

QUDS DAY 2024

TEHRAN TIMES

Friday | April 5, 2024 | Farvardin 17, 1403 | Ramadan 25, 1444



We will pray in Quds soon

STORM IS COMING

The Zionist regime will grow weaker day by day, moving closer to its decline and extinction.

Ayatollah Khamenei
April 3, 2024





Ayatollah Khamenei's perspective on Quds Day: 'Empowering Palestinian Cause'

TEHRAN - The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has consistently highlighted the importance of unity among Muslims in supporting Palestine in his addresses on the International Quds Day.

An annual event initiated by Imam Khomeini (RA), International Quds Day (last Friday of Ramadan, this year falling on April 5) continues to serve as a powerful reminder of the collective responsibility of Muslims worldwide to stand in solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine. The occasion, which stimulates millions of Muslims, underscores the enduring commitment to justice and liberation for Palestine.

Ayatollah Khamenei has been an advocate for the Palestinian cause, condemning the Zionist regime's occupation of Palestine, and attributing its establishment to the interests of Western powers in the region.

Central to the Leader's vision for Quds Day is the promotion of Jihad and self-reliance in the struggle for Palestinian liberation. He has called for a referendum in Palestine to determine its future, emphasizing the restoration of Palestinian rights and the rejection of Zionism.

In his address on Quds Day in 2022, Ayatollah Khamenei praised the resilience of the Palestinian people and condemned the Zionist regime's occupation of Jerusalem. He highlighted the emergence of new dynamics in Palestine, where the Palestinians' "invincible will" has begun to overshadow the Zionist's so-called "invincible military." Khamenei cited the United States' successive defeats and internal rifts as signs of a shifting geopolitical landscape, noting the challenges facing the Zionist regime.

Furthermore, the Leader applauded the spread of resistance movements across Palestine, from Jenin to Gaza, and stressed the annulment of normalization plans with the Zionist enemy. He criticized Western powers for their complicity in Zionist crimes and emphasized the need for reliance on resistance to address issues in the Islamic world. He reaffirmed Iran's support for the Palestinian Resistance Front and condemned Arab governments' normalization with the Zionist regime.

"It was the existence of the resistance that cleansed the occupied parts of Lebanon from the Zionists, pulled Iraq out of the throat of the United States and saved it from ISIS, helped the Syrian defenders against U.S. plans, and fought international terrorism. It is aiding the resilient people of Yemen in the war that has been imposed on them; it will bring the Zionist usurpers to their knees by hand-to-hand combat through divine success and makes the issue of Quds and Palestine more prominent in the world public opinion through effort and struggle," he stressed.

In his speech on the occasion of the International Quds Day in 2021, Ayatollah Khamenei referred to the change in the balance of power in favor of the Islamic world and Palestine, and emphasized: "I tell you with confidence: The downward movement of the Zionist regime has started and it will not stop."

According to the Leader, the issue of Palestine continues to be the most important and active issue for the Islamic Ummah collectively. "The policies of the oppressive and cruel capitalism have driven a people out of their homes, their homeland and their ancestral roots and instead, it has installed a terrorist regime and has housed a foreign people therein," he noted.

"Since the first day, the Zionists turned the usurped Palestine into a terrorist base. Israel is not a country, rather it is a terrorist camp against the Palestinian nation and other Muslim nations. Fighting against this despotic regime is fighting against oppression and terrorism. And this is a collective responsibility," Ayatollah Khamenei underlined.

He believes that cooperation between Muslim countries should be a main and fundamental goal and this does not seem unlikely. The pivot around which this cooperation turns is the issue of Palestine—the entirety of that country—and the fate of Holy Quds.

"Cooperation between Muslims around the pivot of Holy Quds is an absolute nightmare for the Zionists and for their American and European advocates. The failed project called 'The Deal of the Century' and the effort to normalize the relations between a few weak Arab governments and the Zionist regime were desperate attempts to run away from that nightmare," the Leader stated.

"There are two determining factors in the future: First and foremost is the continued activities of resistance in the Palestinian lands and the strengthening of the line of jihad and martyrdom and second, global support on the part of governments and Muslim nations throughout the world for the Palestinian mujahids," he further added.

At the heart of Quds Day is the recognition of the suffering endured by Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. These courageous individuals represent the hope for Palestine's freedom. It is incumbent upon the Muslim Ummah to stand steadfastly beside them, ensuring they feel supported and empowered in their resistance against oppression. Quds Day serves as a beacon of hope for Palestinians, reminding them that they are not alone in their struggle for freedom and dignity.

The commemoration of International Quds Day is not limited to Iran but extends across the Muslim world, with Muslims from diverse backgrounds coming together to express their solidarity with Palestine. Despite attempts by global powers to suppress Quds Day demonstrations, Muslims continue to assert their right to voice support for Palestine.

In 1980, not long after the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini declared the last Friday of Ramadan as Quds Day as a sign of Muslim unity against Israel and in support of the Palestinian people. This was the first time that a special day for the liberation of Palestine was celebrated internationally.

Quds is the Arabic name for Jerusalem, the city considered holy by Christians, Muslims and Jews. The choice of Quds, one of the three holiest sites in Islam, is due to its symbolization of Palestinian unity.

Since this declaration, Quds Day has been marked with rallies and speeches by Muslims around the world, who gather after Friday prayers at the symbols of Zionist occupation in their respective countries.

This year, Al-Quds Day falls on April 5, and is likely to attract even more attention in view of the current Israeli atrocities in the Gaza Strip, in which more than 37,000 people have been killed in about six months, the overwhelming majority of them civilians, women and children, as confirmed by UN organizations.

But even before the Israeli genocide in Gaza began last October, there were growing numbers of demonstrators in the U.S., Europe, Asia and Africa marking Quds Day, with Muslims usually protesting after Friday prayers to draw attention to the ongoing occupation of Jerusalem. Today, Al-Quds Day rallies have become a global phenomenon.

The West facing challenges in the Gaza conflict



A man displays blood-stained British, Polish, and Australian passports. Israeli strike kills seven World Central Kitchen workers, 2 Apr 2024

By Hanif Ghaffari
PhD in International Relations

In recent weeks, there has been a notable rise in official opposition from Western governments towards the policies of the occupying Israeli regime concerning the Gaza Strip. As a result, various restrictions have been placed on arms and financial aid to the Tel Aviv regime, particularly targeting financial transactions and support for border settlements with Gaza and newly established settlements on the West Bank. European governments are actively highlighting these objections, mirroring the widespread public outrage in the West over the increasing atrocities committed by Netanyahu's cabinet in Gaza, leading to a rise in martyrs, especially among children and women. The impact of Operation "Al-Aqsa Storm" has significantly reshaped the socio-political landscape of the West, fueling the anger of many American-European citizens towards the unwavering support of the United States and the relative backing of the European Union for Tel Aviv, and the ongoing atrocities of the occupying regime in Gaza, as demonstrated by public and state surveys. Furthermore, this discontent and anger have influenced certain assumptions and forecasts made by the White House regarding the 2024 presidential elections. This matter is equally relevant to the European parliamentary elections, where established parties like the Social Democrats and Conservatives are worried about losing support among voters who are critical of the Zionist regime.

Biden under pressure

In line with established foreign policy strategies, the President of the United States has prioritized offering "unconditional support" to the occupation regime of Israel and aligning with it to escalate the situation in Gaza. Moreover, the influential role of the Zionist lobby AIPAC in American politics has forced Biden to tone down his opposition to Netanyahu, reducing it to mere criticism or negative remarks. The US has delayed ceasefire negotiations, both permanent and temporary. Meanwhile, Biden faces declining popularity over the Gaza conflict as evidenced by successive polls released recently. In none of the recent public opinion surveys in America over the past five months has Biden outperformed Trump. It's evident that Biden's voter base has weakened, largely due to the redirection of support from Muslims, people of color, and even white people who are against the occupying regime and are also extremely concerned about the Gaza conflict. This trend is observable in crucial states like Michigan.

Decoding the Michigan elections

Joe Biden, the current President of the United States representing the Democratic Party, and Donald Trump, the former President from the Republican Party, both secured victories in the preliminary elections held in Michigan. Of particular concern to Biden is the reaction of Michigan's Muslim population to his Gaza-related policies. In the preliminary elections, Biden garnered 80% of the Democratic votes, with "none" votes making up 15%. In response to Biden's stance on Gaza, the Muslim and Arab-American communities in Michigan cast nearly 40,000 "none" votes during the preliminary elections. Michigan holds significant importance; the 40,000 votes surpass the 10,000-vote margin Trump won in the state during the 2016 elections.

This underscores Muslim dissatisfaction with Biden's Gaza policies. Biden is deeply apprehensive that the voting behavior of Muslims in the 2024 presidential elections could shift, potentially leading them to refrain from supporting Biden and the Democrats against Trump and the Republicans.

The influence of the Gaza conflict on key voter groups in American elections

The President of the United States has lost the support of American Muslims and youth (first-time voters) due to the atrocities committed in Gaza by the Netanyahu government. America's insistence on preventing a permanent ceasefire in the Gaza war has exacerbated this trend. While a significant portion of American Muslim votes may not sway in favor of Trump, it does not necessarily mean they will support Biden and the Democrats! Thousands of Muslims in Michigan have demonstrated with their recent votes that if the current trend continues in Gaza and America fails to take practical and explicit action to end the Gaza war through a permanent ceasefire, one should not expect Muslim support. This principle holds true not only in Michigan but also in states like Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Considering the influence and susceptibility of all three states located in the region known as the Midwest (Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin), defeat in these states would mean the ultimate failure of the Democrats in the 2024 presidential elections. Biden initially believed that with time and the wearing out of the war, the Gaza issue would become a routine matter in American foreign policy, but this calculation has proven to be wrong! Muslim votes in intra-party elections in Michigan have sounded the alarm louder for the Democrats and this pattern will likely extend to other states in America.

The role of power structure on Biden's strategy

In the midst of this situation, the significance of the power structure and the involvement of both informal and formal power figures cannot be underestimated. Biden finds himself intricately linked to this structure, even credited as one of its creators. Yet, he faces a consistent decline in his prospects for a return to the White House. The President is acutely aware that if the specter of the Gaza conflict lingers until November 2024 (the time of the U.S. presidential elections), it could prove to be his downfall. However, he lacks the authority to challenge the entrenched norms and patterns in his nation's foreign policy regarding the West Asia region and the global arena. He is confronted with a decision between "defeat in the elections" and "meeting the demands of AIPAC." Amidst these considerations, the President is contemplating a third option: bringing an end to the Gaza conflict in the forthcoming months or perpetuating it as a sustained, low-tension conflict.

Therapeutic Biden-style speech!

In such circumstances, the President of the United States opts to utilize statements, symbols, and signals that, superficially at least, create a sense of distance from Netanyahu. For instance, President Biden recently announced his intention to carry out the first food and aid drop over Gaza. This announcement came in the wake of reports indicating a significant number of Palestinians martyred while seeking humanitarian aid, losing their lives due to gunfire from invading

Zionist forces. In these situations, the audacity of Biden and White House officials appears boundless. The US government has consistently vetoed UN Security Council resolutions on a Gaza ceasefire over the past five months and has even engaged in provocative actions during recent six-week ceasefire negotiations in Paris, aimed at undermining Hamas. With all these elements, Biden aims to foster this very "false distancing." The pivotal point here is that the United States has emerged as the primary obstacle to global aid for Gaza and has exerted pressure on the United Nations on this issue. Recently, UN officials issued warnings that starvation in Gaza has reached an unprecedented level due to the crimes and genocidal actions of the Zionists, placing many children, women, and men at risk of death. Nonetheless, aid from the United Nations fails to reach Gaza, and the United States refuses to permit the establishment of a natural pathway for essential food and medicine to reach Palestinians. Even recently, American authorities have refrained from releasing a straightforward statement denouncing the recent inhumane acts committed by the Zionists, who have targeted unarmed Palestinians, thereby discouraging the reception of food assistance. Biden's attempt to critique certain events in the Gaza conflict within such a misleading and insincere framework will ultimately have adverse consequences for him!

Is America an intermediary or a criminal?

In this context, another strategy employed by the President of the United States is to portray America as an intermediary in ceasefire negotiations. However, in this scenario, America is seen as a "criminal" rather than a "mediator" or "intermediary." Antony Blinken and Jake Sullivan, serving as the Secretary of State and the National Security Advisor respectively in the Biden administration, attempt to convey the narrative of "America's efforts to broker a temporary ceasefire" in their communications and everyday discourse concerning the Gaza conflict. Nevertheless, in practice, a significant portion of the crisis can be attributed to them. The deep collaboration between Tel Aviv and Washington transcends mere appearances. While Biden ostensibly expresses concern about the shortage of food supplies and essential aid in Gaza, he is simultaneously involved in orchestrating and overseeing the atrocities in Gaza through CENTCOM and the Pentagon. This glaring contradiction arises from the strategies and tactics of a nation often regarded as the primary instigator of historical, ongoing, and future crises in the global arena. It must be emphasized that, based on irrefutable documents and evidence, Biden shares Netanyahu's belief that starvation and humanitarian hardships can be wielded as tools against Palestinians, coercing them into leaving Gaza or surrendering to Tel Aviv. The international community, and particularly the Palestinian people, will not accept this shameful and manipulative narrative perpetuated by the White House and its incumbent President, Joe Biden.

Keywords: West Bank, Gaza, Zionist regime, Israel, Palestine, Genocide, Netanyahu, Al-Aqsa Storm, European Union, Tel Aviv, White House, 2024 presidential elections, United States, AIPAC, Biden, Trump, Michigan, Antony Blinken, Jake Sullivan, CENTCOM, Pentagon



Imam Khomeini's enduring legacy: International Quds Day unites millions in support of Palestine

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- The last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan marks International Quds Day, a day dedicated to showing solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle against Israeli occupation.

This annual event was first initiated by the late Iranian leader, founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini, in 1979 as a way to raise awareness about the plight of Palestinians and to call for the liberation of Quds.

During the Pahlavi era, the United States controlled the majority of Iran's industries and capital, endangering the freedom and independence of the Iranian people. In response, Imam Khomeini voiced his opposition, sparking a movement that culminated in the Islamic Revolution.

The Islamic Revolution, led by Imam Khomeini, aimed to secure Iran's independence and freedom from American and Israeli influence in the region, which controlled Iran's resources under the Shah's regime.

Under the Pahlavi regime, Israel, much like the U.S., wielded significant control over Iran's resources and wealth, with many vital projects falling under the Zionist regime's purview without hindrance.

The Shah's unwavering support for the U.S. and Israel further entrenched their dominance, evident in how Zionists leveraged profits from Iranian projects to reinforce their occupation of Palestinian territories and suppress the downtrodden Palestinian people.

Imam Khomeini's leadership during the Islamic Revolution not only led to the expulsion of American and Israeli forces from Iran but also stripped them of their grip on the country's wealth and resources. With foresight and wisdom, he emphasized the core principles of the Islamic Revolution and reinstated its sacred revolutionary objectives by assigning significance to key days in the Iranian calendar to honor the principles of the Islamic Revolution and its martyrs.

Moreover, his support for oppressed peoples worldwide, particularly the Palestinians, transcended borders, leading him to call on Muslims globally to observe Quds Day in solidarity with the Palestinian cause following the Israeli bombing of southern Lebanon in 1979.



Imam Khomeini believed it was the duty of all Muslims to support the Palestinians and stand up against injustices inflicted by the Israeli government. He saw Quds Day as a way to unite Muslims from around the world in a common cause and to show that they were not alone in their struggle.

Since its inception, Quds Day has grown to become an important event for Muslims and supporters of the Palestinian people, with millions participating in rallies globally to call for an end to Israeli occupation.

The legacy of Imam Khomeini and his dedication to the Palestinian cause continues to inspire people to stand up for justice and to speak out against oppression. His vision of a world free from tyranny and injustice is one that resonates with people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Today, as Quds Day unfolds amidst increasing oppression in the region and the ongoing brutal attacks on Gaza with support from American allies, the importance of demonstrating solidarity with the Palestinian people is more vital than ever.

The global community is called upon to stand united against the injustices faced by the Palestinians, who continue to struggle against occupation and violence. The observance of Quds Day serves as a poignant reminder of the need for collective action to uphold justice and advocate for the rights of all oppressed communities in the face of aggression and persecution.

Gaza was an awakening for the world

Intl. Quds Day will be observed in 2024 as millions more have grown close to the Palestinian cause

By Sara Abdolmaleki

TEHRAN - The annual observance of International Quds Day by millions of Muslims worldwide serves as a significant platform to express solidarity with the Palestinian cause. Particularly this year, amidst the ongoing conflict in Gaza, a surge in global participation is anticipated, as the brutal realities of the Israeli regime's actions have galvanized international attention.

Over the past six months, a wave of protests has swept through various parts of the world, challenging the narratives put forth by governments, especially in Western nations. The calls for a ceasefire resonate with the shared humanity that transcends divides of religion, ethnicity, and nationality. Across diverse communities, including Muslims, Jews, Christians, and individuals from all walks of life, a unified voice emerges in Western cities, demanding an end to the tragic plight of civilians in Gaza.

The harrowing scenes unfolding in Gaza, captured on mobile devices and independent broadcast worldwide, showcase the devastating toll of the conflict. Images of innocent children trapped in the rubble, families torn apart by violence, and entire neighborhoods reduced to ruins underscore the indiscriminate nature of Israel's military assaults on civilian infrastructure.

The profound human tragedy and widespread devastation unfolding in Gaza have shattered the longstanding narratives perpetuated by Western states, challenging the perceptions ingrained in the minds of people worldwide. The stark contrast between the sanitized official accounts and the grim realities faced by those enduring the brunt of conflict has raised great doubts and prompted a reevaluation of the information disseminated by Western authorities.

Amidst the chaos and destruction caused by 2,000-ton Israeli bombs raining down on Gaza, those fortunate enough to escape immediate harm find themselves thrust into a desperate struggle for survival. The scarcity of food and essential resources plunges individuals into a race against time, as the basic necessities for sustenance become increasingly scarce. The crumbling healthcare infrastructure adds to the horrors, with a severe shortage of medical personnel rendering the wounded and sick without proper care. Tragic scenes unfold as infants are deprived of life-saving incubators, women endure unspeakable atrocities, and children grapple with heart-wrenching trauma that sometimes manifests as heart attacks.

The staggering toll of over 32,000 Palestinian lives lost at the hands of Israeli forces is the most horrifying part for the Western public. People see the insatiable thirst for bloodshed exhibited by Israel and its unchecked violence, perpetuating a cycle of suffering that shows no signs of abating.

As people were grappling with the distressing reality in Gaza, they began a deeper examination of the historical context revealing the longstanding oppression faced by Palestinians. They found out that the roots of the conflict trace back over seven decades to the Nakba, a catastrophic event that led to the forcible displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes. The enduring struggle for autonomy and freedom has left over 5 million Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank living under occupation, devoid of basic rights and subject to the whims of Israeli authorities.

The restrictions imposed on Palestinians, from limitations on construction and economic activities to strict controls on movement and access to resources, underscore the extent of their subjugation. Despite repeated attempts at resis-

tance, both through diplomatic channels and acts of defiance, Palestinian aspirations for self-determination have been repeatedly thwarted by a regime backed by powerful Western allies. Palestinians continue to struggle for justice, dignity, and the right to a homeland as they get labeled by Israel and its Western lackeys as terrorists.

Meanwhile, Western leaders find themselves grappling with a glaring lack of coherent and justifiable reasoning behind their unwavering support for Israel. The erosion of credibility among global audiences transcends mere public perception, signaling a broader crisis of legitimacy that has far-reaching implications. Critics argue that the blind allegiance to Israel not only undermines ethical principles but also undermines the very foundation of Western civilization's historical authority and moral standing on the global stage.

Also, in this age of pervasive connectivity and digital empowerment, Israel's attempts to shape the narrative and control information are facing unprecedented scrutiny and resistance. The democratic nature of social media platforms and the rapid dissemination of information through emerging technologies have empowered individuals to uncover and share the truth, dismantling falsehoods and exposing propaganda efforts in real time. Whereas past disinformation campaigns took years to unravel, the speed at which misinformation is debunked in the digital age has left Israel's propaganda machinery vulnerable to swift and widespread debunking within hours or even minutes of dissemination.

Perhaps even last year, nobody would have been able to predict that the truth would be revealed about Israel's occupation of Palestine. People's awakening across the world is only going to increase as you only need to be human in order to feel for the Palestinians.

Quds Day: Gaza's message loud and clear

By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN- Quds Day unites people globally in solidarity with Gaza, amplifying voices and highlighting Palestinian struggles for justice and freedom.

Every year on the last Friday of holy month of Ramadan, millions of Muslims worldwide participate in International Quds Day, a day established in 1979 by the Late Founder of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini.

The purpose of Quds Day, named after the Arabic word (al-Quds), is to demonstrate unwavering support for the Palestinian people in their struggle against Israeli occupation.

Large-scale rallies and marches characterize the day. Public figures deliver speeches, often inciting chants of "Death to Israel, Death to America."

Quds Day extends beyond Iran's borders. The 1988 decision by the Organization of the Islamic Conference's Jerusalem Committee ensured public events throughout the Arab world. Countries with significant Shia populations, particularly Lebanon where Hezbollah holds major observances, witness high turnout. Notably, groups like Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad actively endorse and participate in Quds Day activities.

Quds Day's impact on international relations

Leaders within the resistance movements view Quds Day as a potent symbol of unity and a message of unwavering support for Palestine. Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary-General of Lebanon's Hezbollah, emphasizes that Quds Day instills fear in Israel due to the projected image of solidarity.

Similarly, Akram al-Kaabi, leader of Iraq's Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba, highlights Quds Day as a defining principle in their fight against Israeli occupation. He further criticizes regional countries normalizing relations with Israel, vowing Iraq's unwavering commitment to Palestinian support.

Quds Day undoubtedly serves as a potent symbol of solidarity for the Palestinian cause.

Quds Day: a vital platform for Palestinian solidarity and global awareness



The Quds issue stands as a pivotal concern, resonating both on a religious and geopolitical scale. For years, on the final Friday of Ramadan, global advocates for freedom have rallied, asserting that the plight of the Palestinian nation cannot fade from memory. Their steadfast commitment echoes a resolute march towards a liberated Quds, where the world will witness the futility of oppression and occupation.

Yet, this year's narrative diverges. Months have passed witnessing the egregious escalation of atrocities by the usurping Zionist regime against the people of Gaza. Despite fasting and defenselessness, Gaza's besieged populace valiantly confronts a regime steeped in usurpation and brutality.

Amidst the rubble of demolished homes and the anguish of lost loved ones, the courageous men and women of Gaza refuse to capitulate to tyranny. Their resilience underscores a solemn truth: that resistance to oppression endures, undeterred by adversity.

The grandeur of this year's Quds Day procession serves as a beacon of solidarity, amplifying support for the oppressed Palestinian nation. It sends an unequivocal message

to global powers: that the forces of oppression—be they usurpation, violence, or subjugation—are inherently destined for defeat.

Quds Day: amplifying Palestinian voices and condemning Zionist crimes

The Zionist regime's persistent efforts to normalize relations with some Arab states underscore a calculated attempt to obscure the enduring plight of Palestine and Gaza.

In their pursuit of diplomatic alliances, Zionists seek to erode the collective memory of the Palestinian struggle, hoping to consign it to oblivion.

However, the annual global Quds Day march serves as a powerful testament—a reaffirmation of solidarity with an oppressed nation ensnared within the grip of the Zionist regime. It stands not merely as an event but as a global covenant, a solemn pledge to uphold the rights of the marginalized and to resist the forces of oppression. In the face of attempts to whitewash injustice, the Quds Day march serves as a resolute reminder that the world will not forget, nor forsake, those who suffer under the yoke of oppression.

The international ramifications of Quds

Day are manifold. Firstly, the Quds Day serve as a catalyst holding the Israeli government accountable for its continued violations of international law and human rights abuses in the occupied territories. As governments across the globe face mounting pressure from their citizens to take a principled stance against Israeli aggression, the isolation of the Zionist regime becomes increasingly pronounced.

Furthermore, Quds Day galvanizes grassroots movements and civil society organizations to mobilize in solidarity with the Palestinian cause. From boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) campaigns to advocacy for Palestinian self-determination, the global movement for Palestinian rights gains momentum with each passing Quds Day. This grassroots activism not only raises awareness about the plight of the Palestinian people but also fosters international solidarity and support for their struggle.

Moreover, the symbolic significance of Quds Day reverberates within international institutions and forums, where debates over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict often unfold. By amplifying the Palestinian narrative and challenging the legitimacy of Israeli occupation, Quds Day reshapes the discourse surrounding the conflict and undermines attempts to whitewash Israeli crimes. This shift in narrative empowers Palestinian advocates and their allies to push for concrete measures aimed at ending Israeli impunity and achieving justice for the Palestinian people.

In response to the growing international condemnation of its policies, the Zionist regime has sought to delegitimize Quds Day and portray it as a manifestation of anti-Semitism or extremism. However, such efforts have largely failed to resonate beyond a narrow circle of the occupying regime's supporters, as the principles of justice and solidarity that underpin Quds Day resonate with people of conscience worldwide.

Quds Day rallies shine a spotlight on the ongoing crimes committed against Palestinians and provide vital support to those living under occupation and siege.

Through Quds Day, the voices of the oppressed are elevated, and the reality of life under Israeli occupation is brought to the forefront of global consciousness. The rallies serve as a potent reminder of the urgent need for a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, rooted in principles of equality, justice, and respect for international law.

Quds Day galvanizes global solidarity with Gaza, amplifies voices, spotlights Palestinian quests for justice and liberation, and fosters global unity.

In bringing the rightful voice of the Palestinians to the world stage, Quds Day rallies play a crucial role in challenging the dominant narratives that seek to justify or normalize Israeli aggression. By bearing witness to the suffering of the Palestinian people and standing in solidarity with their struggle for freedom and dignity, participants in Quds Day events contribute to the broader movement for justice and peace.

In conclusion, holding Quds Day is not merely a symbolic gesture but a powerful expression of solidarity and resistance. By making the crimes of the Zionist regime more visible and amplifying the voices of oppressed Palestinians, Quds Day rallies strengthen the global movement for Palestinian rights and bring us one step closer to realizing the vision of a just and peaceful future for Palestinians.

QUDS DAY 2024



www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Art Director: **Bahman Vakhshour**

Editorial Dept.: Fax:

(+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel:

(+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Telefax:

(+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel:

(+98 21) 88805807

Subscription & Distribution Dept.:

Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

Printed at:

Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

TEHRAN - Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iranian people have regularly held huge rallies in different occasions to show solidarity with Palestinian people in the face of Israel's brutalities and acts of aggression.

Pro-Palestine rallies have gained momentum since Israel launched war on Gaza on October 7. Iranians from all walks of life have held gatherings across the nation to voice support for the Palestinians in the besieged territory and denounce the regime's atrocities.

Palestine Square in central Tehran, where the Palestinian embassy is located, has seen numerous pro-Palestine protests.

Protesters have stressed that the Iranian government and nation will spare no effort to support Palestinians in particular amidst Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

They have condemned Israel's barbaric acts and massacres of civilians including children in Gaza over the past six months. The demonstrators have condemned certain Western countries, in particular the United States over their unwavering support for the apartheid regime.

People have burned effigies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and stomped on his images during rallies to vent their anger at the ongoing genocide and mass massacres in Gaza.

Senior government officials and top military commanders have also delivered speeches during these demonstrations stressing that the Islamic Republic will continue to stand by Palestinian people.

Palestine Square murals

Apart from staging rallies, murals, banners and billboards have been unveiled at Palestine Square to direct global attention to Israel's atrocious crimes.

Hours after Hamas carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7, a mural appeared on the exterior of a building at Palestine Square that hailed the Palestinian resistance movement.

Rallies, murals at Tehran's Palestine Square



Iran has stressed that it was not involved in the Hamas attack and did not have foreknowledge of the operation. Iranian officials have said that the Palestinian resistance fighters conducted Operation Al-Aqsa Flood independently.

A mural depicting a more advanced version of Iran's Fattah hypersonic missile was unveiled in November last year at Palestine Square with a message reading "400 Seconds to Tel Aviv."

It was in fact a response to anti-Iran threats and rhetoric made by Israeli officials.

Speaking at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened to use nuclear weapons against Iran.

For several times, the regime has threatened to take military action against Iran. It has assassinated Iranian nuclear scientists and stands accused of carrying out acts of sabotage at Iranian nuclear and military facilities.

Iran has repeatedly warned that any acts of aggression by Israel against the country will be met with a crushing response.



Iran's president has already warned Israel about the consequences of any warmongering approach and military adventurism.

"Enemies, particularly the Zionist regime, has received the message that any tiny action against our country will prompt a harsh answer from the armed forces, which will accompany the destruction of Haifa and Tel Aviv," Ebrahim Raisi said in April 2023 as the country marked the annual Army Day.

Murals and banner also appeared in Tehran after Iran hit the positions of terrorist groups in Syria and Pakistan

and Israeli spy headquarters in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in January 2024.

At Palestine Square, a mural on a building showed a missile being fired, with a caption warning in Persian and Hebrew, "Prepare your coffins."

That was a stark warning that Iran will not hesitate to defend its national interests in the face of enemy plots.

In February, a mural adorned with images of missiles and phrases in Persian and Hebrew was unveiled at Palestine Square with a message, "We are stronger and more determined than ever."

The creation of the mural highlighted Israel's vulnerability and the blows dealt to the regime by the Palestinian resistance.

After the assassination of Hamas official Saleh al-Arouri in an Israeli drone strike in Beirut's southern suburbs of Dahiye in January, a large-scale mural was designed with a message in Arabic, Persian and Hebrew. The message indicated that Israel's assassinations will fail to bring the resistance to its knees.

In the wake of the Yemeni army's attacks against Israeli-linked ships in the Red Sea, a mural at Palestine Square drew attention to the role of regional resistance in supporting Gazans which read, "The sea is always unsafe for Pharaohs."

During the past months, Yemen's Ansarullah movement has been staging missile and drone attacks against vessels heading to Israeli ports in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

The movement says the attacks won't stop unless Israel ends its war of genocide on Gaza.

The latest mural at Palestine Square was unveiled on Wednesday. It depicts Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, a senior commander in Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, who was assassinated by Israel in Syria on Monday.

A caption appears on the banner warning Israel, "We will punish you and make you regret."

Embracing spirit of Quds Day: Iran's advocacy for Palestinian cause

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN - The occupied city of al-Quds holds a sacred place in the hearts of Muslims worldwide, embodying resilience, faith, and struggle for liberation. Similarly, for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Al-Quds transcends mere geography; it emerges as a spiritual and ideological bedrock intricately entwined with the nation's essence and aspirations.

Al-Quds, revered and iconic, encapsulates the resilient spirit of a people unwavering in their pursuit of justice, despite facing adversity. It symbolizes the enduring faith that transcends generations, offering a timeless message of hope and perseverance.

At the core of the Islamic Republic of Iran beats a fervent commitment to justice, liberation, and solidarity, which finds its annual expression on Quds Day. Introduced by Iranian leader Imam Khomeini in 1980, Quds Day stands as a symbol of unity and defiance against oppression, notably the Israeli occupation of Al-Quds.

As Iran's principles are deeply rooted in resistance against tyranny and imperialism, this sentiment is reflected in the essence of Quds Day. The unwavering support of Iran for the Palestinian cause epitomizes its firm stance against injustice and occupation, resonating with the spirit of Quds Day in its resolute rejection of oppression.

Moreover, Quds Day embodies Iran's commitment to Islamic solidarity and unity, rallying Muslims worldwide to stand in solidarity with the oppressed, regardless of sectarian affiliations. Iran extends its hand in brotherhood to all Muslims, emphasizing the universal values of justice, compassion, and resistance encapsulated in Quds Day. The occasion has distinct value for the Iranians as well. The annual marches on Quds Day unite Iranians from all walks of life, demonstrating their collective resolve to uphold the principles of justice and dignity. In these moments of solidarity, Iranians reaffirm their allegiance to the ideals espoused by Imam Khomeini, pledging to remain steadfast in their support for the oppressed and marginalized.

Furthermore, Iran's emphasis on self-reliance and sovereignty resonates with the ethos of Quds Day. Iran's defiance against external pressure and sanctions mirrors the spirit of resistance championed on this auspicious occasion, inspiring nations globally to uphold their dignity

and autonomy in the face of adversity.

Al-Quds Day serves as a powerful reminder of the shared values and aspirations that bind the Islamic Republic of Iran to the broader Muslim ummah. It encapsulates the principles of justice, resistance, and solidarity that form the bedrock of Iran's identity and foreign policy. Since the very inception of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979, the country's stance on the Palestine has revived the Muslim Ummah, breathing life into Resistance movements and reaffirming the centrality of the Palestinian cause. From a political perspective, centralizing the Palestinian cause underscores the unique nature of Palestinian oppression, perpetuated by world superpowers conspiring to maintain hegemonic control.

=== Al-Quds: The heartbeat of Resistance

Iran's steadfast support for Quds Day and its advocacy for Palestinian rights play a pivotal role in galvanizing global solidarity against common enemies.

From Palestine to Yemen, Quds Day has inspired and empowered diverse Resistance movements, uniting people in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and injustice. The annual observance amplifies the voices of the oppressed and underscores the interconnectedness of struggles for liberation, making it a pivotal moment in the global anti-colonialist discourse.

Iran's influential role in promoting Quds Day extends beyond the borders of Palestine and Yemen, resonating with anti-colonial movements worldwide. By emphasizing the shared plight of oppressed peoples and the imperative of solidarity, Quds Day serves as a rallying cry against imperialism, colonialism, and hegemony. In doing so, it fosters alliances and collaborations that transcend geographical and ideological divides, uniting Muslims and allies in a common struggle for justice and liberation.

Moreover, Quds Day challenges dominant narratives and exposes the complicity of global powers in perpetuating injustice and exploitation. By centering the Palestinian cause and amplifying the voices of the marginalized, Quds Day disrupts hegemonic structures and fosters a collective consciousness of resistance. It inspires people around the world to join forces in the struggle for liberation, recognizing that their destinies are intertwined in the pursuit of



justice and freedom.

As Iran asserts its influence on the world stage, its commitment to uniting Muslims and allies against imperialism and injustice remains a cornerstone of its foreign policy, shaping the trajectory of anti-colonial struggles and liberation movements worldwide.

=== Iran stays committed to fighting occupation despite global pressures

The lack of proper media coverage of Quds Day globally is further compounded by Iran's changing dynamics on the world stage. As a key player in West Asia and a vocal advocate for Palestinian rights, Iran's stance on Quds Day significantly influences the discourse surrounding the Palestinian conflict. Iran's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause, coupled with its diplomatic efforts to address the issue at international forums, challenges the status quo and disrupts existing power dynamics.

Iran's growing influence in the region and its assertive foreign policy have reshaped the geopolitical landscape, prompting a reevaluation of traditional alliances and power structures. With its support for various resistance movements across the Muslim world, including in Palestine and Yemen, Iran has emerged as a potent

force for anti-colonial struggles and liberation movements. This newfound prominence has made Iran a focal point of global attention, with its actions and statements shaping debates on regional stability and security.

Furthermore, Iran's proactive approach to addressing the Palestinian issue and its efforts to raise awareness about Quds Day on the international stage have contributed to a shift in global perceptions.

Through diplomatic channels, media outreach, and public diplomacy initiatives, Iran seeks to counteract mainstream narratives and highlight the plight of Palestinians. By amplifying the voices of the oppressed and challenging dominant discourses, Iran aims to galvanize international support for the Palestinian cause and promote a more just and equitable resolution to the conflict.

Each year, on the last Friday of Ramadan, millions of Iranians take to the streets in national marches, passionately declaring their solidarity with the Palestinian people and their unequivocal support for the liberation of Al-Quds. These marches not only honor the enduring legacy of Imam Khomeini but also inspire generations of Iranians to stand firm in their support for the

oppressed, echoing the principles embodied by Quds Day.

Moreover, the involvement of young people in Quds Day activities has emerged as a driving force behind the event's narrative and momentum. As digital natives, the younger generation harnesses both online and offline platforms to mobilize, raise awareness about Palestinian rights, and challenge oppressive regimes. Through social media campaigns, youth-led organizations, and grassroots initiatives, young activists play a pivotal role in amplifying the voices of the oppressed and advocating for justice on Quds Day, ensuring that the spirit of solidarity continues to thrive and evolve.

This year, falling on April 5, Quds Day is expected to garner increased attention amid the ongoing Israeli atrocities in Gaza, underscoring the urgency of the Palestinian cause.

As the world bears witness to the ongoing turmoil and strife in the region, Al-Quds stands as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, a beacon of hope amidst the darkness of conflict and division. It beckons humanity to unite in solidarity, to stand firm in the face of injustice, and to strive tirelessly for a future built on peace, equality, and mutual respect.