Syria and Iraq has had far-reaching consequences for global security, yet few countries took direct action against this notorious terrorist group.

Despite its proven track record of terrorism and its success in luring young individuals from Europe and America through sophisticated media and advertising campaigns, Western countries fall short in countering ISIS, failing to take meaningful steps in educating society about the nature of this terrorist group or preventing the attraction of Western youth.

ISIS's unparalleled prowess in cultural propaganda allowed them to successfully deceive and manipulate a large wave of Western youth. In stark contrast, Iran, a victim of terrorism in the region, made significant efforts to combat ISIS.

The Iranian forces, under the leadership of courageous commanders like Commander Qassem Soleimani, were at the forefront of the battle against ISIS and showed remarkable resilience in driving back this terrorist group in Syria and Iraq.

Meanwhile, cultural activists in the country were busy creating cultural productions to reveal the true face of this group and demonstrate the bravery and struggles of the Iranian soldiers far from their homeland.

A notable example of this cultural resistance is the film "Damascus Time," directed by renowned Iranian filmmaker Ebrahim Hatamikia in 2018.

The film revolves around the story of a father and son, Yunes and Ali, both military pilots from Iran, who are assigned the task of retrieving an Il-76 plane captured by ISIS in the besieged region of Palmyra, Syria. Their mission involves not only recovering the aircraft but also rescuing civilians trapped in the area and escorting a group of captured ISIS fighters to Syrian forces. However, during their flight, the ISIS rebels revolt and take control of the plane, redirecting it to a region under their dominance. Yunes and Ali become captives of ISIS.

In "Damascus Time," each character represents different perspectives in response to the Syrian crisis and the rise of ISIS. The narrative unfolds through a triangular dynamic: Yunes and Ali embody one side, the ISIS militants symbolize the second side, and the Syrian army and people make up the third side. Yunes and Ali serve as representatives of Iran and Iranians amid the Syrian crisis, acting as advisors who risk their lives to provide assistance and maintain regional security in Syria. The presence of the ISIS individuals portrays the terrorists and extremists who invaded Syria, while the Syrian army and people symbolize the exhausted forces battling against ISIS.

Ebrahim Hatamikia candidly and vividly depicts the events taking place in Syria in "Damascus Time," shedding light on aspects often overlooked by the average viewer. He asserts that the emergence of ISIS is not solely a result of external forces. Through a scene illustrating the behavior of the Syrian army within the aircraft's environment, it becomes evident that the weakness of the Syrian army and government in controlling the situation contributed to the escalation of ISIS's power. Hatamikia provides a portrayal of ISIS that emphasizes their baseless beliefs, such as labeling Iranians as infidels, and effectively conveys their attitudes and mindset. The film effectively demonstrates that this insurgent group lacks commitment, compassion, ethics, and subscribes to no ideology or law other than violence and the murder of innocent people.

Another impactful scene in the film involves an ISIS terrorist attempting to hunt one of a flock of sheep near an airplane. Hatamikia effectively portrays the moral and ethical bankruptcy of ISIS, likening them to wolves in sheep's clothing who show no mercy when in power. The film repeatedly depicts the ruthlessness and cruelty of ISIS through scenes depicting executions, beheadings, and media displays surrounding these atrocities. Hatamikia also depicts the financial and arms support provided by countries like Saudi Arabia, while alluding to the potential consequences for Iran and Iranians if resistance, akin to that shown by Yunes and Ali, were absent. The film effectively shines a spotlight on ISIS supporters through the introduction of characters such as their Chechen commander, the French media officer, and the European female singer.

Ultimately, the third side of this triangular dynamic consists of Yunes and Ali, who bravely stand against ISIS with selflessness and sacrifice, aiming to save Syria and protect the Shrine of Hazrat Zainab (SA). "Damascus Time" can be interpreted as a realistic portrayal of the situation in Syria during the ISIS occupation and the underlying reasons for Iran's support of Syria. Hatamikia effectively conveys that had individuals like Yunes and Ali not opposed the brutality and bloodshed of ISIS, the terrorist group would not only have extended its reach to Iranian soil but also committed even more savage crimes than those witnessed in Syria. This is why the film was honored by the revered martyr General Qassem Soleimani.

Commander Soleimani expressed deep emo-



A scene from "Damascus Time" by Ebrahim Hatamikia.

tional responses after viewing "Damascus Time" in 2018 and praised Hatamikia for his drama on the atrocities of the ISIS war in Syria.

"I should express my thanks to Mr. Hatamikia for the groundbreaking work and this really amazing movie," Soleimani had said after watching the film. "By his skills, he has been able to show a small portion of the bitter reality," he said.

"By watching this film, people can better realize the grave threat against Islam, Shias and all of humanity. This is one of the most highly watchable movies, and it is extremely close to reality," he noted.

He also mentioned that although he has seen such scenes before, the emotional impact and reality presented in the film moved him to tears.

It appears that Ebrahim Hatamikia was Commander Qassem Soleimani's preferred film-

maker, as he openly commented on Hatamikia's dramas "Che" and "Damascus Time."

"Che" portrays a snapshot of war veteran Mostafa Chamran's life during August 16 and 17, 1979, when he was sent to lead military operations in the civil war in the Kordestan region.

The film premiered at the 32nd Fajr International Film Festival and went on to win six Crystal Simorghs in various categories, including Best Editor and Best Actor. However, Hatamikia himself did not receive any awards for his direction or scriptwriting, leading him to feel ignored by the jury and organizers of the festival.

Furthermore, Hatamikia faced criticism for his interpretations of certain characters in the film, including Chamran. In response, Commander Soleimani addressed Hatamikia in an open letter, referring to him as the "art chief" and expressed how appreciative he was to watch "Che" after such a long time.

"Watching the film, I recalled yesterday's helplessness of the most perfect Iranian person of the Iranians and the most perfect Islamic person of the Muslims.

"You are among the devoted people who could have an opportunity to portray one out of the thousands of these amazing persons, and today, I cried in recalling the oppression of these forgotten persons.

"Dear brother, don't be bothered by sarcastic and remonstrant comments and do not think of the mundane simorghs; just continue your work."

Soleimani further expressed his admiration for Hatamikia in a meeting by presenting him with one of the rings left behind by one of the

Iranian soldiers who had been killed in the fight against the ISIS terrorists in Syria and Iraq.

In his 2016 political drama "The Bodyguard", Hatamikia also alluded to his deep affection for Soleimani by the makeup he used to make his leading actor – played by Parviz Parastui – resemble the senior commander.

In a message published after Soleimani's assassination, Hatamikia wrote, "I warmly embraced him many times, and yet, I found myself thirstier at the time of separation.

"Indeed, what decoration suited him perfectly except the honor of martyrdom? But I ask permission from all martyrs to say that Hajj Qassem Soleimani needs no title before or after his name. Hajj Qassem Soleimani means all the honorable titles. May his memory be eternal," added Hatamikia who called himself Soleimani's small soldier.

General Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and Abu Mahadi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), were martyred along with their companions near the Baghdad airport in a US drone strike, on the direct order of Donald Trump, the former president of the United States on January 3, 2020.

The assassination of the hero commander of the fight against terrorism was met with a flood of international reactions.

Martyr Soleimani is known as the senior commander of the Resistance front and a symbol of the fight against global arrogance and oppression.

The roles played by the general Soleimani in different fronts of the fight against terrorism had made him the center of the Resistance.

After the emergence of ISIL in Iraq and Syria, Martyr Soleimani, as the commander of the Quds Force, fought against this terrorist group by taking part in these areas and organizing popular forces.

Assisting movements such as Hamas, Hashd al-Shaabi, Ansarullah, and especially Hezbollah, Martyr Soleimani personally fought against Zionism on every front from east to west, from north to south.

The following is the text of the interview with Turkish lawyer Emin Güneş ahead of the fourth anniversary of the martyrdom of these Resistance commanders.

How do you evaluate the role of Martyr Soleimani in keeping the Palestinian issue alive?

The issue of Palestine is always alive in the memory of the nations. Since the occupation of Palestine by Britain, Muslims have fought for freedom and tried to keep the cause of Palestine alive.

Turkish people learned the importance of the Palestinian issue from the late Necmettin Erbakan who said that "Israel only understands the language of force, not words."

Erbakan, (founder of several prominent Islamic political parties in Turkey) tried to expel Israelis from the region all his life.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has also taken the first step regarding the issue of Palestine. With the glorious revolution of Imam Khomeini (RA), Islam became a state in Iran.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomein's first measure was to not recognize Israel as a country and the Israeli embassy in Tehran



Gen. Soleimani's role in Al-Aqsa Storm operation 'undeniable'

turned to the Palestinian embassy. The Islamic Republic of Iran also created a special military force to save the Al-Quds.

So the wishes of Erbakan regarding the Palestinian issue were realized by the measures of the Islamic Republic.

The IRGC Quds Force was established to talk to Israel in a language that it understands (language of force).

Martyr Soleimani was the commander of the IRGC Quds Force, therefore, he was the commander of all Muslims who were concerned about the issue of Al-Quds.

Martyr Soleimani did his duty along with other Resistance groups, especially Hamas and Islamic Jihad Movement, who are fighting against the Zionists. With their efforts, the Al-Quds gets closer

to freedom every day.

No one denies the effects of the efforts of Martyr Soleimani in the Al-Aqsa storm operation on October 7.

Today, the whole world is talking about the tunnels that martyr Qassem Soleimani planned to build and the missiles that he was a pioneer in building.

Although the Resistance enjoys limited weapons, its unlimited faith has turned it one step beyond Israel's unlimited weapons power.

Martyr Soleimani's efforts were not only in Palestine but on all fronts of Resistance against Israel, he added.

Why is Shahid Soleimani known as "Martyr of Quds"?

General Soleimani was martyred while per-

forming his duties as the commander of the Quds Force. So, if he is not recognized as the martyr of Al-Quds, then who will be recognized?

Those who martyred him knew very well that he would not be satisfied with the liberation of Al-Quds.

He was considered not only a threat to Israel but a threat to all imperialist powers, especially the great devil, the US, who abuse the resources of our region.

Therefore, it is deserved to consider him not only as a martyr of Al-Quds but also as a martyr of the Islamic Ummah.

Martyr Soleimani always tried to keep the path to occupied Al-Quds open and helped the people of Gaza through Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.

One day he was in Gaza, another day he was in

Golan Heights, another day he was in Beirut, Damascus, or Baghdad.

Martyr Soleimani was a diplomat, a general, and also an ordinary soldier. He knew that the United States was the real aggressor and that's why he prevented America's activities.

How do you evaluate the role of Martyr Soleimani in weakening Israel's regional position?

Not only did Martyr Qassem Soleimani weaken Israel's regional position, but also disrupted all plans of the Zionist regime.

From 1948 to 1980, the Israeli regime forced Palestinians to migrate, displacing hundreds of thousands of them.

Israel expanded its territory from about 5% to 95% and it was after the occupation of the territory of neighboring countries. Then it occupied southern Lebanon and came to Beirut. The Israeli regime, step by step, got close to its claimed goal, the Promised Land.

To annex Beirut, Damascus, and southeast Turkey to its occupied territory, the regime created racial and sectarian differences in these areas and weakened and divided its rivals from within.

While Israel was engaged in such plots, Iran was facing the threats of the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in domestic and the Saddam regime's attack from the outside.

Even under such circumstances, the Islamic Republic of Iran was not negligent about the liberation of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and was planning to defeat the usurping Zionist regime.

The martyrdom-seeking operation of Ahmad Qasir on November 11, 1982, and the bombing of the Beirut barracks on October 23, 1983, shocked Israel, the US, and France.

Following the mentioned incidents, the United States and France quickly left Lebanon and Israel was forced to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

The Israeli regime's army lost its seemingly invincible charisma in the July 2006 war, in which Qassem Soleimani was personally present.

After the July war, Israel's development plans were replaced with the protection of the occupied territories. So that the regime needed defense systems such as walls and iron domes to survive.

But the "Al-Aqsa storm operation" showed that Israel will be destroyed and that the Quds Force is close to its final goal.

The Hero Within: Documentaries shed light on legacy of Hajj Qassem

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani was undoubtedly a towering figure in modern history, renowned for his military genius, strategic expertise, and unwavering dedication to the Iranian people. As the commander of the IRGC Quds Force, Soleimani played a significant role in shaping regional dynamics, particularly in the fight against terrorism and the protection of Iran's national interests abroad.

Given Soleimani's profound impact on the geopolitical landscape, it is imperative to explore his extraordinary life and accomplishments through the medium of documentary films. Such films have the potential to shed light on the various aspects of Soleimani's career, offering viewers a comprehensive understanding of his contributions, and revealing the complexity of the man behind the military uniform.

Mohsen Eslamzadeh, a distinguished Iranian documentarian, has spent years capturing the essence of various resistance movements in the region through his compelling films. Notably, he has embarked on two significant documentary projects, namely "The Autumn of Fifty Years" and "Defenders of Amerli," where he delves into the profound influence of Martyr Soleimani on the social and cultural landscape of Iran. Eslamzadeh's goal has been to shed light on Soleimani's deep connection with the people, his charismatic persona, and the overwhelming outpouring of grief that engulfed the nation

following his untimely demise.

These compelling documentary films offer invaluable insights into the leadership style of Martyr Soleimani, highlighting his exceptional ability to inspire and cultivate unwavering loyalty among his troops. Through these films, Mohsen Eslamzadeh captures the essence of Soleimani's strategic brilliance, tactical acumen, and his remarkable adaptability in the face of evolving and challenging situations.

In a recent interview with Tehran Times, Eslamzadeh shed light on the making of these documentaries.

In "Fifty Years of Autumn," I tried to delve into the history and impact of Martyr Soleimani's presence in the southeast region of Iran, he said.

The film, which has garnered positive feedback from audiences and won several awards, aims to introduce the character of Martyr Soleimani to society and highlight the significance of his achievements.

Expressing his fascination with Martyr Soleimani's success in foreign missions and the region's influence on him, Eslamzadeh explained that as a documentary filmmaker, he constantly seeks new experiences and exploring the history of Martyr Soleimani's presence in the region and examining how his interactions with the people influenced his mindset and later played a role in his international work were driving factors for him.

Reflecting upon the film's main message, Eslamzadeh highlights one of Martyr Soleimani's ac-



Backstage photo of "The Autumn of Fifty Years"

complishments in the southeast – disarmament. He elucidates how the region had been plagued by large quantities of weapons due to its proximity to Pakistan and the Afghan mujahideen war. Eslamzadeh explains that while the U.S. failed to achieve disarmament in Afghanistan and Iraq through military force alone, Martyr Soleimani succeeded by establishing proper interaction and connection with the people. This, he argues, sets him apart from Western armies and highlights his commitment to both military and cultural endeavors.

Addressing the audience feedback, Eslamzadeh expresses his satisfaction with the positive response the film received. The premiere witnessed significant participation, with viewers becoming progressively more engaged as the film unfolded. Moreover, the media's support further boosted the film's reception.

Defenders of Amerli, a revolutionary tale of hope and resistance

"Defenders of Amerli" delves into the heroic fight against ISIS and the pivotal role played by General Qassem Soleimani.

From the outset, creating this work posed immense challenges, Eslamzadeh noted and added: "Securing permissions was arduous, as was venturing to war-torn Iraq with a camera to document the clash with ISIS."

Eslamzadeh described how stories of ISIS's rampant brutality had reached them from afar, particularly their swift capture of Mosul in a mere 48 hours.

"The spotlight then shifted to the region of Amerli, a limited two km by two km area, which steadfastly resisted ISIS for three grueling months," he stated.

"My intention was to capture the essence of this resistance in a documentary, so I tried to get permission to travel to Iraq."

One of the central aspects explored in the film is the role played by General Soleimani in instilling hope and motivation among the defenders of Amer-

li. This unique region, located in southern Kirkuk, presented complex ethnic, religious, and political dynamics.

"Under relentless siege, the inhabitants fully comprehended that surrendering to ISIS would result in the execution of men and the enslavement of women and children," Eslamzadeh said.

"ISIS knew no boundaries, lacking any principled humanitarian beliefs. In response, the people of Amerli chose to fortify themselves against ISIS, who retaliated with acts of terror in an attempt to crush their resilience," he explained.

"It was during this critical period that General Soleimani's influence began to shape the fate of the defenders."

Given the distinct nature of the region, conducting operations required the consent and cooperation of various ethnic groups.

"The infiltration of spies, who provided valuable information to ISIS, further complicated matters. Additionally, hostage situations were utilized to instill a reign of terror," he said.

"Amidst this challenging landscape, a message of hope resonated with the defenders, assuring them that General Soleimani was committed to their salvation," he added.

"Helicopters would regularly transport vital supplies, while, on one occasion, General Soleimani himself entered the besieged area. This act served as a profound source of inspiration, shifting the tide against ISIS and initiating a series of defeats

for the extremist group," he explained.

Beyond Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, and even Afghanistan, General Soleimani emerged as a revered figure and a role model. Eslamzadeh stated and added: "His unwavering struggle against not only ISIS but also against America and Israel garnered him immense respect."

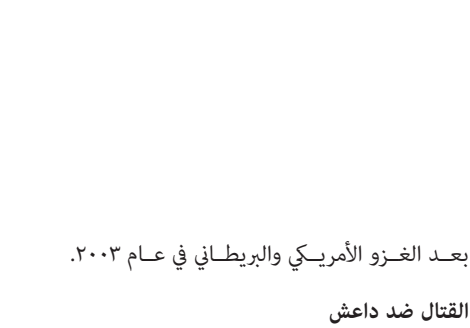
"Despite mainstream media's reluctance to amplify this sentiment, his influence as a Muslim hero, a global patriot, and an anti-imperialist is undeniable."

The echoes of his legacy have reverberated as far as China and Latin America, where General Soleimani has become an icon inspiring freedom fighters worldwide, he elaborated.

Eslamzadeh shared his thoughts on the future works that should be produced to introduce the character of Martyr Soleimani to society, emphasizing the need for more productions showcasing his life and various achievements.

He emphasized the importance of highlighting his care for the people and his special connection with the youth.

Stressing the lack of heroes in the new generation, Eslamzadeh argued that Martyr Soleimani should serve as an exemplary figure for them to follow. He suggested a more open-minded approach in filmmaking, breaking stereotypes, and conveying the transformation of an ordinary person into a great general. This, he believed, is essential for the generation grappling with an identity crisis.



بعد الغزو الأمريكي والبريطاني في عام ٢٠٠٣.

كان المشهد مخيباً للآمال، لكن الجنرال سليمان غرس فينا الاعتقاد بأننا قادرون على التغلب على الإرهابيين من خلال الحفاظ على معنوياتنا عالية وإيماننا ثابتاً. لقد قاد العديد من العمليات بنفسه، وأظهر إصراراً حازماً وسط الشدائد. حتى أنه فقد والده بينما كنا نخطط لإحدى المهام. لقد شهدت دموعه عندما كان وحيداً، لكنه لم يظهر القوة إلا عندما واجه الجنود وجهاً لوجه».

وفي مواجهة الرعب العالمي الذي أثارته أعمال داعش الشنيعة، بما في ذلك قطع الرؤوس التي ظهرت في مقاطع فيديو مروعة، نزل الجنرال سليمان إلى ساحة المعركة على الرغم من الصعوبات الجمة.

ويتذكر محمد رضا فلاح زاده، القائد الذي وقف إلى جانب سليمان في سوريا: «عندما دخلنا سوريا، لم يبق سوى ١٦٪ من الأراضي خارج سيطرة داعش. كان المشهد مخيباً للآمال، لكن الجنرال سليمان غرس فينا الاعتقاد بأننا قادرون على التغلب على الإرهابيين من خلال الحفاظ على معنوياتنا عالية وإيماننا ثابتاً. لقد قاد العديد من العمليات بنفسه، وأظهر إصراراً حازماً وسط الشدائد. حتى أنه فقد والده بينما كنا نخطط لإحدى المهام. لقد شهدت دموعه عندما كان وحيداً، لكنه لم يظهر القوة إلا عندما واجه الجنود وجهاً لوجه».

وعلى الرغم من كل الصعوبات التي واجهته، انتهى القائد العسكري إلى تفكيك كل معازل داعش واحداً تلو الآخر. وفي نهاية المطاف، تحدى التوقعات العالمية في عام ٢٠١٧ من خلال إنجاز ما بدا وكأنه مهمة لا يمكن التغلب عليها على الإطلاق.

وأعلن سليمان نهاية داعش في رسالة إلى قائد الثورة الإسلامية آية الله السيد علي خامنئي. وعزا النصر إلى قدرة الله قائلاً: «مع تحرير البوكمال، وإنزال علم داعش الأمريكي الصهيوني، ورفع العلم السوري، كجندي لكم في ساحة المعركة، أعلن بكل تواضع نهاية فساد الشجرة الملعونة وهيمنتها.»

كانت حياة سليمان الرائعة متشابكة مع أحداث غير عادية، وجاءت وفاته في مسار بالغ الأهمية. في أوائل يناير ٢٠٢٠، أمر الرئيس الأمريكي السابق دونالد ترامب بشن غارة بطائرة بدون طيار أنهت حياة سليمان بشكلأساوي عند وصوله إلى بغداد، العراق. وقد تمت إدانة هذا القتل المستهدف على نطاق واسع باعتباره انتهاكاً خطيراً للقانون الدولي، نظراً لأنه حدث خلال مهمة سليمان الدبلوماسية في دولة أخرى ذات سيادة.

وفي أعقاب هذا العمل غير القانوني، قدمت إدارة ترامب مجموعة معقدة من المبررات، مما أدى إلى تعزيز الخلاف والرفض الدولي. يقال إن قرار تنفيذ هذا العمل كان يهدف إلى استرضاء رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي نتنياهو وتأمين الدعم من اللوبي الصهيوني في الولايات المتحدة. ولكن الأهم من ذلك هو أن دور سليمان في تعزيز محور المقاومة، والذي يقف ضد الهيمنة والاستغلال الأمريكي في غرب آسيا، قد أثار غضباً شديداً من الإدارة الأمريكية.

وفي أعقاب وفاته المفاجئة، تمت ترقية سليمان بعد وفاته إلى رتبة فريق في الحرس، وهي شهادة على تأثيره الدائم. وقد سلط الإقبال الكبير على موكب جنازته الضوء على مكانته العامة غير المسبوقة، على الرغم من أنه كان غير مشهور نسبياً خلال سنوات نشاطه كقائد عسكري.

وعلى الرغم من الجهود المتضاربة التي تبذلها وسائل الإعلام المناهضة لإيران والمندوعة من الغرب لتشويه سمعة سليمان، فإنه لا يزال بطلاً وطنياً عزيزاً في قلوب وعقول ملايين الإيرانيين.

قوى المقاومة عام ٢٠٢٤

رہما توقعـت الولايات المتحدـة أن يؤدي اغتيال سليمان إلى تقليص نفوذ إيران في المنطقة وتبثيـط عزمـة فصائل المقاومة. ومع ذلك، أظهرت أحداث عام ٢٠٢٣ أن كل هذه التوقعات الأمريكية كانت في غير محلها بالأساس.

وبحسب العديد من المحللين العالميين، فقد ظهر عام ٢٠٢٣ كعام استثنائي لحركة المقاومة. إن عملية طوفان الأقصى، التي قادتها حماس، والمواجهة الناجحة اللاحقة مع القوات الإسرائيلية في قطاع غزة، إلى جانب العمليات المحورية التي قامت بها حركة أنصار الله اليمنية في البحر الأحمر، قد أوضحت للعالم بشكل لا لبس فيه أن اغتيال الفريق قاسم سليمان، إذا كان هناك أي شيء، قد حفز جماعات المقاومة، وعزز عزمها وتمكينها في مكافحة الولايات المتحدة وحلفائها.



كل فرد تحت قيادته، « هكذا قال الجنرال غلام رضا بغباني، الرفيق القديم الذي قاتل إلى جانب سليمان لمدة ٣٩ عاماً. «لقد تعرض لإصابات ثلاث مرات خلال الحرب، بعضها كان خطيراً وتطلب منه الانسحاب مؤقتاً من ساحة المعركة للتعافي. ومع ذلك، أذكر أنه كان يكره تقريباً البقاء في الفراش؛ كان الأمر كما لو أنه شعر بعدم الاستقرار بينما كان يدرك أن مواطنيه وشعبه قد يكونون في خطر».

على الرغم من إنجازاته العديدة على الخطوط الأمامية، سعى سليمان باستمرار إلى البقاء غير واضح وتجنب الشهرة. «كل تصرفاته كانت من أجل الأمة، ولم يكن مهتما بالمجد الشخصي. وكان هدفه الوحيد هو سلامة وأمن بلدنا».

وظل سليمان، أحد أصغر القادة سنأً خلال الحرب الإيرانية العراقية، مجهولاً إلى حد كبير بعد الحرب مقارنة بالجنرالات الآخرين الذين حصلوا على اعتراف وطني في أعقاب الصراع.

يقول الجنرال غلام رضا بغباني عن الجنرال سليمان: «كل تصرفاته كانت من أجل الأمة، ولم يكن مهتمًا بالمجد الشخصي. كان هدفه الوحيد هو سلامة وأمن بلدنا».

وفي أعقاب الحرب، كرّس سليمان العقد التالي لمكافحة الجريمة المنظمة واسعة النطاق، بما في ذلك تهريب الأسلحة والمخدرات، في محافظتي كرمان وسيستان-بلوشستان.

وبحلول عام ١٩٩٨، وسط تعافي إيران من آثار غزو صدام، تولى سليمان قيادة فيلق القدس التابع للحرس الثوري الإيراني. وعلى الرغم من أنه كان لا يزال غير معروف نسبياً للجمهور الإيراني في ذلك الوقت، إلا أن شهرته بين الكيانات الأجنبية، وخاصة وسط مختلف الفصائل المتحاربة في أفغانستان، كانت واضحة.

وبحسب التقارير، لعب سليمان دوراً حاسماً في التوسط في السلام في أفغانستان التي مزقتها الحرب، والتوسط بين الجماعات السياسية الأفغانية المتنوعة، والمساهمة في نهاية المطاف في تشكيل أول حكومة في أفغانستان بعد طالبان بعد مؤتمر بون عام ٢٠٠١.

وإدراكاً لأهمية الاستقرار الإقليمي، شرع سليمان في مهمة لتأمين إيران وأيضاً الدول المجاورة لها. وقدم الدعم للمجموعات والحكومات في لبنان والعراق وسوريا وفلسطين، التي تخوض صراعات طويلة إما مع النظام الإسرائيلي أو القوات الأمريكية المحتلة. والجدير بالذكر أنه لعب دوراً محورياً في طرد القوات الإسرائيلية من لبنان خلال صراع عام ٢٠٠٦. ويُنسب إلى سليمان أيضاً مساعدة العراق في استعادة سيادته

استمتعت بهم. كل التعب الذي كنت أشعر به قد ذهب. كانت هذه هي المرة الأولى التي أتناول فيها موزة».

خلال أواخر مراهقته، خضعت للياقة البدنية الضعيفة لسليمان لتحويل ملحوظ إلى شكل قوي وضلي، ويُعزى ذلك إلى مشاركته الشديدة في الفنون القتالية والزخانة، وهي رياضة إيرانية تقليدية. هذه القوة وخفة الحركة المكتشفة حديثاً مكنته من الإفلات من برائن قوات الشاه وسط الاحتجاجات الشديدة في الأيام التي سبقت انتصار الثورة الإسلامية. لقد انتهى به الأمر بالوقوع في فخ والتعرض للضرب المبرح في نهاية المطاف، لكنه سرعان ما أدرك أنه من أجل الحفاظ على ما يقدره حقاً، كان بحاجة إلى خوض معركة جيدة. «لم أستطع التحرك لمدة ثلاثة أيام بسبب الألم الشديد، لكنني شعرت بطاقة جديدة بداخلي. لقد اختفى الخوف من التعرض للضرب والتعذيب لأنني فكرت في نفسي أن كل ما كان يمكن أن يحدث قد حدث بالفعل..»

بداية الحياة العسكرية وانتهى الأمر بسليمان بالعمل في عدة وظائف في المدينة بعد أول وظيفة له في موقع بناء. ولكن بعد انتصار الثورة الإسلامية، تم تعيين سليمان كعضو فخري في الحرس الثوري الإسلامي في كرمان في فبراير ١٩٧٩. بعد مرور عامين على بداية الحرب المدمرة التي شنها الدكتاتور العراقي صدام حسين ضد إيران، بدعم من الولايات المتحدة، انضم سليمان رسمياً إلى الحرس الثوري الإيراني. وعلى الرغم من دخوله الجيش في أدنى رتبة، فقد تولى في النهاية دوراً مباشراً في العديد من العمليات المحورية خلال الصراع الشاق الذي دام ٨ سنوات.

وانتهى الأمر بسليمان البالغ من العمر ٢٣ عاماً كقائد لقوة تطوعية من محافظة كرمان مسقط رأسه فيما أصبح يعرف باسم فرقة ثار الله ٤١. لقد قاد عدة عمليات ضد الانفصاليين داخل إيران وأصبح على دراية بالاستراتيجيات العسكرية في وقت مبكر جداً من حياته.

منذ بداية قيادته، بدا سليمان منيعاً أمام الغرور والغطرسة. «لقد كان متديباً دائماً، وكان يعطي الأولوية لواجباته الدينية حتى في أصعب لحظات الحرب. كما أذهل سلوكه الكثيرون: فقد كان يعامل الجميع، بما في ذلك أسرى الحرب، بنفس الاحترام، مما يضمن كرامة

تقف إيران كواحدة من أقدم الحضارات في العالم، وتمتاز بتاريخ حافل بقصص الانتصار والمحنة، والصعود والهبوط، والازدهار والمحن. وفي خضم بعض من أكثر الفترات المروعة في التاريخ، صمدت الأمة بثبات لآلاف السنين.

الغزوات المستمرة التي شنّها اليونانيون والرومان والعرب والمغول، جعلت الموقع الجيوسياسي الفريد لإيران منها هدفاً للمتعدّين الصغار والكبار على حد سواء طوال تاريخها، مما أدى إلى إلحاق أضرار لا يمكن إصلاحها بثقافتها وحضارتها وتراثها الوطني.

وعلى الرغم من اضطرابها إلى مواجهة العدو في بعض الأحيان، والتعاضب معه في أحيان أخرى، فقد اجتازت البلاد بشجاعة موجات المد والجزر المضطربة عبر التاريخ، وتجنبت الانغماس في البحار المعادية للنفوذ الأجنبي الذي يسعى إلى تآكل ثروتها وهويتها.

كان أحد الموضوعات المتكررة عبر المساحة الشاسعة من حدود البلاد هو ظهور قادة عسكريين بارزين. قام هؤلاء الأفراد، وبعضهم كان غامضاً في السابق، بتنظيم تغييرات محورية في ساحة المعركة في منعطفات حرجة. لقد أعاد هؤلاء الرجال والنساء المجد والسلام إلى وطنهم مع الحفاظ على حدود الأجداد، وحفروا أسمائهم في سجلات تاريخ إيران.

وفي خضم العصر الحديث المضطرب في إيران، حيث تظهر الأنماط التاريخية في كثير من الأحيان على السطح، ليس من المستغرب أن مثل هؤلاء القادة الاستثنائيين مقدر لهم الظهور مرة أخرى لحماية أمتهم. ومن ثم، بينما يتعمق جيل اليوم في تراث شخصيات مثل أربورزان، والشاه إسماعيل الأول، وميرزا كوتشيك خان، فمن المؤكد أن أجيال المستقبل ستتعرف على قائد عسكري مشهور آخر في دروس التاريخ: قاسم سليمان.

وفي حين أن سليمان يشبه كل تلك الشخصيات من حيث مساعيه ووطنيته، فإن الشيء الوحيد الذي يجعله يبرز بين جميع الأبطال الوطنيين في إيران هو حقيقة أنه على قائد عسكري مشهور آخر في دروس يزال مستمرا.

البيدات الرجل الذي يعتبر أحد أكثر الشخصيات تأثيرا في القرن الحادي والعشرين في غرب آسيا، ولد في قرية نائية في مقاطعة كرمان الجنوبية الشرقية. وكان الطفل الثالث لوالديه المزارعين، وكان لديهما خمسة أطفال.

مثل العديد من الأشخاص البارزين في التاريخ، واجه سليمان تربية صعبة. على الرغم من أنه نشأ على يد أبوين محبين، إلا أنه كان يتمتع بخلفية متواضعة جداً وكان عليه أن يواجه الحرمان لعدة مراحل في طفولته ومراهقته. كقرويين، اعتمدت عائلته على منتجاتهم وحيواناتهم من أجل البقاء وكسب المال، وهو مبلغ ضئيل في نهاية كل عام.

منذ أن كان في الخامسة من عمره، أمضى سليمان أيامه في المساعدة في الأعمال الزراعية ورعاية الماشية كراعي. كمخصصاته السنوية، لم يتلق سوى الملابس البالية ومجموعتين من الأحذية المطاطية المتهاكلة. وكان يرتدي هذه الممتلكات الضئيلة، وكان يرعى الخراف بجتهاد، وكثيراً ما كان يعرض نفسه للخطر لضمان سلامتها. وكتب في مذكراته: «كنت أذهب إلى غابة اللوز البرية دون أن أخشى الذئاب التي كانت تنتظر اصطياد الأغنام في الشتاء». ومع ذلك، وسط هذه الصراعات، تحملت قدماه التضاريس القاسية، مما تسبب في بعض الأحيان في تعطل حذائه الممزق، مما ترك أصابع قدميه مكشوفة وملطخة بالدماء من جراء مواجهتها للطريق الوعر.

بمجرد وصول سليمان إلى سنوات المراهقة، اعتقد أنه يتعين عليه البحث عن مصدر إضافي للدخل على الرغم من كونه طالباً. غادر القرية إلى المدينة بعد انتهاء المدرسة وطرق باب كل عمل تجاري في المدينة للعثور على وظيفة. «طرقت باب كل متجر ومقهى ومطعم وورشة وسألت: هل تحتاج إلى عامل؟ كان الجميع ينظرون إلى قامتي الصغيرة ويرفضونني».

على الرغم من شعوره بعدم الأهمية وعدم مكانته في البيئة الحضرية الصاخبة، قرر سليمان عدم الاستسلام، واغتنام كل فرصة لمساعدة والديه في تغطية نفقاتهما. وفي نهاية المطاف، حصل على عمل في موقع بناء، حيث تضمنت مهامه اليومية رفع الأشياء الثقيلة بشكل شاق. ومع ذلك، فإن متعة إعالة والديه طغت على كل المشقة والنضال الذي تحمله. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، أتاح له الدخل الإضافي الفرصة للحصول على ممتلكات لم يتمتع بها من قبل.

ويتذكر في مذكراته: «بريالين، اشتريت علبة بسكويات مينو صغيرة وأربعة موزات بخمسة ريالات. لقد

مدير مركز العراق للدراسات: الشهيد سليمان منع العالم من نسيان القضية الفلسطينية



عندما يتعلق الأمر بدور الشهيد الجنرال سليمان في الدفاع عن قضية القدس والقضية الفلسطينية، ينبغي أن يؤخذ بعين الاعتبار الحق الكبير لهذا الجنرال في إبقاء ذاكرة واسم فلسطين حيّة.

وصف محمد صادق الهاشمي المحلل والكاتب و رئيس مركز العراق للدراسات في حوار مع مراسل وكالة طهران تايمز موقف ودور الشهيد سليمان في الدفاع عن قضية فلسطين ومؤشرات وسمات الأعمال العظيمة التي قام بها هذا الشهيد النبيل في القضية الفلسطينية.

وفيما يلي نص الحوار:

نجح الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليمان في حشد فصائل المقاومة الإسلامية في المنطقة في القتال ضد المحور العربي والغربي والصهوني عندما كان قائدا لفيلق القدس. برأيك، ما هو تأثير الدفاع عن القضية الفلسطينية على تأسيس محور المقاومة على يد الشهيد سليمان؟

تبنى الشهيد سليمان القضية الفلسطينية بتوجيه من الأمام الخامنئي وتضمن هذا تنظيم وضع المقاومة الفلسطينية سياسيا وأمنيا. وتسليح وتدريب ومساعات وخطط وتوجيه . يضاف إلى ذلك زرع عقيدة الشهادة وبناء جسور كبيرة من العلاقات بين المقاومة الفلسطينية مع إيران والعراق وفلسطين واليمن فضلا عن تفعيل القضية الفلسطينية دوليا .

المعروف أن الشهيد سليمان خاض معارك إقليمية ضد الامريكان وإسرائيل في لبنان وضد الدواعش والقاعدة والإرهاب وكل هذا الزخم انعكس إيجابيا على تطوير فاعلية المقاومة الفلسطينية واللبنانية والعراقية واليمن والبحرين مما جعل خط المقاومة هو المنتصر والقادر على تحقيق نتيجة إيجابية في كسر إرادة الأعداء وتطوير المواقع المهمة للمقاومة فالانتصارات في لبنان على إسرائيل وفي إيران والعراق وفلسطين غيرت المعادلات القتالية نحو رجحان كفة الميزان المقاوم وخير دليل طوفان الاقصي وصمود الشعب الفلسطيني.

كيف تقيمون دور الشهيد الجنرال سليمان في انتصارات محور المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية اليوم؟

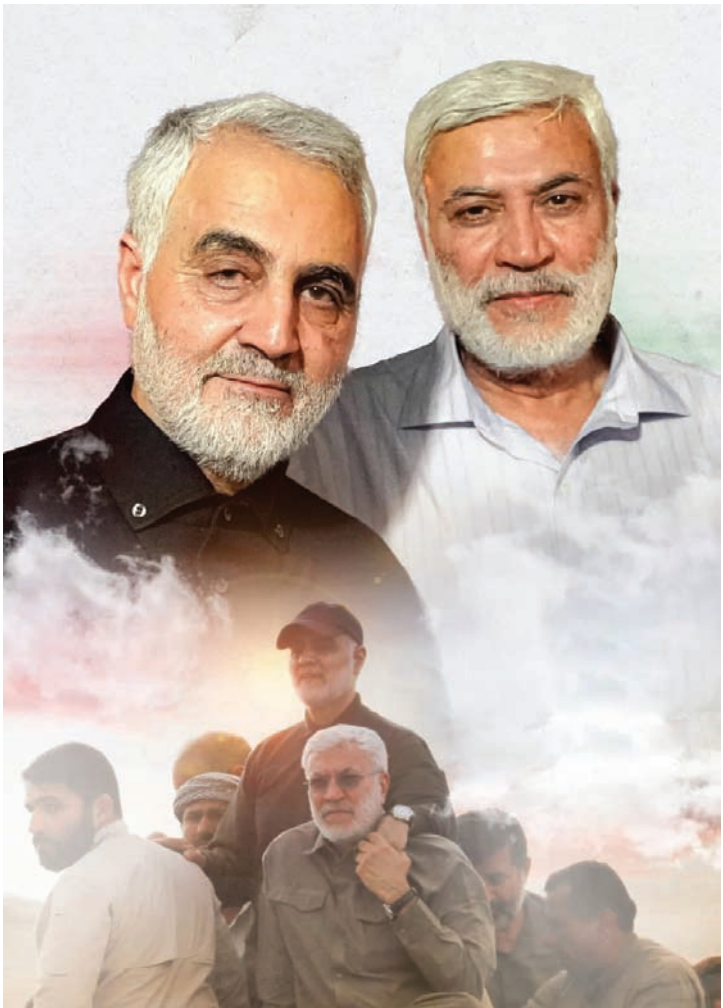
دور الشهيد سليمان في تحقيق الانتصارات في فلسطين واضح وجلي فهو من زودهم بفكرة الانفاق والسلاح وهو من دربهم ومكنهم من الثبات ووفر لهم الإسناد.

برأيك، ما هي المؤشرات والخصائص التي اتسمت بها تصرفات الشهيد سليمان في الدفاع عن القضية الفلسطينية؟

اولا. نظم القوى السياسية بعدما كانت مفرقة ومتناحرة. ثانيا ؛ أعاد للقضية الفلسطينية وجودها السياسي والمقاوم في المحافل الدولية والإقليمية. ثالثا:كانت القضية الفلسطينية حكرا على الأنظمة العربية والغربية التي تريد تذويب القضية بحل الدولتين وغيرها من الحلول، وهو جعلها قضية الاسلام والمسلمين وبهذا منع الحلول التي تنطلق من الغرب والعملاء وجعل الحل هو تحرير كامل ارض فلسطين. رابعا ؛ نقلها من مقاومة حجارة إلى مقاومة السلاح المتطور فأصبحت المقاومة تخطط بعمق عملية طوفان الاقصي. وخامسا؛ افشل حركة التطبيع وأحيا حركة الجهاد.



عالم ما بعد سليمانى والمهندس



امريكا تعود من الشباك

بعد فشلها بفرض مشروع «الشرق الأوسط الكبير» الذي تحتل فيه اسرائيل مكانة القوة العظمى المهيمنة على مقدرات دول وشعوب المنطقة، وبعد خروجها المذل من العراق، قررت الولايات المتحدة العودة للمنطقة من الشباك على ظهر التنظيمات الارهابية التي تم سحب فلولها من العراق وافغانستان واليمن وليبيا وتونس لتكون سوريا المسرح الميداني لاستكمال مشروع التقسيم على اسس طائفية اثنية خدمة للكيان الصهيوني.

لعبت الهيمنة الغربية والسطوة على دورا واسعا في تنفيذ المخطط الامريكي في سوريا عام ٢٠١١، ثمالعراق في ٢٠١٣ و ٢٠١٤.

فقد تم سحب القيادات التي نشطت في العراق واعتقل اغلبها في السجون

الامريكية لاسيما سجن بوكا، الذي اعتبر بمثابة اكااديمية أمريكية لتخريج التنظيمات الارهابية. فقد خرجت هذه الاكاديمية الإرهابية العشرات من قيادات التنظيمات الإرهابية، وفي مقدمتهم كل من ابو محمد الجولاني ومساعدو ابو محمد العدناني، قائد تنظيم جبهة النصرة، وابو بكر البغدادي ومساعديه قبل انشقاقهم عن الجولاني وتشكيلهم تنظيم «الدولة الإسلامية».

وعلى الرغم من الانشقاقات التي شهدتها التنظيمات الارهابية في سوريا لكنها كانت تدار من خلال غرفتي عمليات امنية الاولى عبر تركيا سميت ب«غرفة موم»، وعبر الاردن سُميت ب«غرفة موك». وكلاهما كانا يخضعان لادارة السي اي ايه الى جانب مشاركة بعض أنظمة المنطقة.

وباعتراف رئيس الوزراء القطري حمد بن جاسم فإن هاتين الغرفتين خُصص لهما مليارات الدولارات من أجل المضي بمشروع اسقاط سوريا وتقسيم المنطقة. وذكر جاسم في لقاء تلفزيوني ان مدير المخابرات السعودية طلب ٢ ترليون دولار لاسقاط نظام بشار الأسد لوحده!

وبينما كان العالم يتحدّث عن ثورة سورية بتأثير من سياسة الخداع والتضليل الامريكية لتجميل جرائم التنظيمات الإرهابية بحق الشعب السوري، لكنّ محور المقاومة كان واعياً لحقيقة هذا المخطط التخريبي.

من هنا كان انخراط الجمهورية الاسلامية عبر مستشاريها من الحرس الثوري بقيادة الجنرال الشهيد قاسم سليمانى في الداخل السوري، ثم التحاق حزب الله وفصائل المقاومة العراقية وغيرها، بمثل لحظة وعي تاريخية قلبت الموازين وانتهت بإجهاض هذا المشروع الذي أريد له ان يبدأ بسوريا ويعمّ كل دول المنطقة.

لقد نجح محور المقاومة في إيقاف تقدم المخطط الذي كان يزحف الى قلب العاصمة السورية دمشق، وكانت محطته التالية العاصمة العراقية بغداد.

أدى نجاح محور المقاومة بتثبيت الدولة السورية ومنع سقوطها بيد التنظيمات الارهابية، كجبهة النصرة، والدولة الاسلامية، منذ اندلاع الاحداث في ٢٠١١ الى ٢٠١٤، لكي تفكّر الإدارة الامريكية بنقل المواجهة الى عمق جغرافيا المقاومة، اي العراق الذي مثل خطاً استراتيجيا لإمداد جبهة سوريا بكلّ عناصر وعوامل الصمود.

في هذا التوقيت بالضبط تم دفع التنظيمات الارهابية تحت غطاء تنظيم «الدولة الاسلامية في العراق والشام» المعروفة اختصارا ب«داعش»، الى داخل الأراضي العراقية ليتم كسر الحدود مع سوريا ويتم احتلال الموصل في ١٠ حزيران ٢٠١٤ ثم الاندفاع لاحتلال ثلث الاراضي العراقية.

مازن الزيدي

كاتب وصحفي عراقي



كيف تمكن شهدان فريدان من سيادة كتب التاريخ

ليس كافيًا في احياء الذكرى الرابعة لاعتبال قائد قوات فيلق القدس في الحرس الثوري الإيراني، الجنرال قاسم سليمانى وابو مهدي المهندس وهو نائب القائد العام للحشد الشعبي في العراق ، ليس كافيًا التركيز فقط على الشهداء، ومن الضروري التفریق والتمييز بين الشهداء والقنلة.

وحتى نكون أكثر دقة، علينا أن نفهم من هم الشهداء وماذا كانوا يمثلون. وفي المقابل من هم القنلة وماذا كانوا يمثلون. من جهة، فإن الشهيد الجنرال سليمانى يمثل كل قيم الجمهورية الإسلامية. على سبيل المثال، حينما احتل التنظيم الارهابي لداعش ثلث الاراضي العراقية وفي أحلك الاوقات في صيف ٢٠١٤ فإن الجنرال سليمانى كان هو أول من وصل إلى ساحة المعركة.

فقد سافر، ممثلاً لإيران، إلى العراق مع مستشارين عسكريين آخرين من فيلق القدس لمساعدة وحدات الحشد الشعبي المشكلة حديثاً، والتي كانت هي القوة الوحيدة القادرة على مواجهة تهديد داعش الارهابي. فقد تمكن الشهيدان من إيقاف الأفعال الارهابية للجماعة من ذبح المدنيين، ومعاملة النساء كعبيد، وتدمير الأماكن الإسلامية والمسيحية المقدسة والوقوف بوجه مهمتها المعلنة للسيطرة على البلاد بأكملها مع توسيع أعمالها الإرهابية إلى المنطقة والعالم.

اضافة الى ما قاما به، الجنرال سليمانى والمهندس، من تدريب أعضاء الحشد الشعبي ورفع معنوياتهم وبث روح الأمل القتالية فيهم، فقد شاركهم أوقاتهم العصبية وذلك عندما استشهد كثيرون منهم وكذلك في أوقات الاحتفال بعد نجاح العمليات العسكرية، كذلك شاركهم جوهم وعطشهم والتعب في ساحة المعركة.

وبشكل أساسي، اندمج هذان الرزمان في مكافحة الإرهاب مع وحدات الحشد الشعبي.

على العكس من القادة العسكريين الآخرين الذين يجلسون في الثكنات، يشربون الشاي ويعطون الأوامر من مكان آمن، فلقد قاد هذان الشهيدان الفريدان القوات ضد داعش في الخطوط الأمامية في ساحة المعركة وأشرفا على العمليات في خط النار.

وتظهر اللقطات والصور التي انتشرت على مواقع التواصل الاجتماعي كيف كانا يأكلان الطعام البسيط وهما جالسان تحت حرارة الصيف الالهبة أو في ظروف الشتاء القاسية، أو ينامون و يستريحون في الصحاري حيث كانوا يخططون العمليات العسكرية تحت النار. هذه بالتأكيد قمة الإنسانية.

هذا ما مثله الجنرال سليمانى في تمثيل الجمهورية الإسلامية الإيرانية، وهذا ما مثله أبو مهدي المهندس في تمثيل الحشد الشعبي بفتوى آية الله العظمى السيد علي السيستاني في النجف.

كلما قاد أبو مهدي المهندس معركة في المناطق ذات الأغلبية السنية في العراق، كان يعقد أولاً اجتماعاً على الأرض مع شيوخ القبائل السنية لطبائهم بأن وحدات الحشد الشعبي لا تفعل أي تهديد لشعبهم.

هذا هو ما دفع الكثير من المسلمين السنة إلى الانضمام في قوات الحشد الشعبي. ومن ناحية أخرى، فإن القاتل والذي صرح بنفسه كان هو الرئيس السابق للولايات المتحدة. أعلن دونالد ترامب صراحة أنه أمر بشن ضربات بطائرات بدون طيار في محيط مطار بغداد الدولي. وأوضح سبب إصدار الأمر بشن الضربات، وكلها كانت أكاذيب.

اما اذا أردنا أن نوضح الموقف الأمريكي فليس على المرء إلا أن ينظر إلى كيفية تعامل الولايات المتحدة مع العراق على مدى العقدين الماضيين. بغض النظر عن احتلالها غير القانوني المستمر وانتهاك أراضيها ومجالها الجوي، فقد تركت الولايات المتحدة وصمة عار داكنة على المجتمع العراقي.

من فضائحها العديدة بعد غزوها عام ٢٠٠٣، فلقد احتلت الولايات المتحدة العراق وقتلت عشرات الآلاف من المدنيين باعتراف واشنطن نفسها. لقد دمر الجيش الأمريكي البنية التحتية الحيوية وغيرها من الخدمات في البلاد، ونهب مواردها، ولا تزال يفعل ذلك، وسجن مئات الآلاف، واركتبت أمريكا أبشع أشكال التعذيب ضد العراقيين، رجلا ونساء.

وتشمل الفضائح الأخرى الطبيعة الهمجية لمعاملة قواتها للسجناء العراقيين في أبو غريب، والاغتصاب الجماعي لفتاة عراقية تبلغ من العمر ١٤ عاماً، وقتل عائلتها على يد جنود أمريكيين مخمورين في المحمودية. إن قائمة جرائم الحرب الأمريكية في العراق لا نهاية لها.

هذه هي الولايات المتحدة نفسها قبل أن تغتال الجنرال سليمانى وأبو مهدي المهندس. وبإرادة المقاومة العراقية طرد هذا الاحتلال المظلم في عام ٢٠١١.

لكن القاتل، باعتراف ترامب نفسه، وكذلك باعتراف مايك بومبيو، وزير خارجية ترامب ورئيس وكالة المخابرات المركزية السابق وكذلك كبار القادة العسكريين الأمريكيين ، هم الذين أنشأوا تنظيم داعش، والذي يقول الخبراء إنه كان الذريعة التي استخدمها البنتاغون لإعادة الاحتلال العراق. ومع ظهور تنظيم داعش، وضعت واشنطن العراق تحت تهديد وجودي.

ولم يكن داعش يعمل كجيش نظامي، لذا فإن الضربات الجوية الأمريكية لمحاربة داعش لم تؤدي إلا إلى تحويل المدن العراقية إلى أنقاض. كما سمح لداعش بالنمو مع انضمام المزيد من المتطرفين التكفيريين إلى الجماعة الإرهابية. الولايات المتحدة مسؤولة عن جميع الجرائم التي ارتكبتها داعش في العراق.

الطريقة الوحيدة التي كان من الممكن بها هزيمة هذه المجموعة الإرهابية هي استخدام جنود مشاة على الأرض للانخراط في معارك الشوارع. وهذا ما امتنعت الولايات المتحدة عن القيام به عن علم.

هذا ما حققه الشهيدين قاسم سليمانى وابو مهدي المهندس بأنفسهم ومن يمثلهم .

سُتُكِب أسماؤهم في كتب التاريخ باعتبارهم القادة الذين هزموا داعش في ثلاث سنوات، عندما كان القادة الأمريكيون يقولون إن الأمر سيستغرق عشر سنوات لإنهاء المهمة.

وسوف يُذكرون أيضًا بحكمتهم العسكرية الفريدة وإنسانيتهم وتعاطفهم وفي الدموع التي ذرفوها عند مقتل عناصر من الحشد الشعبي على يد داعش. كذلك في شجاعتهم التي أظهروها من خلال دخولهم قلب المعركة.

لقد أصبح العراق بلداً أكثر أمناً اليوم بفضل هذين الشهيدين الفريدين، والشجاعة التي أظهرها من خلال وضع حياتهما على المحك في مناسبات متعددة وفي العديد من المعارك ضد داعش.

وكل ذلك كان من أجل المدنيين العراقيين. وسوف يتذكر التاريخ الولايات المتحدة وجيشها بالعكس تماما. القسوة والهمجية والجنين في اغتيال أبقونات مكافحة الإرهاب ومنع العالم من قول الحقيقة في أعقاب الاغتيال في ٣ يناير ٢٠٢٠.

هل يستطيع أي فرد عراقي منصف أن يثق بالولايات المتحدة التي دمرت ونهبت وأخرت شحن الأسلحة المدفوعة الثمن إلى بغداد في محاولة لتأخير ومنع داعش من الفناء.

وقامت أمريكا بتصوير إيران والتي قدمت المساعدة والأسلحة والدعم اللوجستي وأرسلت اعلى جنرال عندها (الشهيد قاسم سليمانى) وفي اليوم الأول من مكاسب داعش الإقليمية كعدو.

هل يمكن لأي شخص في العراق أن يتوصل إلى نتيجة مفادها أن الولايات المتحدة حليف وإيران حليف أيضًا؟

اما في أسوأ السيناريوهات، فأنك تسمح بين الحين والآخر بعض الأصوات في العراق والتي امتلأت جيوبها بالدولار من السفارة الأمريكية في بغداد، تقول إن الولايات المتحدة صديقتنا، على الرغم من كل جرائم الحرب التي ارتكبتها الولايات المتحدة في العراق (وعلى وجه الخصوص، تعذيبها للنساء العراقيات المسجونات)، وإيران مجرد جارة.

هنا يدخل الفساد على الخط. ليس فقط الفساد المالي ، لكن فساد العقل، الوعي والشعور.

والنتيجة، كارثة إنسانية وتجاهل واضح للتاريخ وللأفراد الذين تم غسل أدمغتهم من السفارة الأمريكية في بغداد.

التي خطط الشهيد قاسم سليمانى لبنائها والصواريخ التي كان رائدا في تصنيعها.

صحيح ان سلاح المقاومة محدود ولكن إيمانها اللامحدود جعلتها أقوى من قوة الأسلحة اللامحدودة التي تمتلكها إسرائيل، وإن جهود الشهيد سليمانى لا تقتصر على جغرافيا فلسطين فقط، بل في كل جبهات المقاومة ضد إسرائيل.

لماذا اطلق على الشهيد سليمانى لقب ”شهيد القدس“؟

استشهد الشهيد سليمانى أثناء قيامه بواجبه كقائد لفيلق القدس، فإذا لم يتم الاعتراف به كشهيد القدس فمن يستحق لهذا اللقب؟ ومن قام بإستشهاده كان يعلم جيداً أنه لن يكتفي بتحرير القدس... انه لم يكن تهديدا لإسرائيل فحسب، بل كان تهديدا لجميع القوى الإمبريالية، وخاصة الشيطان الأكبر أمريكا، التي تستغل موارد منطقتنا، ولذلك فمن المناسب اعتباره ليس فقط شهيداً للقدس، بل شهيداً للأمة أيضاً».

ومن أجل إنقاذ الجغرافيا الإسلامية من الاحتلال والهيمنة الإمبريالية، كان لا بد من تحرير القدس أولاً، ولهذا السبب، حاول الشهيد سليمانى دائماً إبقاء الطريق إلى القدس مفتوحاً وساعد غزّة عبر العراق وسوريا ولبنان، حيث كان يحضر يوما في غزّة، ويوماً آخر في الجولان المحتل، ويوماً آخر كان في بيروت أو دمشق أو بغداد. كان الشهيد سليمانى دبلوماسياً وجنرالاً وجندياً عادياً في نفس الوقت، وكان يعرف أن المعتدي الحقيقي هو الشيطان الأكبر أمريكا، ولهذا السبب قام بإفشال أنشطتها.

كيف تقيمون دور الشهيد سليمانى في إضعاف موقف إسرائيل الإقليمي؟

الشهيد قاسم سليمانى لم يضعف موقف إسرائيل الإقليمي فحسب، بل أحبط كل مخططات الكيان الصهيوني... أجبر هذا الكيان الفلسطينيين على الهجرة القسرية من عام ١٩٤٨ إلى عام ١٩٨٠، وشردت مئات الآلاف منهم، وزاد من مساحة أراضيها من نحو ٢٥٪ إلى ٢٩٥٪ ووضع عينه على أراضي الدول المجاورة، واحتل جنوب لبنان وجاء إلى بيروت، وقد سار خطوة بخطوة نحو هدفه المزعوم، أى الأرض الموعودة، ومن أجل ضم بيروت ودمشق وجنوب شرق تركيا إلى الأراضي المحتلة، خلقت خلافات عنصرية وطائفية في هذه المناطق، وأضعفت وقسمت منافسيها من الداخل.

فبينما كانت إسرائيل منخرطة في مثل هذه المخططات، كانت إيران تواجه زمرة المنافقين من الداخل وهجوم صدام من الخارج. وحتى في هذا الوضع، لم تكن الجمهورية الإسلامية غافلة عن تحرير المسجد الأقصى، وكانت تخطط لهزيمة الكيان الصهيوني الغاصب، حيث ان العملية الاستشهادية للشهيد أحمد قصير في ١١ نوفمبر ١٩٨٢ وتفجير ثكنة بيروت في ٢٣ أكتوبر ١٩٨٣ صدمت إسرائيل وأمريكا وفرنسا. وسرعان ما غادرت أمريكا وفرنسا لبنان، واضطرت إسرائيل إلى الانسحاب من جنوب لبنان. لقد فقد الجيش الإسرائيلي جاذبيته المزعومة التي تقال انها لا تقهر في حرب تموز (يوليو) ٢٠٠٦، التي كان الشهيد قاسم سليمانى حاضرا فيها شخصيا. وبعد حرب تموز/ يوليو، تبذرت الخطط الإسرائيلية التوسعية وتغيرت إلى خطط حماية الأراضي المحتلة... كان هذا الكيان بحاجة إلى أنظمة دفاعية مثل القبة الحديدية من أجل البقاء، لكن عملية «طوفان الأقصى» التي أشير إلى جهود ومساعدة الشهيد سليمانى في بناء البنية التحتية والفنية والتخطيط والإعداد لها مرارا وتكرارا، أظهرت أن إسرائيل ستتهار وأن فيلق القدس يقترب من هدفه النهائي وهو تحرير القدس.



حقوقى تركى ل طهران تايمز:

الشهيد سليمانى أحبط كل مخططات الكيان الصهيونى

الشعبى وأنصار الله وخاصة حزب الله، وحارب شخصا الصهيونى فى كل جبهة من الشرق إلى الغرب، ومن الشمال إلى الجنوب، ولعب دورا فعالا فى تنامي الأمن والعدالة والسلام الإقليمى والعالمى.

وفى الذكرى الرابعة لاستشهاد هذين الشهيدين الكبيرين، أجرت مراسلة صحيفة طهران تايمز مقابلة مع الكاتب والحقوقى التركى، أمين غونش، وجاء نصها على النحو التالى:

كيف ترى دور الشهيد سليمانى فى إبقاء القضية الفلسطينية حية؟

قضية فلسطين حية دائما فى ذاكرة الأمة الإسلامية، ومنذ احتلال البريطانيين لفلسطين، جاهد المسلمون من أجل الحرية وإبقاء قضية فلسطين حية من خلال النضال السياسى والكفاح المسلح. على سبيل المثال، تعلمنا أهمية القضية الفلسطينية فى بلادنا من المرحوم نجم الدين أربكان. وعلينا أن نتذكر كلمات الراحل أربكان الذى قال: «إسرائيل لا تفهم إلا لغة القوة». لقد حاول الراحل أربكان لإزالة إسرائيل من المنطقة طوال حياته.

رؤيا فريدونى

استشهد قائد فيلق القدس لحرس الثورة الإسلامية، اللواء قاسم سليمانى و نائب رئيس هيئة الحشد الشعبى العراقى، أبو مهدي المهندس وعدد آخر من المقربين لهذين القائدين فى محور المقاومة، فى الصباح الباكر من يوم ٣ يناير ٢٠٢٠، بأمر مباشر من الرئيس الأمريكى آنذاك، دونالد ترامب، بإستخدام طائرات مسيرة قرب مطار بغداد. وقد أثار هذا العمل الإرهابى سىلاً من ردود الأفعال الدولية.

يُعرف الشهيد سليمانى بأنه القائد الأعلى لجبهة المقاومة ورمز الكفاح ضد نظام الهيمنة والإستكبار العالمى، وإن الأدوار التى لعبها اللواء الشهيد سليمانى فى مختلف جبهات الحرب ضد الإرهاب حولته إلى الركن الركين لمحور المقاومة، وبعد ظهور تنظيم داعش الإرهابى فى العراق وسوريا، حارب الشهيد سليمانى، بصفته قائد فيلق القدس، هذا التنظيم الإرهابى من خلال تواجده فى هذه المناطق وتنظيم القوات الشعبية.

ولم يكتف الشهيد سليمانى بمساعدة حركات مثل حماس والحشد

خالد قدومى: دور الشهيد سليمانى فى نقل الفكر والخبرة والسلاح للفلسطينيين كان فريدا من نوعه



من الواضح أن دعم قضية القدس وفلسطين خلال الحياة الشخصية والسياسية والعسكرية للشهيد الجنرال سليمانى، كانت من أهم القضايا. وكان الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليمانى يرى أن كل مسلم يجب أن يعتبر نفسه مسؤولا عن القضية الفلسطينية والدفاع عن المسجد الأقصى، وكان دائما فى طليعة الدفاع عن الأمة الفلسطينية. وبحسب قادة المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية، فإن الفريق الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليمانى كانت تربطه علاقة وثيقة بالقيادة الفلسطينين باعتباره أخا كبيرا وحونا، وحاول خلال فترة قيادة فيلق القدس نقل الفكر والتجارب وتسليح المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية، حيث بعد استشهاد هذا القائد الكبير للمقاومة، أطلق عليه العديد من قادة المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية لقب شهيد طريق القدس.

وفى هذا الصدد اجرت صحيفة طهران تايمز حواراً صحفياً مع ممثل حركة حماس فى طهران الاستاذ «خالد القدومى» عن الدور المهم للشهيد سليمانى فى الدفاع عن قضية فلسطين وعلاقة هذا الشهيد النبيل بقيادة المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية.

****نحن فى الذكرى الرابعة لاستشهاد الحاج قاسم سليمانى، القائد السابق لفيلق القدس. ماهى وجهة نظر الشعب الفلسطينى والمقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية تجاه الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليمانى؟**

كان الشهيد الفريق الحاج قاسم سليمانى الأخ الأكبر للمقاومة والمقاتلين الفلسطينين، وكانت له شخصية متعددة الأبعاد. وعلى الرغم من أنه كان مؤمناً ومسلماً راسخاً، إلا أنه كان أيضاً شخصية بارزة فى الجوانب

العسكرية والسياسية والدينية. ونحن فى فلسطين استفدنا من الفكر السياسى والخبرة العسكرية والفنية لهذا الشهيد الكريم لسنوات عديدة، وكان بمثابة الأخ الأكبر وعضو فى الأسرة المسلمة الكبيرة لنا نحن الفلسطينيين.

لقد ساعد الشهيد الفريق الحاج قاسم سليمانى المجاهدين والمقاومة الإسلامية فى مختلف الأبعاد، وكانت أهم مساهماته للمقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية فى جانب نقل الخبرة والسلاح والفكر الميدانى، مما ساهم فى تقدم المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية.

كما زار الشهيد سليمانى فلسطين وبعد استشهاده أصبح مكانه خاليا جدا، ورغم أن تلاميذه يواصلون نفس مسار الشهيد سليمانى، إلا أن فى رأيي كل شخص يلعب دوره ولايمكن لاحد ان يلعب دور احداً ثانى.

****من أبرز سمات الشهيد سليمانى أخلاق هذا الشهيد التقية تجاه سائر الأمم وقادة المقاومة. فى أى عام بدأت العلاقة بين الشهيد سليمانى وقادة المقاومة الإسلامية وكيف كانت؟**

قبل أن أريد الحديث عن العلاقة بين الشهيد سليمانى وقادة المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية، لا بد لى من أن أذكر تاريخ نفى بعض قادة المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية. بدأ نفى قادة مقاومة حماس فى عام ١٩٩٣، وفى السنوات نفسها تقريبا، بدأت أيضاً علاقة حماس مع حرس الثورة الإسلامية.

ومن قيادات المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية الذين نفوا فى هذه السنوات؛ كان هناك الدكتور عبد العزيز الرنتيسى، والدكتور محمود الزهار، والسيد إسماعيل هنية، وبعضهم تم فيهم إلى مرج الزهور فى

جنوب لبنان.

ولذلك استمرت العلاقة بين قادة حماس وحرس الثورة الإسلامية حتى عام ١٩٩٨، عندما أصبح الجنرال الحاج قاسم سليمانى قائداً لفيلق القدس، كما كانت تربطه علاقة جيدة مع قادة المقاومة الإسلامية حماس من ذلك الحين حتى استشهاده.

وكان الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليمانى مسؤولاً عن دعم المجاهدين والمقاتلين الفلسطينيين فى أوقات مختلفة، وخاصة عند هجمات الكيان الصهيونى على غزّة (حرب الـ ٢٢ يوماً). وفى الساحة الميدانية استفاد المقاتلين الفلسطينيين كثيرا من أفكاره وخبراته .

****معركة طوفان الأقصى شهدنا نجاحات وانتصارات جبهة المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية حماس فى غزّة، كيف تقيمون دور الشهيد سليمانى فى إنجازات جبهة المقاومة؟**

اليوم رأينا أن التجارب والتاريخ الطويل لجهاد الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليمانى قد تم نقله إلى الجيل القادم من المقاتلين والمجاهدين الفلسطينيين، وهم ورثة هذا الإرث القيم فى طريق الجهاد والقتال ضد الصهاينة.

والحقيقة أننا اليوم نعتبر أنفسنا مدينين لجهود هذه الشخصية العظيمة ونسأل الله أن يستمر طريق الشهيد اللواء الحاج قاسم سليمانى على يد تلاميذه فى فلسطين حتى تحرير القدس المقدسة وتدمير الكيان الصهيونى القاتل للأطفال.



باحث لبناني لطهران تايمز: الشهيد سليماني تواجد في جميع

الساحات لتبقى القضية المركزية



الدور الذي لعبه الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليماني برغد وتطوير ودعم المقاومة الفلسطينية وتعلقه ودفاعه عن القضية الفلسطينية دفع رئيس المكتب السياسي لحركة حماس لتسميته «شهيد القدس»، هذا الدور الذي ينطلق من رؤية استراتيجية عميقة وعقائدية إيمانية بضرورة تحرير فلسطين من رجس الاحتلال.

ومن أبرز ما ميز الشهيد سليماني، هو معرفته العميقة للعدو وأساليبه، وأيضاً بصيرته الفذة في اختيار الأصدقاء، وكان هيناً ليناً قريب من الناس، وفي نفس الوقت شديد على الأعداء، ما دفعهم لاغتياله بعد أن حطم مخططهم المرسوم للمنطقة.

وللتعرف أكثر على الدور الذي أداه القائد الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليماني، أجرت مراسلة صحيفة طهران تايمز، الأستاذة ورده سعد، حواراً صحفياً مع الاستاذ في العلوم الاجتماعية والباحث في الشؤون الإقليمية الدكتور طلال عتريسي، وجاء نص الحوار على النحو التالي:

ما هو دور الحاج قاسم في إبقاء القضية الفلسطينية حية في أذهان الناس ؟

الشهيد قاسم سليماني تميز بأمرين اساسين: الاول هو رؤيته الاستراتيجية وقدرته على الاستشراف والتحليل، والأمر الثاني هو جهاده الميداني وهذا قلما يجتمع في شخصية قيادية. اذ عادة ما يكون هناك فصل بين اصحاب الرؤى الاستراتيجية وبين اصحاب الخبرات الميدانية.

ميزة الشهيد سليماني وخصوصيته واستثنائيته انه جمع بين هذين الامرين، والمقصود بذلك انه عندما كان يقاتل في جبهات مختلفة ويدعم ويؤسس في مواجهة تنظيمات مختلفة وقوى عسكرية مثل القوى الاميركية في العراق، او تنظيمات مثل داعش في سوريا، فإن رؤيته الاستراتيجية كانت تتطلع الى فلسطين وكان يعتبر أن كل ما يجري في المنطقة لا يجب ان يحول الانظار عن فلسطين، هذه هي الرؤية الاستراتيجية، وعندما كان يقاتل، يقاتل لكي يمنع هذه الجبهات من ان تحول قدرات محور المقاومة خارج فلسطين، ولهذا السبب كان يبذل جهود مضاعفة، ويتعرض لمخاطر كبيرة ودقيقة وحساسة وهذا يفسر لماذا اعطى قضية فلسطين أولوية على الرغم من كل المعارك المفتوحة في المنطقة.

ولقد تحدث قادة فلسطينيون من فصائل المقاومة عن دور الشهيد سليماني في تعزيز افكار حول سبل القتال والمواجهة مثل الانفاق وغيرها من الوسائل التي تعتمدها المقاومة اليوم في مواجهة العدوان الاسرائيلي... بهذا المعنى نعم الشهيد سليماني جعل قضية فلسطين قضية حياة عمليا، وكان دائما في كل المناسبات عندما كان يتحدث وفي كل المواقع يتحدث عن قضية فلسطين، فهو كان يريد ان يقاتل الاحتلال الاميري في العراق ليس فقط لتحرير العراق ولكن من اجل ان تكون قضية فلسطين هي القضية المركزية، وهذا هو المقصود بان الشهيد سليماني كان يمتلك هذه الرؤية الاستراتيجية، وكان يمتلك هذه الخبرة الميدانية التي وضعها بتصرف حركة المقاومة في فلسطين، هنا ايضا يجب ان نذكر بأن هذه الرؤية الاستراتيجية هي رؤية الجمهورية الإسلامية، وهي ليست رؤية مستقلة للشهيد سليماني، هي رؤية الجمهورية الإسلامية التي تعتبر قضية فلسطين هي قضية الامة، وان دعم فلسطين هو واجب على إيران وعلى باقي الامة، وكان الشهيد سليماني هو القائد الأبرز لتحقيق هذه الرؤية الاستراتيجية للجمهورية الإسلامية.

لماذا سمي الحاج قاسم بشهيد القدس ؟

الفصائل الفلسطينية المختلفة خاصة حركة حماس وحركة الجهاد الإسلامي تعرف تماما دور الشهيد سليماني في توفير الدعم بأشكاله المختلفة لها من اجل بناء قدراتها والإستعداد لمواجهة اي عدوان اسرائيلي، وهذا الامر كما اشرنا هو نتاج رؤية ثابتة من ان فلسطين والقدس هي قضية مركزية لإيران وللامة الاسلامية، ومن خلال العلاقة المباشرة مع الشهيد سليماني الذي كان يتولى امر التنسيق بين فصائل المقاومة وبين القيادة في إيران، ويتولى امر تأمين الدعم بمختلف اشكاله، ويتولى امر توحيد وجهات النظر بين حركات المقاومة وحتى دول المنطقة حتى اثناء التباعد واختلاف وجهات النظر، وربما من اطلق على الشهيد سليماني شهيد القدس هو رئيس المكتب السياسي لحركة حماس السيد اسماعيل هنية عندما شارك في تشييع الشهيد سليماني وهو بذلك يعبر عن واقع فعلي وحقيقي وعن علاقة الشهيد سليماني بحركات المقاومة وبمشروع تحرير فلسطين وبالتالي ضمنا تحرير القدس خاصة وان القدس تعرضت ولا تزال في السنوات الأخيرة لمحاولات تهويد وسيطرة يهودية عليها، من هذا المنظار نستطيع ان نوّكد ان هذه التسمية تنطبق قلبا وقالباً على الشهيد سليماني باعتبار ان القدس هي قلبته الاستراتيجية في اطار رؤيته لتحرير فلسطين.

ما هو دور الحاج قاسم في اضعاف الكيان الصهيوني وسلطته في المنطقة ؟

يعتبر الحاج قاسم سليماني من ابرز الذين ساهموا في اضعاف الكيان الصهيوني في المنطقة، وحتى في اضعاف النفوذ الاميريكي في المنطقة، وعندما يضعف النفوذ الاميريكي يضعف النفوذ الصهيوني والعكس صحيح، والشهيد سليماني كان يقاتل ويدعم المقاومة العراقية التي كانت تقاتل الاحتلال الاميريكي الذي خرج من العراق مهزوما، هذه الهزيمة كانت تعني اضعاف النفوذ الصهيوني، اما من حيث الاضعاف المباشر فقد كان الشهيد سليماني حاضرا في معارك المواجهة مع هذا الكيان سواء في لبنان في معارك ٢٠٠٦ والتي انتهت بهزيمة هذا الكيان، او في توفير الاستعدادات والامكانات وكافة الدعم للمقاومة في فلسطين والتي نجحت خلال السنوات الماضية في الصمود والثبات في إفشال المشاريع الاسرائيلية للضاء على المقاومة، وكانت ذروة هذا الصمود وهذا الاضعاف هو ما حصل في عملية «طوفان الاقصى» التي كشفت حجم القدرات التي راكمتها المقاومة في فلسطين خاصة حركة حماس، وكشفت حجم الإستعداد والتدريب والتقنيات والسلاح المستخدم وأهمية الانفاق ودورها التي لعب فيها الشهيد سليماني دورا اساسيا، وكشفت في المقابل حجم الضعف الذي أصاب هذا الكيان، حجم الضعف على كل المستويات والمفاجيء للدخل الاسرائيلي وللخارج الاميريكي الاوروبي، الضعف المفاجيء الذي دفع الولايات المتحدة والغرب للحضور مباشرة لحماية هذا الكيان، يعني اكتشف الغرب ان هذا الكيان أضعف من ان يستطيع ان يواجه ما بعد طوفان الاقصى لوحده، هذا كله من ثمار الجهود التي بذلها الشهيد سليماني بشكل خاص، نحن هنا لا نتحدث عن جهود الاطراف الاخرى والشخصيات الاخرى والمنظمات الفلسطينية واللبنانية والعراقية، نحن نتحدث عن شخص الشهيد سليماني، هذا الضعف كما تبين بعد طوفان الاقصى هو بداية مرحلة جديدة في الصراع مع العدو، لان اي حرب مقبلة ستكون مبنية على ما حصل في طوفان الاقصى وعلى الضعف الذي أصاب هذا الكيان، وعلى عدم ثقة الغرب على قدرة هذا الكيان على الصمود، وما بدأنا نسمع عنه ونقرأه عن الاف المستوطنين الذين يغادرون هذا الكيان، هذه مؤشرات ضعف حقيقية وهي واقعية، وعندما نتحدث عن ضعف هذا الكيان فهو نتاج صمود وثبات حركات المقاومة في فلسطين ولبنان وهو نتاج تراجع الولايات المتحدة الاميركية في المنطقة، وعندما نتحدث عن هذين الأمرين يجب ان نستحضر الشهيد سليماني ورؤيته الاستراتيجية وخبراته الميدانية وتضحياته الواسعة والجهود الكبيرة التي بذلها لدعم وتطوير وحماية حركات المقاومة في المنطقة.



دور الشهيد سليماني في تعزيز قدرة المقاومة الفلسطينية

مثل الأتابيب والسكر وغيرها. واليوم، تتسلح كئائب عز الدين القسام وسرايا القدس بأسلحة مثل طائرات «شهاب» و«القاصف» و«القسام» و«الفجر» و«بدر» و«القسام» و«غراد» و«براق» وغيرها، والتي يمكنها تحدي نظام «القبّة الحديدية» الدفاعي وإزلاته من مسافة بعيدة. ويقدر مدى صواريخ المقاومة ما بين ٣ و٢٥٠ كيلومتراً، مما يعني أنها قادرة على استهداف أجزاء مختلفة من أراضي فلسطين المحتلة. وتشير الإحصائيات الصادرة إلى أنه تم إطلاق ما بين ٤ إلى ٥ آلاف صاروخ فلسطيني باتجاه الأراضي المحتلة منذ ٧ أكتوبر إلى حد الآن.

ميراث «سليماني» هو كابوس الكيان الصهيوني

إن أهم إنجاز وإرث تركه الشهيد سليماني في مسار تمكين الجماعات الفلسطينية هو إنشاء الشبكة والإستراتيجية لتجهيز المقاومة في الضفة الغربية وقطاع غزة بطرق مختلفة. وبينما حاولت تل أبيب وبعض منافسي إيران الإقليميين توجيه ضربة خطيرة لعلاقات طهران الإستراتيجية مع المقاومة الفلسطينية من خلال «الفتنة الدينية» أو «الحرب الأهلية في سوريا»، لم يتوقف الشهيد سليماني قط عن تقديم المساعدات العسكرية والمالية لقوات حركة حماس بكل بصيرة وبقطة. ولم تكن القضية الفلسطينية بالنسبة للشهيد قاسم سليماني مرهونا ب«المصلحة الوطنية» أبداً، حيث أنّه اعتبر دعم فصائل المقاومة «واجباً دينياً». والآن، يمكن رؤية نتيجة بصيرة الفريق سليماني بوضوح خلال معركة طوفان الأقصى.

نجاح عملية «طوفان الأقصى» هو نتيجة سنوات من نضال الشهيد سليماني

بعد حرب سيف القدس، كانت قوات حماس تستعد لليوم «الموعود»، ٧ من أكتوبر، وتعزيز ترسانتها، وذلك من خلال استخدام طاقتها الإنتاجية للأسلحة، ونقل بعض الأسلحة إلى قطاع غزة. والآن، أصبحت قوات المقاومة قادرة على التوغل بعمق ٢٤ كيلومتراً في الأراضي المحتلة، وتوجيه ضربات قاضية للبنية العسكرية والأمنية للكيان الصهيوني، وفرض حرب استنزاف طويلة ضد هذا العدو. وبحسب تقديرات المؤسسات الاقتصادية التابعة للكيان الصهيوني، فقد تجاوزت تكلفة حرب إسرائيل ومقاومة قطاع غزة حدود الـ ٥٠ مليار دولار. كما أنه بعد تطبيق سياسة «توحيد الساحات»، أدى الأداء المناسب للجيش الوطني اليمني ضد مدينة «إيلات» وحرب الله اللبناني في «الجهة الشمالية» إلى تعطيل الحياة الاقتصادية في الأراضي المحتلة. والآن يمكن أن نعتبر العملية الناجحة والخاطفة لـ «طوفان الأقصى» والأداء الممتاز لمحور المقاومة في مختلف الجبهات، من بركات الإستراتيجية التي اعتمدها الشهيد سليماني تجاه القضية الفلسطينية.

خلاصة القول:

كان التغلب على الاختلافات المظهرية والعرقية والأيدولوجية هو نقطة البداية لنضال الشهيد سليماني في مسار تعزيز قوة الفصائل الفلسطينية الموجودة في قطاع غزة والضفة الغربية. فمنذ مؤتمر طهران الذي انعقد في عام ١٩٩٠-١٩٩١ وصولاً إلى حرب الـ ٢٢ يومًا في غزة، سعى الشهيد سليماني دائماً إلى تقديم المساعدات المالية والأسلحة للفصائل الفلسطينية وإنشاء «غرفة عمليات مشتركة» فيما بينها من أجل توفير الأرضية المناسبة لتدمير العدو الصهيوني. وقد أدت هذه المساعدات إلى الاعتراف تدريجياً بفصائل المقاومة الفلسطينية كلاعب مؤثر في تطورات بلاد الشام. وكان هذا القائد العظيم يؤمن بهذا المسار بشدة، لدرجة أنه طلب في رسالة إلى المسؤول المالي في فيلق القدس، تخصيص حقوقه للقضية الفلسطينية حتى تحقيق النصر النهائي لـ «الأخوة الفلسطينيين» على الكيان الصهيوني، إن مساعدة الشهيد سليماني الصادقة والمتواصلة للفصائل الفلسطينية جعلت هذه الفصائل تكتفي ذاتياً وتدريبياً لإنتاج المعدات الدفاعية والدفاع عن وطنها الأم وقبلة المسلمين الأولى.

سنوات من النضال والجهود التي بذلها الشهيد سليماني من أجل الدفاع عن قضية القدس جعلت قائد الثورة الإسلامية، آية الله السيد علي الخامنئي يتحدث عن دور هذا الشهيد في تجهيز المقاومة الفلسطينية، وذلك بعد ساعات من استشهاد هذا القائد الإيراني.

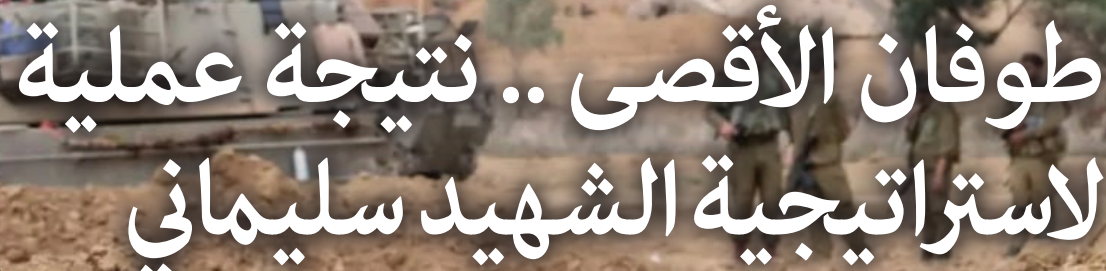
قبل أن تنضج فصائل المقاومة في قطاع غزة، كان على سكان هذه المنطقة والضفة الغربية أن يواجهوا العدو الصهيوني بـ «الحجارة» فقط وبأقل الإمكانيات خلال الانتفاضة الأولى. وفي ذلك الوقت، كان لدى الجيش الصهيوني المدجج بأحدث المعدات والسلاح، إمكانية دخول المناطق الفلسطينية بأقل تكلفة ومقاومة، حيث كانوا يمارسون الضغط على السكان الأصليين في هذه المنطقة لمغادرة منازلهم أو الخضوع لإرادة ورغبة تل أبيب. لكن بعد الانتفاضة الثانية، حدث تطور في ساحة المعركة وتراجعت قوة الكيان الصهيوني في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة. وقد أتت الفرصة للقائد السابق لفيلق القدس وحزب الله اللبناني لتدريب وتجهيز القوات المنفية التابعة لحركة حماس في لبنان في مجال صنع الأسلحة ومعاربة العدو الصهيوني، وذلك في أواخر التسعينيات. والآن، وبعد مرور أكثر من عقدين من الزمن على بدء المساعدات العسكرية التي تقدمها طهران للمقاومة في قطاع غزة، وجدت الجماعات الفلسطينية القدرة على الدفاع عن نفسها من خلال الاعتماد على أنواع الصواريخ والطائرات الاستطلاعية والأسلحة المضادة للدروع وتدمير آلة الحرب الصهيونية في غزة. وعلى هذا الأساس، سنحاول في ما يلي إلقاء نظرة على الدور الذي اضطلع به الشهيد قاسم سليماني في مجال تعزيز قوة محور المقاومة في فلسطين المحتلة.

دور الشهيد سليماني في دفع عملية الدعم المالي والتسليحي للمقاومة الفلسطينية

بعد انسحاب قوات الاحتلال الصهيوني من قطاع غزة، سيطرت حركة المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية (حماس) على هذه المنطقة. وعلى الرغم من أن إيران بدأت بتقديم الدعم المادي والمعنوي للفصائل الفلسطينية بعد انتصار الثورة الإسلامية، إلا أننا يمكننا أن نرى نقطة انطلاق هذه المساعدات بعد اتفاقية أوسلو، حيث بدأت فعالية الجيل الجديد من المقاومة واكتساب شرعية الكفاح المسلح ضد العدو الصهيوني. وكانت نقطة البداية في تطور العلاقات بين إيران وحركة حماس هي حضور كبار قادة هذه المجموعة الفلسطينية في مؤتمر طهران (١٩٩٠-١٩٩١). وبعد عام واحد فقط من تشكيل هذه العلاقة الاستراتيجية، قام رئيس وزراء الكيان الصهيوني آنذاك، إسحاق رابين، بنفي ما يقرب من ٤٢٠ شخصية بارزة في حماس إلى الجارة الشمالية لبنان، وذلك بسبب الدور البارز الذي اضطلعت بها هذه المجموعة الفلسطينية خلال الانتفاضة. في ذلك الوقت، لعب فيلق القدس التابع لحرس الثورة الإسلامية والمجاهدون اللبنانيون دوراً مهماً في تدريب قوات حماس على صناعة الأسلحة، والتكتيكات القتالية، وإنشاء الأنفاق السرية، وحرب المدن وما إلى ذلك. وترى بعض الشخصيات المرتبطة بمحور المقاومة وضباط صهيونيين أن اللواء سليماني سافر إلى قطاع غزة عدة مرات سرّاً ولعب شخصياً دوراً في تعزيز قوة الردع في غزة ضد الهجمات المحتملة للجيش الصهيوني.

القوة الصاروخية للمقاومة في غزة، هي الإرث الخالد للشهيد سليماني

وبسبب الحصار الكامل للأراضي الفلسطينية من قبل جهاز الاستخبارات العسكري للكيان الصهيوني، لم يكن من الممكن إنتاج أو شراء الأسلحة بشكل مباشر داخل الضفة الغربية وقطاع غزة. وعلى خلفية ذلك، وضع الشهيد سليماني استراتيجية «إنشاء شبكة سريّة لنقل الأسلحة» و«إنتاج أنواع الأسلحة الدفاعية بأقل التسهيلات» على جدول الأعمال، وكانت شبكة نقل الأسلحة إلى المقاومة تتابع عملية نقل الأسلحة إلى المجاهدين الفلسطينيين من خلال ثلاث طرق وهي: السودان ومصر وليبيا. وفي إحدى هذه الحالات، أعلن جهاز الأمن المصري عن نقل ١٣٨ صاروخ غراد من ليبيا إلى قطاع غزة. ووفقاً لمعهد واشنطن لسياسة الشرق الأدنى، فإن قوات فيلق القدس وحرس الثورة تركت في بعض الأحيان معدات صنع الصواريخ بالقرب من المياه المتاخمة لغزة، حتى يتمكن المجاهدون الفلسطينيون من التقاط هذه المعدات بالقرب من الشاطئ. وعلى سبيل المثال، تم تدريب بعض القادة العسكريين لحماس والجهاد الإسلامي في لبنان وإيران على إنتاج صواريخ «القسام» قصيرة المدى من مواد بسيطة



وعن دور اللواء سليمان ومساعدته الخاصة للفلسطينيين، يقول أنية الله خامنئي: «خطة الأمريكان فيما يتعلق بفلسطين كانت تسيان القضية الفلسطينية؛ إبقاء الفلسطينيين في حالة ضعف حتى لا يجرؤوا على القتال. هذا الرجل [الجنرال سليمان] مثلاً يقيد الفلسطينيين، لقد فعل شيئاً توقف فيه منظمة صغيرة مثل قطاع غزة أمام الكيان الصهيوني بكل ادعاءاته، قلب جميع المعادلات على رأسهم وجعلهم يصابون بالاحباط لدرجة يقولون خلال ٤٨ ساعة، يا سيدي، لنذهب إلى وقف إطلاق النار؛ هذا ما قام به الحاج قاسم سليمان، لقد مثلاً أيديهم، لقد جعلهم قادرين على الوقوف، ليكونوا قادرين على المقاومة، وهذا ما أكدته لي إخواننا الليكزيون مراراً وتكراراً، ورائي بالطبع كنت أعرف، لكنهم جاءوا أيضاً وشهدوا بذلك أمناً».

تفويض القرار واستقلالية العمل

كان الشهيد سليمان يتمتع بعقيدة عسكرية خاصة وموقف استراتيجي وعسكري. وإن إقناعه للأمور العسكرية واكتساب هذه المهارة والمهارة الدقيقة والحساسة بشكل عملي وليس نظري فقط، كان نتيجة حضوره الحقيقي في ساحة المعركة وتواجده المستمر. لقد شارك القائد سليمان في ثلاث جبهات رئيسية على الأقل وهي: جبهة حرب الدفاع المقدس، جبهة معارضة الأشرار المسلمين، وأخيراً جبهة الصرب العابر للحدود والقتال الإقليمي في العراق وسوريا.

لكن أهم ما يميزه لم تكن قوته العسكرية وفيهذه لجهات القتال، بل استراتيجيته الدقيقة والفكرية في طريق المواجهة وتوسيع محور المقاومة ونزوة فكرالمقاومة. إحدى الأفكار المهمة والاستراتيجية للشهيد سليمان، والتي شكلت المنظومة الفكرية والشخصية لهذا الشهيد العظيم، كانت النظرة الاستراتيجية الكلية للعالم الإسلامي ومحور المقاومة. وهذا ما نشهده اليوم من انتشار التيارات والقبائل والمواقف والأفكار بين تيارات المقاومة وفصائلها العسكرية. وهو الفكر الذي ارتبط بالفهم الصحيح لموقف فلسطين وقضية المسجد الأقصى.

يرى بعض الأشخاص وأصحاب وجهات النظر أو يفسرون العلاقة بين إيران وحركات المقاومة في لبنان وسوريا والعراق واليمن وفلسطين على أنهم وكلاء الجمهورية الإسلامية الإيرانية في القرار والتنفيذ والاستراتيجية المسار. ولكن عندما ننظر إلى أداء ونشاط الشهيد سليمان في العقود الأربعة الماضية، ندرك أنه ترك استقلالية العمل والقرار لهذه الحركات بكل براعة وإيمان دقيق.

ملحمة طوفان الأقصى أهم نتيجة لاستراتيجية الشهيد سليمان

يمكن اعتبار طوفان الأقصى مرحلة النضج النهائي لمحور المقاومة في التصميم والقرار والفهم والاستراتيجية العملية في الميدان. عملية تم تنفيذها بشكل صحيح ولباقة بالقرار الفلسطيني. وقد يكون محور المقاومة برمتها منخرط في التخطيط والتدريب وقضايا من هذا النوع، لكن القرار بشأن ضرورة هذه العملية وتوقيتها أصبح بيد المقاومة الفلسطينية بالكامل.

وتعد طوفان الأقصى نموذجاً لاستراتيجية الحاج قاسم الكبرى في التسليم القرار واستقلال نواة المقاومة، والتي أظهرت نتائجها في النضج الفكري وصناعة القرار لمقاومة غزة.

لقد كان هناك دائماً اختلاف في الرأي، أو حتى فجوة تحليلية، بين تيارات المقاومة في مختلف القضايا الإقليمية. لكن اللواء سليمان أدار هذه العلاقات بسياسة مثالية وذكية.

لقد تابع اللواء سليمان وأدار علاقات طهران مع الحركات الأخرى بنفس المستوى وبما يتناسب مع الاحتاجات والمصالح الإقليمية والوطنية للدفاعيين. على سبيل المثال، يمكننا الحديث عن ظهور الحشد الشعبي في العراق،

حيث يختلف نوع العملية والهيكلية والإدارة للحشد الشعبي تماما عن أنصار الله في اليمن أو جماعات المقاومة في سوريا وحتى حزب

الله في لبنان. لقد تم تشكيل وتأسيس الحشد الشعبي بما يتوافق تماماً مع مصالح العراق، والسلطة الخاصة لهذا البلد، وثقافة الشعب، والاعتبارات القومية للعراق.

ومن السمات الأخرى لرؤية سردار سليمان الكلية والإستراتيجية إيمانه بإمكانة الشعب في المقاومة وتغيير المعادلات في كل جزء من المنطقة. ويمكن العثور على مثال واضح لهذا الرأي في كلمات سردار سليمان: «تسعة وتسعون في المئة من شعب فلسطين هم من السنة». ماذا نريد من فلسطين اليوم؟ هل نبعث حق المصالح الشيعية؟ لا، بالتأكيد. إذا كان هناك من يريد نشر التشيع في فلسطين، فلن نعمل معه. «أنا نفسي لا أعمل معه».

وفي هذا الصدد أيضاً، يقول خالد القدومي، رئيس مكتب حركة حماس في طهران، عن النظرة الخاصة للجزرال سليمان: «في آخر لقاء جمعنا مع وفد من حماس معه في بيت قائد الثورة، أثار بعض النقاط. وكانت وجهة نظره تحديد دور لكل مجموعة على المستوى الإقليمي في جبهة المقاومة بحيث لا تكون المقاومة فلسطين فقط، بل تكون المقاومة على المستوى الإقليمي؛ وبذلك يتضح واجب الجميع في مواجهة الإسرائيليين. وهذا بالطبع على خطراً جداً بالنسبة لإسرائيل، والطبع سيكون له تأثير كبير على القضية الفلسطينية، عندما يحدد ما واجبكم انتم كإيران، وما

واجب لبنان، وما واجب الأردن، وما واجب الإسلاميين.

خلاص الحاج قاسم في عمله جعل منه مدرسة وليس شخص عادي

لشهيـد قاسـم سـليـماني، بحسـب السـيـد حـسن نـصـرالـله، لم يـكن شـخـصاً بـل مـدرسة. مـدرسة أسـاسها الإـسـلام والإخـلاص. ومـن أجـل فـهم هـذه المـدرسة والاسـتـمرار في هـذا الطـريق، لا بـد مـن الفـهم التفـصيلي والكامـل والشامـل لـها.

كما قال قائد الثورة عن هذه المدرسة في صلاة الجمعة عام ٢٠١٩: «أنيما يكون الإخلاص، يبارك الله تعالى إخلاص عباده المخلصين، يبارك العمل، وينمو ويتطور، ويتم العمل بحيث يصل أثره إلى الجميع، ويتبقى بركاته بين الناس. وهذا يرجع إلى الإخلاص. ونتيجة ذلك الإخلاص هي محبة الشعب وفوادة، دموع الشعب وتهداته، حضور الأشخاص، تجديد الروح الثورية للشعب».

ما إذا أردنا تقييم هذه الأحداث، وتقديرها، ومعرفة حجم وقيمة هذه الأحداث؛ فسيحقق ذلك إذا لم ننظر إلى الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليمان والشهيد أبو مهدي على أنهما أشخاص؛ بل فننظر إليهم بعين المدرسة الواحدة، والنموذج التعليمي الواحد وعندها ستصبح همة وقيمة هذه القضية واضحة بالنسبة لنا».

الجنرال سليمان يفتل مؤامرات امريكا والكيان الصهيوني في المنطقة

وهذا ساعد بشكل فعال في إنهاء الحرب في اليمن، التي شهدت تأييد البلدين لجهات متعارضة.

وفي عام ٢٠٢٣، عادت سوريا إلى الصف العربي وشاركت لأول مرة في قمة الجامعة العربية في المملكة العربية السعودية بعد تعليق دام لمدة ١٢ عامًا.

قد قبلت الدول العربية أن النظام في سوريا يبقى قائماً رغم التحديات، كما وأجرت العديد منها محادثات ثنائية في دمشق لتوطيد العلاقات الدبلوماسية.

وهذا إنجاز آخر يعود للجنرال سليمان، الذي ساعد حكومة سوريا في هزيمة مجموعات متنوعة من المجموعات الإرهابية.

كما أن الولايات المتحدة انسحبت من العراق في عام ٢٠١١، بعد ارتكاب عدد من جرائم الحرب ضد المدنيين العراقيين، بفضل جهود الجنرال سليمان إلى حد كبير.

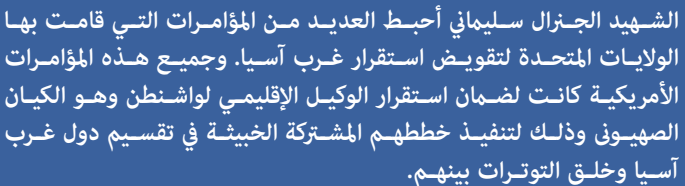
ب. الولايات المتحدة من أفغانستان بعد احتلال كاري ومميت استمر
ن. كان الانسحاب مثل الاحتلال كاريًا بامتياز.

المقاومة الفلسطينية المعادلة ضد الكيان الإسرائيلي، وفي لبنان وفي عام ٢٠٠٦ تحديدًا، الحق حزب الله خسائر كبيرة بالكيان الاسرائيلي
ت تل أبيب حربًا عليه انتصار يرجع إلى حد كبير إلى الجنرال سليمان.

سناك هزيمة للولايات المتحدة ووكلائها في الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة،
تأبأ عن استعادة العلاقات في المنطقة، فأبأ صورة الجنرال سليمان
فوق.

بقيادة المندوبين، تصدى الجنرال الراحل الى مؤامرات أمريكا إلى حد أنها حولت
بداً عن المنطقة وأتجهت نحو روسيا والصين كي تبقى ارباح صناعاتهم

هذا لدول المنطقة ان تتنفس الصعداء مجدداً وإعادة تقييم مواقفهم، والوصول الى أن الخيار الوحيد لمستقبل مزدهر لهم وهو تحالف تدخل من واشنطن وتل أبيب.



وفي مرحلة معينة، كانت سياسة فرق تُشدّ تعمل بأحسن حالاتها. وقد كان الكيان الصهيوني يقوم بمعظم عمليات التفريق بين الدول بينما قامت الولايات المتحدة بمعظم عمليات الاحتلال. وخصوصًا ازداد هذا السلوك منذ ١١ سبتمبر ومباشرة بعد ما يسمى «بالحرب على الإرهاب من قبل أمريكا».

ما يُسمى بـ «بالحرب على الإرهاب» شهد أعلى مستوى من الإرهاب ضد المدنيين في منطقة غرب آسيا على الإطلاق في التاريخ الحديث.

كما شهد أعلى مستوى من الانقسام بين الجيران في هذه المنطقة.

وبصفته قائداً لفيلق القدس، فقد لعب الجنرال سليمان دوراً حاسماً في تعزيز المقاومة الفلسطينية في قطاع غزة المحاصر ضد هذين اللاعبين الشريرين، أمريكا والكيان الصهيوني.

وكمستشار عسكري، فقد وجه المقاومة الفلسطينية في غزة في بناء شبكة أنفاق تحت الأرض وساعد في تطوير البرنامج الصاروخي.

وبمرور الوقت فإن المقاومة ضد تل أبيب ازدادت قوة، ولتي بدورها أضعفت طاقة الكيان من تنفيذ أهدافه الخبيثة في غرب اسيا للتركيز على التهديد الحالي من قطاع غزة.

لدرجة أن النظام حاصر القطاع منذ عام ٢٠٠٦، في محاولة لمنع وصول الأسلحة إلى القطاع.

لكن كما رأينا في اليمن، يمكنك حصار بلدًا أو إقليمًا، ولكن ما لا يمكنك فعله هو منع الشعوب من تطوير قدراتهم والتي قدمها لهم الجنرال سليماني.

وعلى العكس عما يقوله قادة الغرب ووسائل الإعلام والكيان نفسه، فقد قامت حماس بالاستثمار في المستشفيات وتوسيع نطاقها.

لكن شبكة الأنفاق وبرنامج الصواريخ كانا جزءاً مكملاً للدفاع عن القطاع من الحروب والقصف الاسرائيلي ، وثانيا لإفشال سياسة الكيان الصهيوني الخيثة في خلق التوتر بين الدول المتجاورة. وكان الجزال سليمانى هو العقل الملهم وراء هذه المهمة.

واليوم، تجد قوات الكيان البرية محاصرة في ورطة معقدة في غزة، حيث لا تمتلك
 تل أبيب فكرة واضحة حول كيفية الانسحاب دون الإعلان عن النصر.

وإذا لم يعلن النصر، فإن رئيس وزراء الكيان بنيامين نتنياهو ووزراؤه سيساقون إلى السجن.

من ناحية أخرى، يرى العالم كيف فشلت مؤتمرات الولايات المتحدة والنظام الإسرائيلي مرة أخرى بفضل جهود الجنرال الشهيد سليمان في غرب آسيا.

تفكيك مجموعات إرهابية مثل داعش، التي خلفت الدمار في المنطقة، وكيف تحول الأعداء السابقون الآن إلى أصدقاء.

تشهد العلاقات بين الجمهورية الإسلامية الإيرانية والمملكة العربية السعودية انفراجاً وذلك بعد سبع سنوات من القطيعة.



الجنرال سليمانى وغزة



قبل أن يقدم الشهيد الراحل قاسم سليمانى رؤيته العسكرية الواسعة للفلسطينيين في غزة، كان الكيان الصهيوني يحتل قطاع غزة ويرتكب جرائم جماعية ضد المدنيين هناك.

ومرور الوقت، وبمساعدة الجنرال قاسم سليمانى، ازدادت قوة المقاومة الفلسطينية.

فلقد تمكنوا من تطوير برنامج صاروخي يصل اليوم إلى تل أبيب، كذلك بنوا شبكة أنفاق في هذا الإقليم الصغير، ونتيجة لذلك، يجد الجيش الإسرائيلي نفسه محاصراً داخل غزة وبدون استراتيجية عسكرية حول كيفية الانتصار في الحرب التي أعلنها على غزة.

هذان فقط ، عنصران من عناصر الردع اللذان أجبرا الجيش الإسرائيلي على أن يكون حذراً جداً في تنفيذ هجومه البري في غزة.

في كل الحروب السابقة التي شنها جيش الكيان الصهيوني على غزة، أمتنع هذا الكيان من شن هجوم بري شامل ضد المقاومة الفلسطينية لأنه كان حذراً من الخسائر الكبيرة التي سيواجهها.

ما أحدثه الجنرال سليمانى هو تغييرٌ في المعادلة، حيث اليوم، ما كان يعتبر واحداً من أقوى الجيوش في العالم، أصبح غير قادرًا على القضاء على مقاومة فلسطينية.

واليوم، يدفع نظام الاحتلال ثمناً ثقيلاً لدخوله في قطاع غزة بقواته البرية، وبعد مضي ما يقرب من ثلاثة أشهر من القتال، تستمر المقاومة في قتل الجنود الإسرائيليين، وتواصل إطلاق الصواريخ على تل أبيب، وقد دمرت الآن عدداً قياسياً من الآليات العسكرية الإسرائيلية.

عدد الدبابات الإسرائيلية التي قصفت في غزة من قبل فصائل المقاومة كان عدداً غير مسبق من قبل.

كل هذا يعود إلى حكمة الجنرال سليمانى في إنشاء شبكة أنفاق تحت الأرض سمحت للمقاومة بنصب كمائن للجنود والدبابات الإسرائيلية من نقطة آمنة وإلحاق أضرار جسيمة بمعنويات الجيش الإسرائيلي.

كما شهدنا في العديد من الحروب التي شنها الكيان على غزة، فإن هذه الأنفاق تمتد إلى القواعد العسكرية للنظام داخل الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة، حيث تمكنت المقاومة الفلسطينية من دخول القواعد الإسرائيلية ومهاجمة قوات العدو بشكل مفاجئ.

هذه بعض العوامل التي أوجدها الجنرال سليمانى للمقاومة، والتي توسعت فيها المقاومة الفلسطينية فيما بعد.

على عكس ما يقوله زعماء الغرب ووسائل الإعلام الغربية، فإن هذا لا يعني أن الحكومة في غزة لم تستثمر في المستشفيات وغيرها من الرعاية الاجتماعية لشعب غزة.

إن ما قدمه الجنرال سليمانى للفلسطينيين في غزة كان عاملاً حقيقياً للمقاومة، التي نرى اليوم أنها زادت قوتها للانتقام من حملات المذابح الجماعية التي ارتكبها الكيان الصهيوني ضد النساء والأطفال.

شهدت الحرب الإسرائيلية الأخيرة على غزة عدداً قياسياً من النساء والأطفال الفلسطينيين الذين قتلوا وجرحوا على يد الجيش الإسرائيلي منذ عقود عديدة من عدوان الكيان.

ومع ذلك، فإن الجيش الإسرائيلي الذي كان يعتبر في السابق من الجيوش الأقوى في العالم، يكافح اليوم من أجل كسر المقاومة الفلسطينية في غزة، التي تعمل في منطقة لا تزيد مساحتها عن ٣٦٥ كيلومترًا مربعاً.

يحدث ذلك كله بعد استشهاد الجنرال سليمانى، وهو ما يوضح قوة المقاومة الفلسطينية التي كبرت بالقوه من البذور التي زرعها الجنرال الراحل.

من بين كل الساحات التي قدم فيها الشهيد الإيراني الراحل ناصحه وحكمته العسكرية، وفي كل البلدان التي خاضها الجنرال سليمانى في المعركة ضد الإرهاب والهيمنة الأمريكية، كانت عينه دائماً على الفلسطينيين.

كان يقود فيلق القدس التابع لحرس الثورة الإسلامية الإيراني.

القدس هي عاصمة فلسطين، وبينما يحتلها الكيان الإسرائيلي، فإن المقاومة التي ساعد الجنرال سليمانى في تأسيسها من لبنان إلى العراق إلى سوريا إلى اليمن كانت كلها من أجل تحرير القدس وإنهاء الهيمنة الأمريكية في المنطقة التي تحرس هذا الاحتلال.

اليوم، قتلت المقاومة الفلسطينية في غزة المئات من الجنود الإسرائيليين وأصاباً آلافاً آخرين، والعديد منهم أصيبوا بإعاقات مدى الحياة.

العديد من الخبراء يعتقدون أن عدد ضحايا الجيش الإسرائيلي أعلى من ذلك، حيث من المعروف أن تل أبيب تقلل من أرقام ضحاياها خلال الحروب التي تشنها ضد قطاع غزة وأماكن أخرى.

هذا فيما دمرت المقاومة الفلسطينية ما يقارب ١٠٠٠ آلية عسكرية إسرائيلية، والاحتلال يكذب بشأن إنجازاته العسكرية. لا توجد منطقة واحدة في قطاع غزة تمكن الجيش الإسرائيلي من السيطرة الكاملة عليها في حملته العالية من الهجمات العشوائية ضد النساء والأطفال الفلسطينيين.

إن البرنامج الصاروخي الذي ساعد الجنرال سليمانى الفلسطينيين في إنشائه هو نفس البرنامج الصاروخي الذي ازدادت قوته وما زال مطر تل أبيب بالصواريخ، بعد ما يقرب من ٣ أشهر من بدء الكيان حربه الأخيرة على السكان المدنيين في غزة.

كما قدم الجنرال الراحل للمقاومة الفلسطينية الشجاعة والصمود. وقدم للشعب الفلسطيني الأمل في الدولة التي انتزعت منهم وعاصمتها القدس.

في نهاية كل حرب، يشن الكيان حرباً ضد المدنيين في غزة، فأناً المقاومة الفلسطينية تشكر دائماً الأطراف التي ساعدتها على هزيمة مهجمات تل أبيب المعلنة، وعلى رأس القائمة هناك دائماً إشادة خاصة بالجمهورية الإسلامية في إيران.

هذا ماكان يمثل الشهيد قاسم سليمانى، وهذا ماكانت المقاومة الفلسطينية تشيد به قبل وبعد استشهاد.



شرف لنا ولن نتنازل أبداً عن هذا الواجب الديني. إن الدفاع عن فلسطين هو مثال حقيقي للدفاع عن الإسلام والقرآن، ومن يسمع نداءكم ولا ينهض لتجدتكم فليس بمسلم».

«القدس» هي القضية الاساسية للصراع بين الإسلام والغرب

وهناك سمة أخرى تعتمد على دور الشهيد سليمانى كشهيد القدس، وهي أهمية القضية الفلسطينية. الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليمانى قائد فيلق القدس كان جزءاً من السياسة الخارجية للجمهورية الإسلامية، لكن قضية القدس وفلسطين ليست قضية السياسة الخارجية، بل قضية دينية تتعلق بالعالم الإسلامي بأكمله. ويقول زياد الخالدة الأمين العام لحركة الجهاد الإسلامي الفلسطينية: «مدينة القدس المحتلة كانت دائماً في قلب الجنرال سليمانى، وفي كل المعارك التي كان الشهيد سليمانى حاضراً فيها في المنطقة، كانت البوصلة هي حرب القدس، لأن الهدف هو الحفاظ على المقاومة». وقال الشهيد سليمانى نفسه في كلمة له: «كل معاركنا في العالم الإسلامي مع الغرب هي من أجل مسجد، وحدتنا كلها في العالم الإسلامي مبنية على مسجد واحد. كل هذه الحروب هي على المسجد الأقصى. كل هذه المؤامرات حول العالم الإسلامي تقوم على هذا المسجد، وكل ما يمكن أن يوحد العالم الإسلامي هو هذا المسجد».

مهمة فيلق القدس في فترة قيادة الحاج قاسم سليمانى كانت تركز على القضية الفلسطينية

ركز الشهيد سليمانى، منذ بداية نشاطه كفائد لفيلق القدس عام ١٩٩٧ وحتى استشهاده في ٣ كانون الثاني ٢٠٢٠، على أوامر الإمام الخميني (رض) وقائد الثورة الاسلامية وهي مواجهة الكيان الصهيوني باعتباره التهديد الرئيسي للجمهورية الإسلامية والعالم الإسلامي. وفي الواقع، كان هدف فيلق القدس قبل قيادته (١٩٨١-١٩٩٨) أكثر تركيزاً على المواجهة المباشرة للتهديدات. بينما في فترة قيادة الفريق الشهيد الحاج قاسم سليمانى، أدت هذه التصرفات تدريجياً إلى التماشي مع أهداف المقاومة. ومنذ شهادة سليمانى، حظيت اجراءاته في القضية الفلسطينية بمزيد من الاهتمام.

واعتبر العميد حسن رونده أن أهم عمليتين للشهيد هما تكريس يوم القدس والحضور في الخطوط الأمامية لمنطقة المقاومة. مضيفاً إن أول عمل قام به الشهيد سليمانى هو الاهتمام بشكل خاص بالاحتفال بيوم القدس العالمي. فخلال ٢٣ عاماً من خدمته كفائد في فيلق القدس، أول اهتماماً خاصاً بالاحتفال بيوم القدس العالمي وكان يتابع شخصياً برامج يوم القدس في كل أنحاء العالم، وفعلاً أحياء الشهيد سليمانى يوم القدس العالمي. العمل الثاني حضور الشهيد في الخطوط الأمامية للقتال ضد الكيان الصهيوني: قبل حضور الشهيد سليمانى في فيلق القدس، لم يكن لدينا أي أنشطة عسكرية وكانت جميع أعمالنا دفاعية وأمنية، وقمنا بمحطم

يمكن دراسة أهمية دور الشهيد سليمانى، القائد الشهيد لفيلق القدس، بأبعاد مختلفة، بصفته قائداً دولياً كبيراً لإيران، تعامل مع التهديدات الإقليمية مثل الأزمات المختلفة في الدول المجاورة لإيران والتهديدات الإرهابية التي أثرت على حدود إيران الشرقية والغربية بعد ١١ سبتمبر ٢٠٠١.

ومن أهم أدوار هذا القائد مواجهة احتلال الكيان الصهيوني وتحرير القدس. وقال إسماعيل هنية رئيس المكتب السياسي لحركة حماس خلال تشييع الشهيد: «القائد الشهيد سليمانى قدم حياته كلها لدعم فلسطين، وأنا أعلن أن هذا القائد الكبير شهيد القدس». ويصرف النظر عن هذه الكلمات، يبدو أن أهداف وأفعال الشهيد سليمانى كانت الأكثر دلالة على مكانته كشهيد القدس.

الروح الثورية للشهيد سليمانى في الحرب ضد الاحتلال

إن نظرة إلى مبادئ وأهداف الثورة الإسلامية تظهر أن مواجهة الكيان الصهيوني كانت أحد أهدافها الأساسية منذ البداية. ويعتبر مبدأ نصرة المظلوم مكماً لمناهضة الاستكبار ومناهضة الاستبداد. ومن هذا المنطلق، فإن الجمهورية الإسلامية، بالتوازي مع محاربة الاستكبار والاستعمار، ترى نفسها ملزمة بنصرة المضطهدين في العالم الذين يقاتلون مع المستكبرين. وهذا الأمر يتوافق مع المادة ١٥٤ من الدستور الإيراني. وقال الإمام الخميني (رض) أيضاً: «نحن مع المظلومين، ومن كان مظلوماً في أي قطب فنحن له مؤيدون». وروح الشهيد سليمانى الثورية في الدفاع عن القدس توازي قول قائد الثورة إن «الشهيد قاسم سليمانى كان نموذجاً بارزاً للمتعلمين في مكتب الإمام الخميني (رض) والاسلام».

واعتبر الشهيد سليمانى أن الحل الوحيد للقضية الفلسطينية هو القتال ضد الكيان الصهيوني. وفي ٢١ سبتمبر ٢٠١٧، وفي مراسم الأربعين لاستشهاد الشهيد مرتضى حسين بور في لانكرو، أشار إلى ضرورة المقاومة تجاه الكيان الصهيوني، وقال: «ليس لدى فلسطين... خيار سوى المقاومة؛ وليس أمامها خيار سوى الصمود. ولا سبيل إلا التضحية».

وتابع القول قاسم سليمانى وقال في الحرب المفروضة على إيران لماذا قدمنا أكثر من مائتي ألف شهيد؟ لو لم نفعل ذلك ما كان مسيرنا؟ وضع عرفات البندقية على الأرض وتم خداعه عن طريق المفاوضات وألقى سلاح النضال. ماذا كانت النتيجة؟ كما قال في مراسم استشهاد عماد مغنية في ١٥ فبراير ٢٠١٨: «اليوم، غزة ولبنان مصدر قلق دائم لإسرائيل، وكل صاروخ يطلق من فلسطين يمكن رؤية بصمات عماد مغنية عليه». وفي رسالة موجهة إلى قائد قوات القسام، كتب سليمانى: «أؤكد للجميع أن إيران الإسلامية مهما زادت الضغوط والحصار عليها، فلن تترك فلسطين الجوهرة الوحيدة للعالم الإسلامي وقبلة المسلمين الأولى ومكان معراج رسول الله (ص) لودعها: إن الدفاع عن فلسطين هو

وفي مدرسة سليمان، يعتبر استعادة المسجد الأقصى من أيدي الصهاينة على أنها تمهد لظهور الإمام المهدي (عج) في آخر الزمان. وبحسب وجهة النظر هذه، فإن الحرب بين إيران والكيان الصهيوني هي بمثابة «حرب في آخر الزمان» حيث ستكون جبهة الحق هي الفائز النهائي.

استراتيجية «وحدة سوح الحرب»؛ نتيجة سنوات من نضال الشهيد سليمان

من المفومات الأساسية في سياسة إيران الخارجية الاعتقاد بمبادئ «ظهور المنجي» و«العدالة الإلهية» و«معركة آخر الزمان» و«حكم نفي السبيل». إن المبادئ الناتجة عن الثورة الإسلامية ومدرسة الإمام الخميني (ره) في نصرة المظلومين في العالم والكفاح ضد المستكبرين تعتبر خطوة أساسية نحو حكومة إسلامية المهدى (ع) العالمية. وكان أحد أسباب اهتمام الشهيد سايماي الخاص بالفصائل الفلسطينية ودعمه لمحور المقاومة في قطاع غزة، هو التحرك نحو رضا ولي العصر (عج) والاستعداد لظهوره في أرض أبناء إبراهيم (ع).

الآن، وبعد استشهاد هذا القائد الإيراني الكبير، لا تزال القوات التابعة لمُحور المقاومة تحاول الحفاظ على المعقل الكبير الأول في مواجهة القوى الاستعمارية من خلال مواصلة مسيرته. إن تشكيل استراتيجية «وعدة الممارك» وتنسيق تحركات قوى المقاومة ضد مصالح القيادة الحزبية والكيان الصهيوني من شمال المحيط الهندي إلى جنوب لبنان قدس على استمرار استراتيجية الشهيد سليمان تجاه ناضية القدس على يد رفاقه.

فحوى الكلام

يعتبر الدفاع عن القضية الفلسطينية مبدأً محدد وثابت في عقيدة السياسة الخارجية للجمهورية الإسلامية الإيرانية. ووفقاً للفقرة ١٦٥ من المبدأ ٣ والبنود ١١ والـ ١٥ من الدستور الإيراني، يجب أن تقوم السياسة الخارجية لإيران على الالتزام الأخوي تجاه جميع المسلمين ودعم المظلومين في جميع أنحاء العالم. وبحسب الرؤية، فإن القضية الفلسطينية والمظلم التاريخي ضد المسلمين في هذا القطاع تأتي في صدارة أولويات الجمهورية الإسلامية الإيرانية. والشهيد الجنرال الحاج قاسم سليمان باعتبارها قائد فيلق القدس وجندي الولاية المخلص كأي شخصية محورية للبلاذ في القدس وتنفيذ الدستور وقانون دعم الثورة الإسلامية لأهالي فلسطين، وتوجهيات قائد الثورة الإسلامية في مختلف جهات الصراع مع العدو الصهيوني.

أدت مساعي هذا الشهيد الذؤوبة لتجهيز فضاء المقاومة بأنواع الأسلحة الرادعة للعدو الصهيوني، أدت إلى أن يصفه إسماعيل هنية، رئيس المكتب السياسي لحركة حماس، في مراسيم تشييع جثمانه، بـ«شهيد القدس».

تحرير فلسطين، الحجر الأساس
لفكر ومدرسة الشهيد سليمان

بعد إعلان وجود الكيان الصهيوني على الشاطئ الشرقي للبحر الأبيض المتوسط، كان الصهاينة دائماً منتصرين في المعارك الكلاسيكية ضد الجيوش العربية. على الرغم من هذا وبعد انسحاب شارون من قطاع غزة عام ٢٠٠٥ وصعود حركتي المقاومة الإسلامية (حماس) والجهاد الإسلامي في هذه المنطقة الفلسطينية، تغيرت المعادلات العسكرية - الأمنية لصالح محور المقاومة.

وقد قال قائد الثورة الإسلامية حول دور هذا الشهيد الجليل في تسليح الفصائل الفلسطينية: هذا الرجل ملأ يد الفلسطينيين، لقد فعل شيئاً بحيث تتمكن منطقة صغيرة كقطاع غزة من الوقوف بوجه الكيان الصهيوني بكل تشدقه ومزاعمه. لقد أنقذتهم درساً بحيث أصبحوا يطلبون هدنة بعد ٤٨ ساعة. هذا ما فعله الحاج قاسم سليماني. لقد ملأ أيديهم.

تجهيز قوات حماس بمسيرة شهاب الهجومية

خلال العقدین الأخيرین، کان أحد أهم مقومات القوة لدى

”الدفاع عن فلسطين يجلب العزة والشرف. هذه الكلمات جزء من إجابة الشهيد سليمان على رسالة أبو خالد، قائد فصائل عز الدين القسام في ربيع عام ٢٠١٩. قدس الفصائل الفلسطينية من منظور القائد لفيقي القدس، لا يقتصر فحسب على المصالح الوطنية لإيران، بل كانت بمثابة فريضة دينية لدى شهيد القدس. في منظومة الحاج قاسم الفكرية، كان لجميع التطورات الجارية في منطقة غرب آسيا، وجهة واحدة وهي فلسطين المحتلة. إذا كانت إيران قد قبلت دناءة الحكومات المركزية في بغداد ودمشق من أجل دفع فداء الإرهاب السلفي – التكفيري فإن ذلك جرى بهدف إفشال مشروع الحرب الطائفي ومنع نسيان القضية الفلسطينية بين الشعوب المسلمة، وعلى هذا الأساس، يرى العديد من المحللين والاستراتيجيين العسكريين أن تحرير فلسطين من براثن الكيان الإسرائيلي للقدس تعتبر الحجر الأساس لفكر الحاج قاسم السياسي ومدرسه العقائدية.

فلسطين؛ قلب سياسات إيران الإقليمية

بعد العدوان الشامل الذي شنته آلة حرب بوش الابن على أفغانستان والعراق، تطرق العديد من القادة العسكريين إلى احتمال نشوب حرب عسكري بين طهران وأشنطن. ووصف رئيس الولايات المتحدة آنذاك طهران بأنها جزء من «محور الشر» وحاول تصوير إيران على أنها تهديد للسلم العالمي. كانت إحدى مبادرات الصحاح قاسم سليمانى ورفاقه آنذاك، توظيف إمكانيات المسلمين في المنطقة لإنشاء محور مقاومة ضد التحالف الأمريكي والكيان الصهيوني. في هذه الاستراتيجية، كانت فلسطين «طليعة» محور المقاومة ضد الاستعمار الاجري، في منطقة الشامات، بمعنى آخر، يجب على جميع فضاءات المقاومة أن تكون حساسة دائماً للتطورات الجارية في فلسطين المحتلة وأن تسارع لمساعدة قوى المقاومة في الضفة الغربية وقطاع غزة في الأزمات.

بحسب شهادات أدلت بها قوات تابعة لحركتي حماس والجهاد الإسلامي، فقد قام الحاج قاسم سليمان خلال المعارك بين قوات المقاومة والكيان الصهيوني برصد ساحة المعركة مراراً بشكل مباشر وغير مباشر، وتقديم مساعدات استشارية.

على سبيل المثال، أعلن أحمد عبد الهادي، عضو المكتب السياسي لحركة المقاومة الإسلامية الفلسطينية في لبنان، عن زيارته متكررة أجراها الشهيد سليمان إلى قطاع غزة. وقد لعب هذا القائد الإيراني البارز أيضًا دورًا ملحوظًا في تشكيل الهياكل الدفاعية في غزة. فإن فشل آلة الحرب الإسرائيلية اليوم خلال المعركة البرية مع حماس؛ هو نتيجة فكر هذا الشهيد النبيل وأستراتيجياته الدفاعية لحماية أرض فلسطين العذراء المصونة.

كما أثار أسامة حمدان عضو حركة الجهاد الإسلامي إلى دور الشهيد سليمان في حرب الـ ٢٢ يوما وتحدث عن رفقته الدائمة مع قوى المقاومة وتوجيههم في ساحة المعركة. ويبدو أن القائد السابق لفيلق القدس كان له دائما حضور فعال ونشط خلال الحرب بين الكيان الصهيوني وقضائل المقاومة في لبنان وفلسطين.

تسليح المقاومة في غزة

الصفات الشخصية

منتصر في الجهاد الأكبر

- المحافظة على التقوى والأموال المعنوية خلال فترة الحرب المفروضة والسنين التي تلتها
- مساعدة متواصلة طوال سنين الخدمة
- عدم الخشية من العدو وكلام هذا وإنه إضافة لتحمل الأعباء
- الإحاطة بالناعة بالشؤون العسكرية
- الشجاعة والتدبير في الساحات العسكرية والسياسية
- قدرة كلامية ذات تأثير وإقناع

مراعاة الحدود الشرعية

- لم يكن يستخدم السلاح أبداً لم تدعه الحاجة إلى ذلك
- كان حذراً من أن يظلم أحد أو يقتل على أحد
- كان يلقى بنفسه في الخطر لكنه كان يحافظ على روحه وملكه وجنود من سائر الجيوش

صفات الحاج قاسم

الشهيد الحي

- من الأشخاص الذين يملكون مكانة الشجاعة
- شهادة عظمى بعد جهاد عظيم
- أقوى وأشهر قائد في مجال محاربة الإرهاب
- شخصية المقاومة الدولية
- ناهل بارز من فيض الإسلام ومدرسة الإمام الخميني

- الثورة بعيداً عن الأحزاب والفئات الداخلية
- كانت الثورة والثورة خاتمة الأحمر
- الإخلاص والابتعاد عن التظاهر والزئاع
- كان ينفق أمانه الشجاعة والتدبير من أجل الله

مداد الحجة

إنجاز الحياة العظيم

إحباط مخططات أمريكا

- منطقة غرب آسيا
- إشغال حروب أهلية
- إزالة المقاومة ضد الصهيونية وإضعاف الحكومات المستقلة بواسطة إنشاء ودعم داعش
- جهد محقوف بالتضحيات إلى جانب الإخوة المجاهدين من مختلف بلدان المنطقة
- زوال حكومة داعش
- لبنان
- حرمان لبنان من قوة المقاومة وحزب الله وجعله أعزلاً أمام إسرائيل
- دور مميز وبارز في تقوية حزب الله والحفاظ عليه أعزلاً أمام إسرائيل
- ارتفاع مستوى قوة حزب الله يوماً بعد يوم وتحوله إلى نراع وعين لبنان
- العراق
- تحول العراق إلى بلد شبيه بالسعودية أو النظام اليهودي
- مستشار نشيط وداعم كبير للمرجعية والفئات المؤمنة والشجاعة في العراق
- الضمور أمام أمريكا
- فلسطين
- إبقاء الفلسطينيين ضعافاً بغية إبعادهم عن النضال
- إدراج قضية فلسطين غياهب النسيان
- بسطيد الفلسطينيين من أجل المقاومة
- طلب الكيان الصهيوني وقف عمليات المقاومة المسلحة في قطاع غزة بعد مرور ٤٨ ساعة

بركات الشهادة

أنحتي إجلالاً أمامه لما حملته شهادته من بركات

- أثبتت أن الثورة الإسلامية حيّة
- جعلت الأعين المكسوة بالغبار تتفتح
- شعر العدو بالخضوع أمام عظمة الشعب الإيراني
- لّم الشعب صفة للعدو الذي وصفه بالإرهابي

- تجلّت وحدة الشعب تحت جثمائه الظاهر
- برزت توجهات الناس الثورية
- عبرت عظم الناس للشهداء وفهم الثورة

- تم توجيه ضربة لهيبة أمريكا كقوة عظمى
- انكشف انحطاط الحكومة الأمريكية
- بعد عزّة فعل الحرس الثوري القويّة

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