



Global Awakening

The most significant achievement of the Palestinians after a year of unequal war is the world's awareness of the criminal nature of Israel.



On the anniversary of the October 7 Al-Aqsa Storm, the Tehran Times publishes a 12-page special issue



One year after Al-Aqsa Storm Israel has massacred tens of thousands, but there is no sign of victory

Resurrection of Palestine

A dove flies over the debris of houses destroyed in Israeli strikes, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, October 11.

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Palestinians and pro-Palestine groups are marking the one-year anniversary of a surprise military operation carried out by the Hamas resistance movement in southern Israel and the regime's subsequent genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

Over 1,100 people were killed when Hamas conducted Operation Al-Aqsa Storm on October 7, 2023 and more than 250 others were taken captive.

Since the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, also known as the Six-Day War, Israel had consistently sought to portray itself as a formidable power with an invincible military. However, the Hamas attack shattered the image of the regime's invincibility.

Soon after Hamas launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, Western media acknowledged that it had exposed the Israeli military's fiasco.

Le Monde wrote at that time that the Israeli military's defenses "collapsed like a house of cards" in the face of the Hamas attack.

Following the Hamas operation, Israel declared war on Gaza with the aim of achieving "total victory" over Hamas and "destroying" the resistance group.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly vowed to continue the war until achieving his goals. A year has passed since the conflict began, but Netanyahu, known as Bibi, has not succeeded in making good on his promise.



A man who said he was a journalist lit himself on fire outside the White House on Saturday, October 5, to protest Israel's genocidal war in Gaza.

Israeli and Western officials have either directly or indirectly acknowledged that Hamas will remain unbeatable.

Castles in the air

Since October 7, Israeli military chief Herzli Halevi has generally spoken of "dismantling" rather than eliminating or eradicating Hamas, a term implicitly acknowledging that even a protracted war will not be able to destroy the resistance group.

In mid-February, assessments by Israel's military intelligence suggested that even if the regime dismantles Hamas's organized military capabilities, it will continue to operate in Gaza.

The assessments further showed that "authentic support remains" for Hamas among Gazans.

In March, the US intelligence community said in its annual report that Israel will likely face Hamas resistance "for years to come".

Western officials have also acknowledged that Israel won't be able to overcome the Palestinian resistance.

The EU foreign policy chief said in February that Israel needs a political, not a military, solution to the conflict with Palestinians. ▶ Page 5



Oil minister visits Kharg to check oil installations security

TEHRAN- Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad arrived in Kharg island, in the Persian Gulf, on Sunday to visit the hub of Iran's oil exports and meet the employees of the island's operational zone, in the second day of his visit to Bushehr province, in southwest of Iran.

In the first day of his trip to Bushehr, Paknejad had visited oil platforms, gas refineries, a petrochemical unit, a power plant, a petrochemical terminal, and a port in Assalouyeh, which is the hub of Iran's petrochemical industry. ▶ Page 4



Leader honors IRGC commander with Order of Fat'h following Operation True Promise II

TEHRAN - Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has awarded Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Aerospace Division of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), with the prestigious Order of Fat'h (Conquest).

This honor recognizes commanders who achieve remarkable victories in military operations. ▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Israel's infrastructure will be crippled with a blow

In a commentary, Kayhan addressed a possible attack by Israel on Iran and wrote: After Operation True Promise II the Zionist regime has threatened to attack Iran's infrastructure. No immigrant in Israel came to this land to be killed on the path of Netanyahu's madness, but in Iran millions of people are willing to sacrifice their lives for their country and the freedom of the region from the hands of America and Israel.

The best way to prevent a war is to teach lessons by throwing rockets into the occupied lands and at the same time take security operations against Netanyahu and his delusional allies. Strategists and political geography experts believe that targeting infrastructure will cripple Israel's economy. Due to its limited geographical expanse, Israel depends on a few oil and gas fields, power plants, and small refineries. The smallest blow to these infrastructures will make Israel face a serious challenge. If the Zionists make the smallest mistake, these places will immediately be targeted by missiles and drones.

Jam-e-Jam: diplomatic commander in the battleground

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam discussed the visit of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to Beirut and said: Araghchi traveled to Beirut, but Lebanon these days has been hit by the brutal air attacks of the Zionist regime. It has become the epicenter of threat to the region. Even before Araghchi arrived in Beirut, the Zionists had bombarded the area around the airport. According to Araghchi, we have seen a lot of these scenes during the imposed war (Saddam Hussein's war against Iran in the 1980s), and we are used to it. By breaking the resistance of the people of Lebanon and at the top of them Hezbollah, the Zionists are trying to impose their favored order on the West Asia region and start their domination process from the shores of the Mediterranean.

Araghchi's important trip to Beirut in the middle of the crisis in Lebanon shows that, contrary to the illusions of the Zionists, the situation is completely under the control of the Resistance forces and it is the Axis of Resistance that determines the future of Lebanon and the region. Certainly, Iran is also on this path, and as always will be alongside Lebanon and other nations.

Tehran's cautious approach exposes misleading ceasefire claims: envoy

TEHRAN- Tehran's ambassador to Moscow has said Iran's measured response following the Israeli regime's assassination of Resistance leaders demonstrated the falsehood of claims regarding a truce agreement.

Kazem Jalali made these comments during a ceremony at the Islamic Center of Moscow on Saturday to honor Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Iran's military advisor to Lebanon Major General Abbas Nilforushan, and several other resistance figures who were recently martyred by Israeli massive air raids, IRNA reported.

President Masoud Pezeshkian and military chief Mohammad Bagheri have said Western leaders had requested Iran to refrain from attacking Israel in response to the July 31 assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran by promising that they are making serious efforts to broker a truce in Gaza. However, Pezeshkian lamented, their promise

Iran refutes US claims regarding Red Sea security crises

TEHRAN- The Iranian envoy to the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) on Sunday dismissed claims by the United States regarding Iran's role in the security crises of the Red Sea.

According to Pouria Kolivand, Iran remains committed to its obligations, asserting that it is the United States that has fostered instability in the region, particularly in the Red Sea, by supporting the Israeli regime. This statement was made during the 82nd session of the MEPC in London.

During the session, several nations, led by the U.S., made unfounded accusations against Iran.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Iran's democratic plan for Israel-Palestine issue

In a commentary, Arman-e-Emrooz dealt with Iran's proposed plan on the issue of Palestine and Israel and said: The proposed plan of our country is not based on the plan of two states, but based on a referendum that was propounded by the Leader of the Revolution years ago during the Non-Alignment Movement summit. The bitter reality is that the failure to explain the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the issue of Israel has instilled in the minds of the Jews living in the occupied territories that the destruction of Israel means the destruction of its Jewish inhabitants. This thought has an inhumane nature and conflicts with the humanistic policy of the Islamic Republic system. Consulting with other countries, bringing the Israeli regime to international courts, and showing its racist nature is a step that can be a glimmer of hope for a referendum in line with forming a single democratic government in the occupied territories. Our diplomatic system has failed to properly introduce and promote this democratic plan. Based on this, it is necessary to pay attention to the implementation of this plan in the medium and long term, in addition to strengthening the Axis of Resistance in dealing with Israel's military threats.

Etemad: Diplomacy after deterrence

In an interview with political expert Alireza Majidi, Etemad discussed the strategic policy of the sitting government regarding the current situation. He said: According to Araghchi there are initiatives for a ceasefire in Lebanon and Gaza, and we hope they will produce results. These statements were pronounced to journalists immediately after he arrived in Syria. Iran uses both military strategy, like Operation True Promise II, and diplomacy to put an end to the sufferings of the people of Gaza and Lebanon. Iran is trying to expand its desired deterrence at the regional level by using the True Promise II. In addition, Iran is also seeking to end the conflicts that have caused many problems for the people of the region by using diplomacy. This is because Pezeshkian went to Qatar and met the leaders of Hamas and the rulers of Qatar; also, Araghchi, the foreign minister, went to Lebanon and Syria to make the necessary arrangements to confront the Zionists.

proved empty. After waiting for two months and after high-profile killings in Lebanon, on October 1 Iran fired about 180 missiles at Israeli military sites.

Ambassador Jalali said if Iran had responded immediately to the Haniyeh assassination the West would have used it as a pretext to say that Iran obstructed truce in Gaza.

The ambassador said before the October 1 retaliatory attack the adversary attempted to portray the Islamic Republic as hesitant to retaliate against Israel's moves.

Jalali also cautioned against the Israeli regime's psychological tactics aimed at creating divisions among Resistance factions and the Muslim community.

The ambassador asserted, "We are strong," highlighting that the participation of Resistance supporters in such commemorative events signifies victory.

Additionally, a statement of protest from the Islamic Republic of Iran was delivered at the session, addressing the British authorities' delayed issuance of visas for the Iranian delegation. The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) operates as a subsidiary entity of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a United Nations agency tasked with overseeing shipping regulations.

The MEPC, founded in 1975, focuses on tackling environmental challenges associated with the maritime sector and formulating strategies to reduce its effects on the marine ecosystem. The 82nd session of the MEPC took place in the UK capital from September 30 to October 4.

Imam Khomeini's grandson says Iran must enhance 'deterrence'

TEHRAN – Seyyed Hassan Khomeini, grandson of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, has called for an increase and enhancement of Iran's deterrent capabilities, emphasizing the need for stronger defenses across different fronts.

The prominent cleric's remarks come as Israel says it is preparing to respond to Iran's retaliatory attack that targeted Israeli military bases in the occupied territories earlier this month.

During an interview with Iranian media, Hassan Khomeini clarified his position, stating, "I am neither in politics nor the military; I am simply expressing my personal opinion on enhancing the level of deterrence." When asked for specifics on what kind of deterrence enhancement he envisioned, the cleric responded, "I'll say this much for now."

Hassan Khomeini emphasized the significance of recent Iranian missile strikes on Israel, stating, "The most significant impact of



Operation True Promise II was the courage it gave to the Iranian nation.

The missile barrage aimed at Israel destroyed its Iron Dome and shattered its deterrence. Deterrence is about power, not about 'smiles.' We must understand that velvet gloves hide iron hands."

He lauded the recent trips by President Masoud Pezeshkian and Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi to regional countries

during the current tense period, calling them "highly commendable."

While acknowledging the dangers of war, Hassan Khomeini stressed the importance of unwavering resolve in the face of aggression.

"War is bad under any circumstances and should be avoided," he said, "however, fear of war is worse—an example of this is Shah Sultan Hossein. The whole world should know that when that point is reached, we will

stand firm without retreating, even though Iran and Hezbollah have never been warlike. In the matter of Israel, defense is paramount, but if it comes to a confrontation, we must stand firm. In our resistance, we pursue steadfastness, not aggression."

Imam Khomeini's grandson reiterated Iran's commitment to a Palestinian right to return and self-determination. "We believe that Palestinian refugees should return to their homeland and a referendum should be held so that the government of Palestine can determine its own future," he stated.

"This is the legitimate solution of the Islamic Republic of Iran; however, Americans and Israelis propose a two-state solution because they are trying to gain global acceptance for the legitimacy of the Israeli regime. More than 20 years have passed since 2004, yet during this time, the two-state solution has not been pursued."

Iranian commander asserts armed forces' readiness to confront any Israeli threats

TEHRAN – The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy, Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, has underscored the preparedness of the Iranian Armed Forces to confront any threats, including those posed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In an interview with Iran's Al-Alam Arabic-language television network, Tangsiri stated that comprehensive plans are in place for various combat scenarios amid escalating regional tensions sparked by Israeli military actions in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Tangsiri emphasized that the Iranian Armed Forces evaluate all potential scenarios that adversaries may employ, both within the region and beyond. He explained that, based on these assessments, the military conducts various training exercises and develops strategies to counter the threats posed by enemies.

"We prepare ourselves for any situation," Tangsiri remarked, noting that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has consistently emphasized the necessity of maintaining full readiness and

vigilance, whether in routine or emergency situations. He specifically referenced Netanyahu's provocative actions as indicative of the dangers facing the region.

In discussing a recent military parade held in Iran to commemorate Sacred Defense Week, Tangsiri stated that the event was intended to send a clear message to adversaries: if they choose to engage in reckless behavior in West Asia, Iran will respond decisively.

Islam does not permit Muslims to attack others unless invaded. However, it also advises us to be ready for any scenario.

He elaborated, "Islam does not permit us to attack another nation unless we are invaded. However, our enemies, seeking to sell their weapons and prolong their illegal presence in the region, try to depict Iran as a threat." Tangsiri clarified that while Iran will not react

unless its national and Islamic interests are at stake, the nation is prepared to defend the oppressed when necessary.

On Tuesday evening, Iran conducted a barrage of high-speed missile strikes targeting Israeli military and intelligence installations, an operation referred to as Operation True Promise II. This attack was a direct response to the Israeli regime's violent actions, including the assassination of key leaders within the resistance movement, which resulted in nearly 10 million Israeli citizens seeking refuge in bomb shelters.

In recent years, Iranian military experts and engineers have made significant advancements in the development of a wide array of indigenous military equipment, achieving a level of self-sufficiency in defense production.

Iranian officials have reiterated their commitment to enhancing the country's military capabilities, emphasizing that these enhancements are solely for defensive purposes and that Iran's defense capabilities are not open to negotiation.

Iran Pres., Dutch PM talk regional tensions, nuclear deal

TEHRAN – The Iranian President and Dutch Prime Minister engaged in a telephone conversation on Saturday to address key issues of mutual concern, including the rising tensions in the region, and strategies for resolving impasse surrounding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

During the telephone call on Sunday, Masoud Pezeshkian responded to Prime Minister Dick Schoof's outreach by highlighting the 400-year history of diplomatic ties between Iran and the Netherlands.

Pezeshkian remarked, "My government is committed to elevating our relations and fostering cooperation with neighboring countries and the global community.

We can achieve this by leveraging our existing capabilities to deepen and expand our bilateral ties."

Iran's president also referenced the stance of Western nations,

including the Netherlands, regarding the actions of the Israeli regime in Gaza and Lebanon and stated, "I was elected as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran with a mandate for domestic unity and global friendship

. However, on my first official day, the Israeli regime, seeking to divert attention from its failures in Gaza and escalate regional tensions, assassinated our guest in Tehran."

"Instead of condemning these terrorist actions, Western countries, led by the United States, continue to urge us to show restraint," Pezeshkian stated.

In the same conversation, Prime Minister Dick Schoof expressed, "We firmly believe that the East Asia cannot endure further tensions, and we have called on all parties to avoid escalating conflicts."

Schoof emphasized that the Netherlands has urged Israel to agree to a ceasefire in Gaza promptly and has supported the U.S. initiative for a ceasefire in

Lebanon.

A year of Israel's war in Gaza has left over 41,000 people dead and the entire Gaza Strip in ruins. The regime has also spread its violence to the surrounding areas, especially Lebanon where it's begun to target hospitals and other civilian its.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Iran's president highlighted in another section of his address that the Islamic Republic of Iran aims to enhance its relationships and collaboration with neighboring nations and other countries globally, including those in Europe, through dialogue while tackling specific matters such as Iran's nuclear issue.

The Dutch Prime Minister also conveyed his satisfaction with Iran's willingness to resume its nuclear obligations under the JCPOA framework and underscored the importance of making concrete progress in this area as the most effective measure for the fourteenth government during this

challenging time in the West Asian region.

The JCPOA often known as the Iran nuclear deal, is a landmark agreement established in July 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 nations, which include China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

As part of the JCPOA, Iran committed to substantial restrictions and monitoring of its nuclear activities in return for the termination of Western sanctions.

Nevertheless, the agreement has encountered significant difficulties since its inception, particularly after the United States exited the deal in 2018 during President Donald Trump's tenure.

This withdrawal resulted in the reinstatement of sanctions against Iran, prompting the country to begin scaling back its compliance with the JCPOA in 2020.

Vice President offers condolences at Hezbollah office in Tehran

TEHRAN – The Iranian Vice President conveyed his condolences regarding the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary-general of Hezbollah, during his visit to the Hezbollah office in Tehran on Sunday.

Mohammad Reza Aref expressed his sorrow over the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and the commanders of the Axis of Resistance and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps.

Aref remarked that the sacrifices of martyrs

affirm the justness of their cause and stated, "The legacy of this martyr will endure, and many new leaders like Nasrallah will emerge within Hezbollah."

Iran's vice president further asserted, "It is imperative for all Muslims, particularly the people of Lebanon, to continue their support for Hezbollah.

The Lebanese populace holds Hezbollah in high regard, and the future is destined for Hezbollah."

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, secretary-



general of Hezbollah was martyred in an Israeli airstrike in a southern suburb of Beirut on September 27, 2024.

Iran has readied options to swiftly respond to potential attacks by Israel

TEHRAN – Iran has finalized a comprehensive plan to respond to any potential military action by Israel, a source within the Iranian Armed Forces told Tasnim news agency on Sunday. The source emphasized that Iran's retaliation would be swift and decisive, stating, "If Israel takes any action, there will be no doubt about Iran's reciprocal blow being put into operation."

Iran's plan includes a range of retaliatory strikes, with the specific operation(s) to be chosen based on the nature of Israel's actions. The source highlighted Iran's extensive database of Israeli targets, citing Operation True Promise II as evidence of Iran's capability to strike any location within the occupied territories with precision.

On October 1, Iran launched about 180 ballistic missiles against three Israeli military bases in the occupied territories, after the regime carried out a series of terrorist attacks that killed Ismail Haniyeh on Iranian soil in July, and claimed the life of Hezbollah Sec-



retary-General Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah as well as an IRGC commander in southern Beirut last month.

Reports and intelligence data suggest about 90% of the missiles fired by Iran did not get intercepted by Israel's defense shields which were also being assisted by American forces and at least one regional country. Among the Israeli military bases targeted by Iran was the Nevatim Airbase, considered one of the most heavily fortified sites in the occupied

territories. An estimated 32 missiles struck the airbase.

While Israel has threatened retaliation, Iranian officials have repeatedly warned that Tehran's response to any Israeli action will be calculated, and severe. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said during a public sermon on Friday that Iran's retaliation against Israel was legal and legitimate and that Tehran would carry out similar operations in the future "if necessary".

During a Saturday press conference in Damascus, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi repeated the Leader's vow. "Our response to any Israeli aggression will be stronger and harsher. They can test our will," he stated, adding, "The message of my trip to Damascus and Beirut is that Iran will stand by the Resistance under any circumstances."

Iranian Parliament Speaker and former IRGC commander Baqer Qalibaf has also said that Israel would refrain from making any military moves against Iran if it knew what Tehran has in store for it.

U.S. President Joe Biden who has shown untrammled support for Israel's terrorist and deadly policies since the beginning of the war in Gaza a year ago, told reporters on Saturday that he has advised Israelis not to strike Iran's nuclear facilities or oil infrastructure. The United States claimed shortly after Operation True Promise II that Iran's attack had been "unsuccessful".

Leader honors IRGC commander with Order of Fat'h following Operation True Promise II

From Page 1 ▶ The award ceremony, which took place on Sunday, follows a series of retaliatory strikes by Iran, notably the launch of 180 ballistic missiles targeting Israeli military and intelligence installations in the Tel Aviv region on Tuesday.

These missile strikes were described by Iranian news agencies as part of "Operation True Promise," a significant military operation aimed at responding to Israeli actions against Iran and its allied forces. The Order of Fat'h is symbolically rich, fea-

turing three palm leaves atop the grand mosque of Khorramshahr in southwestern Iran, representing resilience and defiance. The medal also includes the Iranian flag and the word "fat'h," which translates to "conquest."

Operation True Promise encompasses Iran's retaliatory measures against Israel on two key dates: April 13 and October 1.

During the April strikes, Iran launched a coordinated attack involving hundreds of drones and mis-

siles, marking a historical escalation in response to an Israeli raid on the Iranian consulate in Syria.

The recent missile assault on Tuesday targeted two Israeli airbases housing advanced F-35 and F-15 fighter jets, along with the headquarters of the Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency.

This attack was framed as retaliation for the assassination of prominent leaders from Hamas and Hezbollah, as well as a high-ranking IRGC commander.

UK appoints Hugo Shorter as new ambassador to Iran



TEHRAN – London has officially named Hugo Shorter the new Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Islamic Republic of Iran, succeeding Simon Shercliff, the former British envoy.

Shorter has spent several years in different roles within the British Foreign Ministry, including his position as the British Ambassador to Lebanon from 2015 to 2018. His background also includes serving as

Chargé d'Affaires at the UK Embassy in Afghanistan. During his tenure in Lebanon, Shorter witnessed the rise of Lebanese Resistance movement Hezbollah.

It is still not clear whether Iran will be granting agrément to Shorter.

This appointment comes at a particularly tense time as hostilities between Iran and Israel appear to be escalating.

Recently, tensions heightened dramatically following Iran's launch of over 180 ballistic missiles targeting Israeli military sites in response to the Israeli assassination of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas Chief Ismail Haniyeh. The situation has further intensified as Israel's military operations in Lebanon continue to target Hezbollah.

Tehran condemns Israeli strikes in Gaza and Lebanon, calls for international action

TEHRAN – Ismail Baqaei, spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, has strongly condemned the Israeli regime's ongoing military actions in Gaza and Lebanon.

Highlighting the killing of civilians, Baqaei cited a recent attack on a mosque in Deir al-Balah in the Gaza Strip, which was sheltering displaced refugees, as well as airstrikes on residential buildings in the Dahieh neighborhood of Beirut. He described these actions as clear violations of international law.

Baqaei criticized the use of American-supplied weapons in these attacks on holy sites, schools, mosques, and medical facilities, likening the strikes to atrocities committed by Daesh. "The killing of civilians and destruction of civilian infrastructure," he noted, "are ingrained in the ideology of Zionism and extremism."

According to Baqaei, the Israeli policy of mass murder and terror against the Palestinian people, many of whom have been displaced and forced to seek refuge in places of worship and medical centers, constitutes clear war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He called for urgent international intervention, urging the global community to hold Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other leaders of the regime accountable. He warned that Netanyahu, whom he referred to as the "Hitler of our time," is leading Israel into dangerous territory.

Baqaei expressed concern over the destabilizing effects of Israel's policies, emphasizing the threat they pose to both

regional and international peace. He warned that inaction in response to these crimes would have severe and far-reaching consequences, affecting not just the immediate region but also the wider global community.

The Iranian spokesperson urged all countries, particularly Muslim nations, to take decisive action. He stressed the need for immediate humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza and Lebanon, who have been displaced by the ongoing conflict. Baqaei encouraged nations to stand united against Israel's policies of terror and destabilization.

Iran condemns U.S.-UK airstrikes in Yemen, demands accountability

Baqaei also condemned the recent joint airstrikes by the United States and the United Kingdom on Yemen, calling them blatant violations of the UN Charter and international law.

He declared that such military actions by Western powers are unacceptable and must be held accountable on the international stage.

"These repeated military aggressions by the U.S. and the UK in Yemen constitute clear breaches of the UN Charter and fundamental international principles," Baqaei stated. He argued that these attacks, which target civilian infrastructure and populated areas, further destabilize the region.

In his remarks, Baqaei also blamed Israel for ongoing regional instability, asserting that its policies of occupation and expansionism are a primary source of insecurity in West Asia.



He noted that Israeli aggression in Lebanon and Gaza must end for peace to be restored in the region. Baqaei's comments come amidst increased tensions and escalating violence in Gaza, where Israeli military operations have led to significant civilian casualties.

Iran expresses solidarity with Bosnia after deadly floods

In a separate development, the Iranian government has expressed its deep condolences to Bosnia and Herzegovina following devastating floods caused by heavy rains.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei conveyed Iran's solidarity with the Bosnian people, particularly those who have lost loved ones or sustained injuries in the disaster.

"We were deeply saddened by the severe damage caused by the recent floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina," Baqaei wrote. He reaffirmed Iran's commitment to supporting Bosnia during this difficult time, offering humanitarian assistance and solidarity as the nation works to recover from the catastrophe.

Resistance is in fight with all Western and Zionist spy agencies, which he considers a significant honor.

Military analysts estimate that since the onset of the war on October 7, 2023, the U.S. has provided over \$30 billion in cash and military aid to Israel, coinciding with the anniversary of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

highlighted the U.S. financial support for the Israeli regime, saying just in May the U.S. approved \$26 billion for the regime's military actions.

Naghdi asserted that it is the U.S. that is engaged in combat against Muslims, with Israel serving as its ground force.

Naghdi acknowledged that while

some may critique Hezbollah from an intelligence standpoint, it is crucial to recognize that all Western spy services are currently aiding Israel.

"To bolster Netanyahu's spirit, he was brought before the U.S. Congress, where he received a warm reception," the IRGC commander pointed out.

He further stressed that the Axis of

SPORTS

Foolad defeat 10-man Tractor: PGPL

TEHRAN – Foolad football team came from behind to defeat Tractor 2-1 in Matchweek 7 of Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) on Sunday.

Croat midfielder Tomislav Štrkalj was on target for Tractor in Tabriz's Yadegar-e Emam Stadium in the 41st minute but his countryman Igor Postonjski was shown his second yellow card four minutes later.

Sina Asadbeigi leveled the score from a set-piece in the first half's added time and Sasan Ansari made it 2-1 in the 54th minute.

Foolad moved to fourth place with 14 points, two points behind leader Sepahan.

Tractor are fifth with 13 points.

Kanaani sidelined for three weeks

TEHRAN – Iran national football team defender Mohammadhossein Kanaani will miss multiple weeks after suffering a foot injury.

The iconic defender will be absent in two matches against Uzbekistan and Qatar in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification.

He will be sidelined for at least three weeks.

Iran will travel to Tashkent to meet Uzbekistan at the Bunyodkor Stadium on Thursday.

Kanaani suffered a foot injury in the match against Chadormalu in Iran football league.

Both teams are on six points, with Uzbekistan having defeated DPR Korea and Kyrgyzstan in their opening two matches while Iran were victorious against Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates in Group A.

Melbourne City edge Khatoon in AFC Women's Champions League

TEHRAN – Australia's Melbourne City FC secured a winning start to their AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25 Group B campaign after a 2-1 win over Bam Khatoon of Iran on Sunday.

Two late first half goals paved the way for Melbourne to earn maximum points despite Bam Khatoon's improved second half showing.

Melbourne had to be patient and it wasn't until the 40th minute that they found the breakthrough, with Rhianna Pollician showing strength to shrug off two markers to break into space before smashing a low shot past Bam Khatoon keeper Raha Yazdani. The Australian side doubled their advantage two minutes later after Marina Speckmaier raced through to produce the slightest of touch to knock home Laura Hughes' cross with Yazdani getting a hand to the ball but not enough to prevent it from going in.

Against the run of play, Bam Khatoon pulled a goal back in the 70th minute when Mona Hamoudi's in-swinging corner kick flew straight in with Melbourne custodian Malena Garcia misjudging the flight of the ball, the-afc.com reported. However, it proved to be a consolation and Melbourne will look to continue their winning momentum in Wednesday's fixture against Thailand's College of Asian Scholars while Bam Khatoon will take on Kaya FC-Iloilo of the Philippines.

Iranians win World Taekwondo Junior Championships accolades

TEHRAN – Iranian girl and boy taekwondo athletes stole the show in the 2024 World Taekwondo Junior Championships.

The Iranian athletes claimed seven gold and two bronzes in the prestigious competition held in Chuncheon, South Korea from Oct. 1 to 6.

It has been an outstanding six days in Chuncheon, where Taekwondo's young stars from around the world have delivered a magnificent competition and demonstrated there is a bright future for the sport.

After the conclusion of the World Taekwondo Junior Championships, the following awards were presented:

Most Valuable Player Men: Amirmohammad Ashrafi (Iran) M+78kg

Most Valuable Player Women: Yumin Lee (Korea) W-46kg

Men Team Standing: Iran, Korea, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Greece

Women Team Standing: Iran, Korea, Croatia, Chinese Taipei, China

Best Men Team Coach: Feizoallah Nafjam (Iran)

Best Women Team Coach: Fatemeh Safarpour (Iran)

Best Male Referee: Mickael Cruz (Puerto Rico)

Best Female Referee: Mijung Lee (Korea)

Good Fighting Spirit: Saudi Arabia

Active Participation Award: Mongolia

IRGC general blames US and Netanyahu for regional conflagration

TEHRAN – A commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps has stated that the escalation of conflict in the region is being fueled by the United States and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Speaking during an event marking the National Day of Struggle against Global Arrogance on Sunday, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naghdi

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$3.4b to UAE in 6 months



TEHRAN - Iran exported non-oil goods worth \$3.4 billion to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 22).

As reported, the UAE was the third export destination of Iran among its other neighbors during the six-month period.

Iran also imported commodities worth \$10 billion from the UAE, which made the country first source of import for Iran in the first half of the year.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil export to its 15 neighboring countries increased by 12 percent during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year, compared to the same period in the past year.

Mohammad Rezvanifar said the country exported 39 million tons of non-oil products valued at \$15.6 billion during the first six months of this year, registering four percent growth in weight year on year.

Iran's total non-oil trade with neighboring countries was 50 million tons worth \$32.6 billion in the mentioned six months.

According to Rezvanifar, the Islamic Republic's non-oil trade with neighboring countries increased by five percent in terms of weight and 15 percent in terms of value in H1 compared to the same period last year.

The country's imports from its neighbors in the said six months also showed an eight percent increase in weight and 18 percent in value compared to the first half of the previous year.

In early August, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran said over 122,000 Iranian business persons are currently working in the UAE.

"Economic figures show that Iran-UAE business interactions have increased in recent years, and more than 122,000 Iranian businessmen are doing business in the UAE," Saif Mohammed al-Zaabi said in a meeting with Head of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives Bahman Abdollahi.

Pointing out that the problems of Iranian and Emirati businessmen and economic operators are not political but in the legal field, he admitted: "Cooperation between the two countries in the field of sea and air transport has also increased."

Abdollahi for his part introduced some of the capabilities of the cooperative sector in Iran and said: "Cooperatives have an important and effective position in Iran and a significant part of the production in our country is done by cooperatives."

Iran and the United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for expanding economic cooperation in a variety of areas at the end of the two countries' 3rd Joint Economic Committee meeting in May 1.

The MOU was signed by former Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and UAE's Economy Minister Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, who co-chaired the joint meeting.

During the mentioned committee meeting, the two sides stressed the need for further expansion of economic cooperation between Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

Over 22,000 passenger cars imported in H1

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said 22,264 passenger cars were imported into the country in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21).

Based on the IRICA data, the total value of the imported cars was \$438.668 million, IRIB reported. The number of passenger cars

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Bazrpash said: "We have held the joint commission between the two countries after 10 years, which is an opportunity to develop the commercial and economic relations between the two countries."

"The UAE, as Iran's second biggest trade partner, has great strategic importance for us," the minister said.

Referring to the location of Iran and the UAE in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), Bazarpash said: "Access to the markets of the north and south can create an opportunity for the two countries to cooperate."

In the end, the minister emphasized solving the banking and monetary problems between the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade relations.

Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri for his part underlined the importance of the meeting, saying: "Holding today's meeting shows the development and expansion of economic relations between the two countries."

After China, the UAE has the largest amount of trade relations with Iran. The trade value of the two countries has reached 27 billion dollars and many Iranian companies are established in the UAE."

"Creating new opportunities for transportation and banking cooperation is one of the achievements of this commission," the official said.

Referring to the performance of the UAE government in the field of investment, the official said: "The approval of the law on the formation of foreign companies and the government's support for companies that operate in the field of new energies has created a good opportunity for business with the UAE."

The 3rd Iran-UAE Joint Economic Commission was held in Abu Dhabi from April 30 until May 1.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, the value of Iran's non-oil trade with its neighbors increased by 16 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year to reach \$26.857 billion.

Mohammad Rezvanifar put the weight of non-oil trade with the neighboring countries at 43.579 million tons in the said period, noting that the trade between the two sides also increased by 10 percent in terms of weight.

During the mentioned five months, Iran exported 34.118 million tons of goods worth \$13.402 billion to its neighbors, while importing 9.461 million tons of commodities valued at \$13.455 billion.

Iran's exports to neighboring countries in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year increased by 11 percent in terms of weight and 19 percent in terms of value, respectively; and imports from neighboring countries increased by 10 percent and 13 percent respectively in terms of weight and value, according to Rezvanifar.

He named Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan as the top importers of Iranian goods among the neighboring countries, and the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Oman, and Pakistan as the main sources of imports in the said five months.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

imported in the first six months of last year was 1,736 units with a total value of \$36.565 million. Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade lifted the ban on car imports in late May 2022.

The decision was made to reduce the imbalance between supply and demand and to improve the country's economic conditions with regard to foreign currency revenues.

Iran-EAEU trade rises 2.5 times in 4 years

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said the country's trade with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has increased by 2.5 times over the past four years.

"Four years ago, we entered a preferential trade agreement with Eurasia, and tariffs on exported goods were reduced or zeroed, during this period, the trade with the member countries of this union has increased 2.5 times," Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi said in a meeting with the members of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Sunday.

According to Dehghan Dehnavi, the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with EAEU has also been reached and being pursued by the members of the union to be implemented.

"We also signed the free trade agreement with the members of the Eurasian Economic Union and the agreement is under revision by the parliament. Three of the five Eurasian member countries have already approved the agreement," the official said.

"Eurasia is Iran's first major experience in free trade based on which 87 percent of tariffs [on export goods] are removed, businessmen must prepare themselves for new competition in this market. Besides, the EAEU member countries also want to supply their goods to Iran," he added.

Resolving trade imbalance by developing export

Also speaking at the meeting, TCCIMA Secretary General Bahman Eshghi said Iran must develop



its exports in order to resolve the country's trade imbalance.

Last year, the country's trade balance was 17 billion dollars negative, which should be resolved by increasing exports, the elimination of balance between exports and imports will reduce other imbalances and economic problems, the official explained.

Mentioning some of the problems and challenges of the private sector in Iran, Eshghi said: "Meetings of the Trade Promotion Organization with traders and exporters should be held regularly to lead to more interaction and solve traders' problems."

Referring to an agreement between the TCCIMA and the Trade Promotion Organization, the official added that the draft of the mentioned agreement has been prepared and will be provided to TPO in the near future.

"This agreement aims to solve the major issues of exporters and reduce government interventions in the export sector," he noted.

The Eurasian Economic Union was established in 2015 at the initiative taken by the Russian Federa-

tion, Kazakhstan, and Belarus.

Afterward, the Republic of Armenia and Kyrgyzstan joined the Union.

Iran and EAEU reached a preferential trade agreement in 2018, based on which about 862 commodity items are currently subject to preferential tariffs.

The agreement came into effect on October 27, 2019.

Earlier this month, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak and Andrey Slepnev, the minister in charge of trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), discussed ways of expanding economic cooperation in a meeting on the sidelines of the Eurasian Business Forum in Armenia.

In the meeting, the Iranian side emphasized the need for establishing an insurance company under the Eurasian Economic Union to provide the necessary guarantees regarding Iran's technical and engineering exports to the region.

The two sides also discussed the increase in trade between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union and the implementation of the

Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Another focal point of the negotiations was the unification of the standards of the member countries of the EAEU with Iran to facilitate exports to the union.

In this meeting, the Iranian industry minister invited Slepnev to visit the third round of the Eurasia Exhibition in Iran.

The 3rd Eurasian International Exhibition in Iran is scheduled to be held at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds from December 3 to 6.

The periodic economic forum of the Eurasian Union was held on September 30 and October 1 in Yerevan, Armenia, and Iran was the special guest of this meeting.

The value of Iran's exports to the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) increased by 16 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21) as compared to the same period last year, according to the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Mohammad Rezvanifar said the Islamic Republic exported 2.2 million tons of commodities worth \$748 million to the members of the Eurasian Economic Union in the mentioned five months, IRIB reported.

Exports to the EAEU also increased by 35 percent in terms of weight, according to Rezvanifar.

Meanwhile, Iran imported 3.9 million tons of goods valued at \$1.6 billion from the members of the Eurasian Economic Union in the said five months.

Iran's petchem production capacity to reach 131m tons by 2027



TEHRAN - The caretaker of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said the country's petrochemical production capacity is going to reach 131 million tons by the end of the country's seventh National Development Plan (early 2027).

Hassan Abbaszadeh put the country's current petrochemical production capacity at about 100 million tons, noting that currently 80 percent of the country's nominal production capacity is active, IRNA reported.

Back in May, Abbaszadeh, who was previously NPC's director of planning and development, said 68 projects with a total investment of \$35 billion and a capacity of 50 million tons will be implemented during the Seventh National Development Plan.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's export of petrochemical products increased by 12.8 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that the country

exported 24.5 million tons of petrochemicals worth \$9.8 billion in the five-month period, indicating also 12.5 percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

The former head of National Petrochemical Company has said the country's petrochemical output is estimated to reach 80 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in late March 2025).

Noting that one of the main objectives of the Oil Ministry in the current year has been the sustained supply of feed to petrochemical complexes, Morteza Shahmirzaei put the country's petrochemical exports in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) at 30 million tons.

He announced last month that the NPC is going to launch 15 new petrochemical projects by the end of the current Iranian calendar year.

Shahmirzaei made the remarks on the sidelines of the 18th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST 2024), adding that five major petrochemical projects have gone operational since the beginning of the current year.

"The implementation of petrochemical projects in Makran region has accelerated and it is hoped that one of them will come online this year," the official said.

He went on to say that Iran's petrochemical sector will reach self-sufficiency regarding the items and equipment needed in the industry within the next five years.

According to the official, the capacity of Iran's

petrochemical industry which currently stands at 96 million tons will surpass 100 million tons when the projects come on stream.

Earlier in May, Ahmad Mahdavi Abhari, the director general of the Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporation (APIC), said Iran's petrochemical output has increased by 15 million tons over the past two years.

Abhari put the country's current petrochemical output at 82 million tons.

He said Iran's petrochemical output stood at 67 million tons before late President Raisi took office in August 2021.

The official also noted that the Iranian petrochemical industry has created as many as 143,000 direct jobs in the mentioned period.

He put the current growth of Iran's petrochemical industry at 40.6 percent up from 27.5 percent in the country's third five-year development plan.

Iran's petrochemical industry accounts for 28 percent of the region's petrochemical capacity and 2.7 percent of the world's petrochemical capacity, he announced.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil.

Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to Shahmirzaei, the company plans to increase its annual petrochemical production capacity to 200 million tons over the next 10 years.

Iran exports 9,500 tons of textile in H1

TEHRAN - Based of the latest data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iranian producers

managed to export 9,500 tons of textiles valued at \$23.5 million in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March

20-September 21).

As reported, the export of the mentioned products increased by seven percent in terms of val-

ue and eight percent in weight,

compared to the same period in the previous year, IRNA reported.

Oil minister visits Kharg to check oil installations security

From page 1 ▶ In a meeting with General Mohammad-Hossein Bargahi, the commander of the fourth region of the naval force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) in the south of Bushehr province, while expressing his satisfaction with the made cooperation, the oil minister appreciated the fourth command center for its continuous efforts to maintain the security of South Pars platforms and its outstanding role in production stability.

This meeting was held in order to check the security of South Pars platforms and to

receive the report on the effective actions of the fourth command center in this regard.

"IRGC plays a significant role in the security of oil and gas installations", Paknejad emphasized in the meeting.

Having modern infrastructures including wharves, loading arms, flow pipelines, storage tanks and measurement systems, Kharg terminal plays a significant role in the country's oil industry in terms of crude oil storage and export and helping to complete the oil and gas value chain.

Due to its close distance to oilfield

regions, its good offshore position and suitable depth for gigantic oil vessels berthing, Kharg Island Oil Terminal has been recognized as one of the country's most suitable places for crude oil export and loading sites.

Kharg has the ability to simultaneously berth nine oil tankers with different capacities.

It also has the possibility of storing more than 23 million barrels of crude oil and delivering more than 10 million barrels of crude oil to customers per day.

One year after Al-Aqsa Storm Israel has massacred tens of thousands, but there is no sign of victory

From page 1 ▶ Speaking during a panel discussion on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Germany at that time, Josep Borrell warned that Israel cannot defeat Hamas through military means.

Hamas cannot be destroyed

The Israeli military spokesman also challenged Netanyahu's war aim a few months ago.

"The idea that it is possible to destroy Hamas, to make Hamas vanish — that is throwing sand in the eyes of the public," Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Israel's Channel 13. He added, "Hamas is an idea, deeply rooted in the hearts of the residents of Gaza."

These comments were later echoed by war minister Yoav Gallant.

Netanyahu talking nonsense

Speaking during a closed-door hearing before a Knesset committee in August, Gallant dismissed Netanyahu's "total victory" slogan as "nonsense" and "gibberish."

Gallant also said Netanyahu's "total victory" goal amounts to a "beating of war drums" not backed up by actions.



War minister Yoav Gallant has called Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "absolute victory" dream over Hamas "gibberish"

Besides, protests inside Israel over the regime's failed military approach toward Gaza have become a regular occurrence over the past 12 months.

Protesters have repeatedly called on Netanyahu to reach a ceasefire deal with Hamas to secure the release of captives held in Gaza.

Hamas freed over 100 Israeli and foreign captives following a swap deal with Israel in November. Israel has freed some of the captives following savage attacks in Gaza. Dozens of them have also lost their lives during the Israeli army's strikes on Gaza.

Dozens of other captives still remain in Gaza.

In spite of increasing domestic demands to conclude the conflict, Netanyahu continues to advance brutal military operations.



Samuel Mena Jr. attempts to self-immolate during a pro-Palestinian rally in Lafayette Park near the White House in Washington, DC on October 5. (EPA)

Bibi has also turned a blind eye to growing international calls to end the genocidal war in Gaza.

Over the course of Israel's one-year assault on Gaza, huge anti-war protests have been staged across the world.

Demonstrations were also organized worldwide at the weekend on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Gaza war.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets in major cities around the world to condemn the Israeli bloodshed in Gaza.

Rallies were held in the US, Australia as well as in European, African and Asian countries.

Protesters demanded that the United States, Israel's top military supplier and ally, stop sending weapons to the regime.

Fire and fury

In Washington, protesters demonstrated outside the White House on Saturday. One man attempted to set himself on fire at the protest, succeeding in lighting his left arm ablaze before bystanders and police extin-



Al-Aqsa Storm Operation shattered the image of Israel's invincibility and exposed the regime's extreme vulnerability

guished the flames, the AFP reported.

"To the 10 thousand children in Gaza that have lost a limb in this conflict, I give my left arm to you...I pray my voice was able to raise up yours, and that your smiles never disappear," the person identified as Samuel Mena Jr. wrote on social media.

After the fire was put out, Washington Post reporters heard the man say he was a journalist and make an assertion about spreading misinformation.

Mena's personal website says he is a journalist who had become disenchanted with the profession over coverage of the Israel-Gaza war and guilty about what he saw as his role in it.

US media have been accused of pro-Israel bias and double standards amid the massacres that the regime has perpetrated in the enclave.

Mena's move is reminiscent of another tragic incident in the US a few months ago.

In late February, an active-duty member of the American Air Force set himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. to vent his anger at his country's support for Israel's brutal war on Gaza.

A video posted on social media showed Aaron Bushnell walking up to the driveway of the Israeli embassy, setting his phone down on the ground, and pouring an unknown liquid from a bottle over himself. He then ignited it while yelling "Free Palestine" repeatedly.

The flames consumed Aaron's body and he finally fell to the ground. While Aaron was engulfed in flames, some police officers who were standing nearby with guns drawn, called on him to get on the ground.

The footage, that Aron livestreamed himself on Twitch, explained his reasons for the act of protest.

"My name is Aaron Bushnell, I am an active-duty member of the United States Air Force and I will no longer be complicit in genocide...I am about to engage in an extreme act of protest, but compared to what people have been experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonizers, it's not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal."

The 25-year-old officer was taken to hospital in a critical condition but he succumbed to his injuries.

No end to genocide

Israel's yearlong war on Gaza has claimed the lives of nearly 42,000 Palestinians including some 17,000 children. According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, more than 97,000 others have also been wounded.

The Israeli army has destroyed much of Gaza and targeted hospitals and people who have taken refuge there. It has not only bombed but also raided health centers which, according to international law, must be protected.

The regime also stands accused of starving Palestinian people to death by largely restricting the entry of humanitarian aid into the territory.

Deliberate starvation

The UN special rapporteur on the right to food has said that such Israeli measures are synonymous with war crimes.

"Intentionally depriving people of food is clearly a war crime. Israel has announced its intention to destroy the Palestinian people, in whole or in part, simply for being Palestinian. In my view as a UN human rights expert, this is now a situation of genocide. This means the state of Israel in its entirety is culpable and should be held accountable — not just in-

dividuals or this government or that person," Michael Fakhri told the Guardian in late February.

The Rome statute of the International Criminal Court has also stipulated that intentionally starving civilians by "depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including willfully impeding relief supplies" is a war crime.

Abetting genocide

Israel has been perpetrating appalling atrocities in Gaza with impunity. Western and Arab states have criticized Israel's brutalities in Gaza but they have failed to take any practical measures to stop the genocide in the territory.



The Israeli army spokesman has said destroying Hamas is like throwing ashes in the public's eyes

The US unwavering support has emboldened Israel to butcher Palestinians in Gaza. Besides the \$3.8 billion of military aid that Israel receives from the US annually, the administration of President Joe Biden has provided the regime with additional weapons worth billions of dollars since the start of the Gaza war.

Arab states have also largely overlooked increasing demands to sever ties with Israel.

Nonetheless, Israel has failed to achieve its goals a year after the beginning of the Gaza war.



Protesters around the world call for an end to Israel's war on Gaza. Berlin, Germany [Christian Mang/Reuters]

The regime is just prolonging the war to obscure its setbacks on the battlefield. In fact, Israel is seeking to create the impression that it has made gains as Hamas puts up resistance and becomes more popular.

According to the Israeli army, 726 soldiers, officers and reservists have been killed during the ongoing Gaza war. As long as Israel presses ahead with the war, more Israeli troops will lose their lives

25 Israeli troops killed as they tried to enter Lebanon

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Hezbollah continues its qualitative operations against the Israeli military on the Lebanese border area that have halted the occupation army's attempts to infiltrate villages in southern Lebanon.

The resistance movement says it has inflicted significant and confirmed losses on Israeli special forces.

Despite censorship efforts to downplay the losses and paint a picture of victories back in Tel Aviv, a Hezbollah field commander has reported heavy casualties among the Israeli forces in the southern Lebanese border.

The commander said, "In recent days, since the Israeli occupation military announced its ground operation in southern Lebanon, we have counted over 25 officers and soldiers among the enemy's elite ranks killed, with more than 130 wounded. The enemy has admitted to some of these figures, but the coming days will reveal what they have concealed from their public."

Among the operations Hezbollah announced on Sunday included:

Israeli occupation soldiers (IOF) attempted to infiltrate the direction of Khallat Shuaib in Bli-da village, but the "resistance fighters targeted them with artillery shells, forcing them to retreat and causing confirmed injuries."

By noon time "the resistance fighters targeted a gathering of Israeli occupation soldiers in the settlement of Menara with a rocket barrage, hitting the target accurately."

Five minutes later, Hezbollah "again targeted gatherings of Israeli soldiers in and around the settlement of Menara with a large rocket barrage, hitting the targets accurately."

In another statement, Hezbollah announced that "as the enemy forces attempted to evacuate the wounded and dead soldiers in the settlement of Menara, the Islamic Resistance fighters struck them with a rocket barrage."

Hezbollah also stated that its "fighters targeted a movement of occupation soldiers in Menara with a rocket barrage, achieving confirmed hits."

The Lebanese resistance also announced that it launched an aerial attack with a swarm of explosive drones on the Samson base (a leadership preparation center and regional equipment unit), targeting the positions and accommodations of officers and soldiers, hitting the targets accurately.

Throughout Sunday, Hezbollah continued to target gatherings of Israeli soldiers in barracks, military sites, and settlements near the Leb-

anese border with artillery shells, rockets, and heavy machine guns, achieving direct hits, according to a field commander with the Lebanese resistance.

The movement's rocket forces continued to strike various targets at different ranges deep within northern Israel with heavy rocket barrages.

Likewise, Hezbollah's air force continued to target Israeli military bases and barracks in northern Israel with swarms of attack drones.

In response to Israeli attempts to infiltrate southern Lebanon, the Hezbollah field commander offered a detailed explanation to regional Arab news outlets.

The Lebanese resistance observed unusual movements of Israeli special forces around 10:20 p.m. on Friday night near the border marker No. 405 in the outskirts of the town of Adaisseh. The fighters made the necessary arrangements.

Around 10:45 p.m., an elite Israeli force infiltrated along a path toward the vicinity of the Adaisseh municipal building, reaching a pre-prepared ambush point by 11:00 p.m., according to the field commander.

Hezbollah fighters opened fire with light and medium machine guns on the infiltrating force, causing mines in the enemy's possession, intended to rig the municipal building, to explode. This resulted in the killing and wounding of about 15 soldiers, whose screams were clearly heard.

According to the Hezbollah commander, enemy rescue teams, under cover of fire from military helicopters, retrieved the dead and wounded from the site of the operation and withdrew toward Israel.

Around 1:50 a.m. on Saturday morning, another enemy force attempted to infiltrate via a different path toward the Adaisseh municipal building. Hezbollah fighters confronted them with machine guns and rocket fire. The clashes lasted over two hours, during which the occupation forces suffered additional casualties and were forced to retreat.

At 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, an enemy Merkava tank attempted to advance along a hidden path in the outskirts of the village of Maroun Al-Ras. Hezbollah fighters targeted it with a guided missile, destroying it and killing or wounding its crew.

As a result, Hezbollah says it has counted more than 25 Israeli officers and soldiers killed, and over 130 injured, since elite Israeli forces launched their ground operation against southern Lebanese villages.

A year of carnage in Gaza

By Reza Farsi

TEHRAN - Today marks one year since Hamas attacked southern Israel during which about 1,140 were killed and about 250 were taken prisoner. Since that day Israel has been relentlessly dropping bombs on the Gaza Strip.

There was just a one-week truce -- from Nov. 24 to Nov. 30 -- in which Hamas released 105 captives and Israel freed 240 Palestinian prisoners.

The attack provided a pretext for Israel to commit unspeakable crimes, which have been described as war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC). These cruelties have been committed against the Gazan civilians who had no role in the Oct. 7 attack.

No civilian in any part of the coastal enclave has been safe since Oct. 7 last year. While they have been fleeing from one place to another the Israeli fighter jets have been tracking them down to kill them. They have been targeted in their homes, schools, churches, mosques, and hospitals. Israel has created a hell for them. It has been punishing them collectively.

The Gazans have been facing an Armageddon. Even the most professional writers cannot truly describe the tragedy that the civilians have been facing all through this one-year-long war that is still raging. In its relentless attacks with American-supplied fighter jets and 1000- and 2000-pound bombs, Israel has even killed 39 prisoners captured on Oct. 7.

By late April 2024, it was estimated that Israel had dropped over 70,000 tons of bombs over Gaza, surpassing the bombing of Dresden, Ham-

burg, and London combined during World War II.

The scenes of small children weeping on the corpses of their mothers; mothers mourning on dead bodies of their children; dead children on the hands of fathers; hungry children collecting spilled flour from the sandy ground; children drinking water from puddles, people being shot dead while trying to get food for their hungry families; ambulances being attacked while carrying the wounded; and so many other heart-rendering scenes cannot be erased from the memory of the people in the world.

A serious question is how much cruelty should be done for the Oct. 7 attack, which successive Israeli rulers are truly responsible for as they have failed to heal this bleeding wound after the passage of 76 years.

Humanity is being sacrificed in Gaza and the world has somehow become numb to the tragedies of the people there. So far, about 38 people have been killed for every person killed in the Oct. 7 attack, and thousands of Palestinians are still unaccounted for. They are buried under rubles. Add to this figure those who have been injured and maimed for life.

The Israeli extremists' thirst for shedding more blood has not yet been quenched. The opponents of the barbaric war have also been shamefully labeled as anti-Semites.

Moreover, resignations, self-immolations, attempts by some American citizens to put themselves on fire, and widespread anti-war protests intended to put pressure on Washington to stop shipping arms to Israel have been ignored by the White House. Unfortunately, the Israeli genocidal campaign has spread to Lebanon as well.

Kermanshah arranges special tours for senior citizens



TEHRAN – Kermanshah province's tourism department has arranged some special sightseeing tours for senior citizens.

The tours, offering free admission, were organized as part of the celebrations for National Senior Citizens Week, which coincided with National Tourism Week, a local said on Sunday.

Fardin Zarei stated that the one-day tours included visits to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bisotun and the Anahita Temple in Kangavar.

Zarei also highlighted that organizing themed tours for specific groups is part of the department's efforts to raise awareness about Kermanshah's rich tourism potential. The province boasts 4,200 identified historical and natural sites, with over 2,200 of which are registered as national heritage landmarks, making Kermanshah a prime destination for cultural tourism.

Kermanshah, formerly Bakhtaran, the capital of Kermanshah province, was founded in the 4th century CE by Bahram IV of the Sassanian dynasty. Conquered by the Arabs in 640, the town was called Qirmasin (Qirmashin). Under the Seljuk rule in the 11th century, it was the chief town of Kordestan. The Safavids (ruled 1501–1736) fortified the town, and the Qajars repulsed an attack by the Turks during Fath Ali Shah's rule (1797–1834). Occupied by the Turkish army in 1915 during World War I, it was evacuated in 1917. The construction of a road in the 1950s over the age-old Khorasan track added considerably to the importance of the city.

30% of Iran's handicrafts produced by nomadic communities



TEHRAN – Some 30% of Iran's handicrafts are produced by its nomadic communities, according to Mojtaba Mizban, the deputy of infrastructure development at the Nomads Affairs Organization of Iran.

Currently, 251,000 nomadic households live across 59% of Iran's geographical area, contributing significantly to the country's cultural and economic landscape, the official added.

The official made the remarks during the inauguration ceremony of several nomadic-related projects in Qazvin province.

Mizban also highlighted what he called the significant potential of nomadic communities in the production of medicinal plants

and traditional dolls, emphasizing the need for initiatives to empower them and establish value chains for these products.

"Nomadic women are a key part of the economic activities within their communities," Mizban said.

Efforts are underway to implement significant economic programs aimed at supporting these women through collaborations between nomads and governmental organizations, the official explained.

The nomadic nature of life in Iran is predominantly structured around patriarchal systems, with marriages often occurring among relatives or occasionally with external tribes to resolve conflicts or bolster tribal alliances.

Iranian nomads predominantly inhabit provinces like Fars, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Khuzestan, and Isfahan, migrating between winter quarters in steppes and summer quarters in mountainous regions.

For those seeking cultural immersion, spring and summer offer optimal opportunities to visit nomadic tribes, each boasting its unique lifestyle, cuisine, customs, and musical traditions.

Travel industry's hopes soar despite fears about overtourism

When the Covid pandemic and the subsequent cost of living crisis threatened to wipe out much of the travel industry, companies clung to one article of faith: people were desperate for a holiday and would spend what they could to get away again.

So it turned out. Only now, with business booming and demand hitting new highs, parts of the world wonder if people want to travel a little too much.

After a long, hot summer when local residents from the Canary Islands to Venice decided they had welcomed more than enough tourists, even Greece last month announced a new tax on visitors.

The €20 (£17) levy only hits cruise passengers landing in Mykonos and Santorini, where visitors outnumber local people in the whitewashed streets by more than 100 to one; but for a country highly reliant on international tourism, even such a selective tax felt significant.

Travel companies argue that the issues behind the collective headlines on overtourism are often specific and local. And Greece certainly continues to market for more tourists, albeit that it is trying to spread the love around: this week, it is hosting the UK travel industry's leading event, Abta's travel convention, in what is for Britons the relatively off-radar south-western Peloponnese.

Responsible, sustainable travel is on the convention agenda, although the established tourism industry – cruise lines apart – has not necessarily been the focus of protests or local ire.

The millions of UK customers who book trips with the likes of Tui or easyJet holidays, choosing resorts and existing hotels, appear less problem-

atic than, say, the Airbnbs swallowing up local accommodation in Barcelona or Málaga – at least until their numbers prompt further development.

Nonetheless, more customers are paying increasing sums for their holidays, apparently undeterred by any local antipathy or heatwaves.

Companies are celebrating a third successive summer of growth – a marked difference from Abta's first post-Covid summit abroad in 2022, billed by its chief executive, Mark Tanzer, as a "survivor's celebration". Indications are it has been a fruitful September too, with many holidaymakers – outside the captive market of families confined by school terms – seeking less intense sunshine.

The clouds on the horizon this year include the long-delayed start of the EU's entry-exit system (EES), due until recently to have launched a date that would have landed much of the British travel industry in a long queue for biometric registration at Kalamata airport.

The start of EES, requiring facial scans and fingerprinting of all visitors to Europe, is now officially slated for November but a further delay appears likely. The extra border formalities will be followed within a year by the European travel information and authorisation system – a €7 visa charge.

While the greater concern has been about the logistics and costs to remodel borders and avoid chaos, Abta's index also noted that the biggest single factor for confident travel cited by customers is knowing their documents are in order. A recent Abta conference call on EES was attended en masse by members anxious to know more.

(Source: The Guardian)

Yazd seeks to replace tile manufacturing with eco-friendly tourism

TEHRAN — Iran's Yazd province, which is both a major hub for tile production and home to numerous travel attractions, seeks to reduce its ceramic output in favor of expanding the tourism sector.

On Saturday, Mohammad-Ali Shah-Hosseini, Yazd's deputy governor-general for economic coordination and tourism, announced plans to shift from tile and ceramic manufacturing to developing a green tourism industry as part of the province's "New Yazd" transformative strategy.

Speaking at a meeting with entrepreneurs and tourism insiders, Shah-Hosseini emphasized that Yazd, known for its robust industrial and mining sectors, has long been a hub for tile and ceramic production, attracting a significant non-native workforce.

The official revealed that out of the 250,000 workers employed in the sector, approximately 100,000 are non-locals, which has impacted the local culture, especially in a number of cities like Ardakan.

"Given the cultural and environmental challenges brought by this industrial migration, we must replace polluting industries with cleaner, sustainable alternatives."

According to the New Yazd strategy, industries that are high in water consumption or environmental pollution, such as tile



and ceramics, should be substituted with green tourism, which is more aligned with the natural ecosystem of Yazd, which is a city on the edge of the desert, he explained.

Yazd, already distinguished as the 2024 Tourism Capital of the Asian Dialogue Forum (ACD), is positioned to capitalize on its rich cultural and environmental potential. The province's historical core was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2017, further enhancing its appeal to global tourists.

Shah-Hosseini also highlighted the importance of the upcoming ACD tourism ministers' summit, set to be held in Yazd next month, as a pivotal moment for the region's tourism sector.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official urged local universities and tourism students to contribute to the event, ensuring that

academic expertise helps shape the province's future in sustainable tourism.

A don't miss destination

In July 2017, the historical core of Yazd, the provincial capital, 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 mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Cultural heritage experts believe that Yazd is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a com-

munal center. Furthermore, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

The historical core of Yazd is chockfull of mudbrick houses, bazaars, public bathhouses, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and centuries-old gardens. From the divine point of view, the city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

Yazd is home to numerous qanats which have supplied water to agricultural and permanent settlements for thousands of years. The man-carved underground qanat system relies on snow-fed streams flowing down the foothills of surrounding mountains. The earliest water supply to Yazd is estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 to 651 CE). However, many others have been continually repaired and used over time, and most surviving Ab-Anbars (traditional mudbrick cisterns) can today be traced to the late Safavid and Qajar periods.

Ruins of Sassanid palace in southern Iran to undergo restoration, reorganization project

TEHRAN – The Sassanian Sarvestan Palace, one of Iran's key historical sites from the Sassanid era, is undergoing restoration and reorganization efforts.

On Sunday, Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi, the tourism chief of Fars province, announced that more than 20.65 billion rials (some \$45,000) from government funds has been allocated for the preservation and renovation of the once-top royal monument.

One of the key projects underway is the construction of a dual-purpose pathway, serving both protective and tourist needs, ISNA reported.

"This project will include the installation of stairs leading to the top of the palace's brick dome, allowing visitors a unique vantage point to observe the interior of the palace from above."

The aim is to enhance the visitor experience while ensuring the protection of the historic structure, Sabet-Eqlidi noted.

The Sarvestan Palace is part of the "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region," which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2018. The ensemble, consisting of eight archaeological sites across Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan, highlights the sophisticated use of natural topography in Sassanian architecture. It also showcases



the cultural influences of earlier Achaemenid and Parthian traditions, as well as Roman art, which later shaped the architecture of the Islamic era.

Renowned for its intricate architectural features, the Sarvestan Palace continues to draw the attention of archaeologists, architects, and art historians, cementing its importance as a symbol of Sassanid innovation and influence in Persian cultural heritage.

The Sarvestan Palace, located in Sarvestan country of Fars province, is a remarkable testament to Sassanid architecture and Persian heritage. The palace serves as an architectural marvel showcasing the grandeur and sophistication of the ancient Persian civilization. It consists of a central hall flanked by two symmetrical chambers and surrounded by a perimeter wall. The main hall, adorned

with elaborate stucco decorations and inscriptions, is a testament to the Sassanid artisans' mastery of craftsmanship.

The Sassanid era (224–651 CE) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians. Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of Sassanian art, top examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Naqsh-e Rostam in southern Iran.

Experts believe that efforts to preserve and restore the Sarvestan Sassanid Palace are crucial for safeguarding this invaluable piece of Persian history and ensuring that future generations can continue to marvel at its beauty and architectural ingenuity.

Mashhad's old silo registered as national heritage site



TEHRAN – Mashhad's old silo, a significant symbol of Iran's industrial history, has been officially added to the list of National Industrial Heritage sites.

Covering approximately nine hectares, the silo complex has been in operation for over 80 years, expanding over time to meet the then needs, said Mahmoud Toghraei, who presides

over the Historical Monuments Registration Department at the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Khorasan-Razavi province.

The old silo has recently been registered under number 34177 in the list of National Industrial Heritage sites, the official said.

The oldest part of the complex, which dates back to 1939, includes a 16,000-ton grain storage silo along with administrative and support buildings. This part of the site features essential structures such as the unloading station for wheat trucks, a large concrete grain reservoir, and power generation facilities, Toghraei explained.

The original unloading building, with 10 unloading bays, is where trucks once deposited wheat onto large concrete funnels. Beneath this area is a tun-

nel-like space equipped with a conveyor system that transported wheat to the massive 16,000-ton concrete silo. This structure, towering at 52 meters in height, is 160 meters long and 40 meters wide, consisting of 11 cylindrical storage units arranged in three rows.

Toghraei emphasized the historical importance of the silo, highlighting its role during Iran's transition to modernity in the early 20th century. During this period, urbanization and population growth spurred the need for advanced technologies to ensure public health and food security. The collaboration between Iran and Germany at the time brought European, particularly German, technology to the country, which was instrumental in the construction and operation of the Mashhad's silo.

Despite being over eight decades old, the original machinery, conveyor belts, power systems, and motors are still in use today, a testament to the exceptional quality of the silo's design, construction, and maintenance. The structure, made from reinforced concrete, was built using wooden molds, a technique common at the time.

Toghraei further noted that the Mashhad's old silo stands as a unique example of Iran's industrial heritage, showcasing the precision of long-term planning, high-quality construction by German engineers, and continued technical upkeep by local experts.

Even after 80 years of continuous operation, it remains a vital part of Iran's industrial landscape.

National Children's Week highlights environment

TEHRAN –The National Children's Week is being held across the country from October 5 to 11 under the theme of 'for children, for future.'

Each day of the week is celebrated with a focus on a specific topic. October 6th focuses on 'for children's environment, for a cleaner and healthier future.'

Hence, the Department of Environment (DOE) has taken extensive measures to educate children on the importance of preserving the environment.

Referring to family and children as the target audience of the plan, Nourollah Moradi, an official with the DOE, said "The Department of Environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and other related institutions is planning to conduct specific programs for the children and their family."

The official went on to say, "Climate change is the main challenge facing children now and in the future."

Climate change leads to other issues such as poverty, food insecurity, health problems, school drop-outs, inequality, lack of commitment, water scarcity, energy needs, as well as economic,



and social problems.

It disrupts innovation, intensifies battles over resources, threatens oceans and ecosystems, spreads injustice and social distress, and prevents empowerment of communities, he highlighted.

Therefore, children as well as parents should get familiar with the expected outcomes, Moradi further noted.

World children's day

World Children's Day takes place each year on November 20. The day marks the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 as well

as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1989.

In 2024, World Children's Day calls on adults to listen to the future. By listening to children, we can fulfill their right to self-expression, understand their ideas for a better world, and include their priorities in our actions today.

UNICEF, partners, governments, businesses, parents, teachers, and children around the world shine a light on children's rights and call on world leaders to accelerate the actions needed to protect and fulfill the rights of every child, without discrimination.

From conflict, climate change, and mental health, to ending racism and gender discrimination, children are raising their voices on the urgent issues that matter to them and sharing their visions for a better world.

Only by fulfilling and protecting the rights of every child, everywhere — including children's social, economic, cultural, civil, and political rights — can we ensure a better future for all.

World Children's Day is marked through a variety of events and activities focused on elevating children's voices and priorities.

Child rights are human rights. They are non-negotiable. But in too many places today children's rights are being misunderstood, disregarded, or even denied and attacked. World leaders must uphold their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and respect, protect and fulfill the rights of every child, everywhere.

Investing in children today secures a better future for them, and us all.

World Children's Day provides an opportunity to focus on the issues that matter most to children.

Iran, Japan to bolster ties in health sector

TEHRAN –Health Minister, Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi, and Japanese Ambassador to Iran, Tamaki Tsukada, in a meeting in Tehran on Sunday, discussed ways to boost cooperation in the field of health.

Referring to the health minister's successful experience in handling Covid-19 outbreak, Tsukada said Iran can share its expertise and scientific achievements in the field with Japan and help transfer the knowledge to future generations, the health ministry's website reported.

Tsukada went on to say that despite sanctions a number of Japanese companies are ready to develop cooperation in the field of health with Iran. The official stated that Japan wants Iran to speed up the approval process for Japanese medical equipment to enter the country.

"Currently, Japan is funding projects to improve the healthcare system with advanced medical tools", he noted.

"Japan has substantial experience in preventing diseases (like breast cancer), reducing their prevalence as well as minimizing the costs of treatments. Japan is willing to share these experiences with Iran," he stressed.

The health minister, for his part, welcomed Japan's proposal for sharing achievements and scientific knowledge on Coronavirus and other diseases, highlighting that in case new epidemics emerge in the world, shared knowledge and experiences can be greatly useful.

The official suggested establishing a working group to follow up on transferring knowledge in the field of screening and treating



diseases like breast cancer and esophageal cancer, which are prevalent in Iran and Japan, respectively.

Zafarqandi lauded the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for donating 50 mammography systems to Imam Hossein (AS) and Arash hospitals in Tehran.

He highlighted the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries in the health sector and called for expanding the exchange of medical equipment, as well.

Japan, WHO support Iran

In October 2021, the Government of Japan signed a financial donation agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) to support the consolidation of national efforts to respond to the COVID-19 emergency across Iran.

The agreement was signed between Syed Jaffar Hussain, WHO Representative and Head of Mission to Iran, and Hirotsuka Matsuo, Charge d'Affaires ad interim in Japan to the Islamic Republic, during a ceremony in Tehran.

The grant aid project worth \$6.3 million

aimed to provide a total of six MRI machines to Iran to strengthen its capacity to address the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in the country. These MRI machines were projected to be delivered to public hospitals in five provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan, South Khorasan, North Khorasan, and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, by WHO Country Office.

"The 6.3-million-dollar grant will greatly facilitate the effective response of the government of Iran to COVID-19, particularly in the diagnostic and therapeutic aspect. The MRI machines will not only serve the COVID-19 response but at the same time for a medium-to-long-term to many other illnesses and diseases, which currently are of very important nature," Hussain said.

In June 2023, WHO delivered the first 3 MRI machines as a part of a project funded by the Government of Japan aimed at strengthening the diagnostic capacity of the Islamic Republic of Iran's health system.

The state-of-the-art 1.5-Tesla MRI scanners were projected to be installed in hospitals identified by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, according to the WHO website.

A total of 6 MRI machines were delivered through the implementation of this project. The first 3 machines arrived at target hospitals, namely, Kosar Hospital in Semnan, Hajar Hospital in Shahrekord, and Pasteur Hospital in Bam.

Two other machines, destined for 12 Farvardin Hospital in Kahnooj and Imam Ali Hospital of Andimeshk.

IRCS sets up field hospital on Lebanon-Syria border

TEHRAN –Following ongoing Israeli attacks on Lebanon, the Iranian Red Crescent Society has set up a field hospital on the border of Lebanon and Syria.

Since September 23, the Israeli army has been launching an unprecedented, intensive air attack on Lebanon.

Lebanon's Health Ministry says over 2,000 people have been killed in Israeli attacks on Lebanon, including 127 children and 261 women.

The IRCS has also set up an emergency shelter for injured and displaced Lebanese people affected by the conflict, the IRCS website quoted Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the IRCS, as saying.

Installed tents are equipped with basic goods and are capable of housing thousands of displaced individuals, he added.

Once the field hospital is equipped with essential tools and medicines, surgeries can be performed there, as well, the official noted.

Dispatched humanitarian aid

Following the tragic events, the head of the IRCS announced the IRCS' readiness to dispatch humanitarian aid and relief teams to Lebanon to assist the people affected by the recent Israeli attacks in the Dahiya district in Beirut.

Kolivand also conveyed a message to the Regional Director at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies –IFRC, Middle East & North Africa (MENA), Hossam Elsharkawi, President of the Lebanese Red Cross, Antoine Zoghbi, and Lebanese Health Minister Firas al-Abid expressed the IRCS's readiness to provide humanitarian assistance to Dahiya, IRCS website reported.

In October, The IRCS sent a consignment of relief items to people affected by Israeli attacks in Lebanon.

The humanitarian aid, including essential items and basic goods, was dispatched on October 4, IRNA quoted Kolivand as saying.

Kolivand along with Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi conducted a visit to Lebanon on



IRCS head Pirhossein Kolivand

Friday to observe the ongoing relief services there.

On September 25, Kolivand along with a team that encompassed 12 specialists and general practitioners, as well as 12 relief workers headed Lebanon, IRNA reported.

"The rescue team including optometrists are dispatched with the coordination of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the health ministry of Lebanon to provide humanitarian aid to those injured," the IRCS website quoted Kolivand as saying.

The official also announced readiness to transfer injured people to Iran to receive further services if needed.

The former spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has vehemently denounced the pager explosions, describing the tragedy as an act of mass murder perpetrated by the occupying Israeli regime.

"Today's terrorist attack in Lebanon is a continuation of hybrid operations being conducted by the Zionist regime and their mercenaries, runs counter to all moral and humanitarian principles as well as international laws, particularly the international humanitarian law, and deserves international criminal prosecution, trial, and punishment," Nasser Kan'ani said in a statement on September 24, Press TV reported.

Kan'ani then called upon the international community to take immediate action against the impunity of criminal Israeli authorities.

Breast cancer screening program kicks off

TEHRAN –The sixth breast cancer screening program has been launched with the aim of raising public awareness and promoting the culture of prevention, timely detection, and treatment.

Concurrent with breast cancer awareness month (BCAM), celebrated globally every October, Motamed Cancer Institute initiated the sixth screening program, which commenced on the first of October and is scheduled to run for a month.

Breast cancer is the leading cause of death and the most common cancer among women with around 2.3 million new cases every year. However, early diagnosis of cancer reduces treatment costs and increases the chance of successful treatment and survival.

The main objective of the campaign is to raise awareness and encourage self-care for women by encouraging them to refer to specialized centers and carry out routine tests and screenings.

In addition to periodic check-ups, various educational packages on self-care and early detection of breast cancer have been prepared to further train people.

Breast cancer in Iran

Based on the surveys conducted in the last 30 years, breast cancer has the highest prevalence, 12 percent, among women in Iran, constituting 26 percent of women's cancers.

In Iran, breast cancer is the second-leading cause of death in women as around 30 percent of patients die each year, nearly as much as the world average.

With the support of the World Health Organization, the national cancer control program has been developed, which sets out the Ministry of Health's roadmap up to the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

The purpose of the program is to reduce cancer prevalence and mortality while improving the quality of patients' lives, which can serve as a model for other countries, es-

pecially in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

The program includes two important documents, namely, "development of national cancer care network" and "development of cancer human resources", which resulted in the establishment of the early diagnostic centers.

Motamed Cancer Institute

In February, according to an assessment of the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, Motamed Cancer Institute was ranked first among all research centers in the field of cancer, both clinical and biomedical, throughout the country.

The institute also ranked second among all clinical research centers with independent funding and experience of more than 10 years, regardless of the subject of activity, IRNA reported.

Also, among the total of 833 private and government research centers under the Ministry of Health, the breast cancer research center of the Institute has been evaluated as one of the top 10 centers.

The European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) granted membership to Motamed Cancer Institute on March 11.

The EBMT is a non-profit medical and scientific organization established in 1974 that hosts a unique patient registry providing a pool of data to perform studies and assess new trends.

It aims to be the connection between patients, researchers, and other stakeholders to anticipate the future of cellular and stem cell-based therapies.

The community of healthcare professionals is focused on innovation, research, and the advancement of these fields to save and improve the lives of patients with blood-related disorders.

The first bone marrow transplant in Iran was performed in the Iranian year 1396 (March 2017-2018).

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said. One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained. According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه‌ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد. وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی است. به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران، موضوع توجه به دوچرخه‌سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تاکید قرار گرفته است.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

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
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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Mix with people properly, so that they weep for you when you die, and show you affection and fight your enemy when you are alive.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:52 Evening: 17:57 Dawn: 4:42 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:05 (tomorrow)

Andisheh cultural center to review "About Schmidt"

TEHRAN- "About Schmidt", a 2002 movie directed by American film director and screenwriter Alexander Payne, will go on screen at the Andisheh Cultural Center in Tehran on Monday.

A review session will be held with the presence of the film critics Mehdi Soltani and Mohsen Soleimani Fakher after the screening.

In "About Schmidt," Warren Schmidt, an actuary from Omaha, Nebraska, faces the challenges of retirement after decades of service at Woodmen of the World, a life insurance company. Following a lackluster retirement dinner, he struggles to find purpose in a life that suddenly feels aimless and meaningless.

In an attempt to fill the void, Warren decides to sponsor an African foster child through Plan USA. He receives information about his foster child, a young boy named Ndugu Umbo from Tanzania, and embarks on a heartfelt journey of self-reflection. Schmidt begins writing Ndugu a series of candid letters, sharing his experiences, feelings, and the isolation he has long felt in his marriage to his late wife, Helen, who has recently passed away due to a blood clot. Schmidt grapples with memories of their lifelong alienation, coupled with regret for not appreciating her more.

Warren's life takes another emotional turn when his daughter, Jeannie, returns home for the funeral. Tensions arise as Jeannie scolds her father for taking Helen for granted and making poor financial decisions regarding the purchase of a motorhome and Helen's burial. Struggling with his loneliness, Schmidt spirals into a state of despair, neglecting self-care and living in isolation. He inadvertently discovers old love letters reveal-

ing Helen's affair with a mutual friend, Ray, and confronts Ray in a moment of betrayal and anger.

Determined to repair his relationship with Jeannie before she marries her fiancé, Randall, a waterbed salesman, Schmidt embarks on a journey in the newly purchased Winnebago. He visits nostalgic places from his past, including his college campus and childhood home, which has been transformed into a tire shop. Along the way, he encounters a sympathetic couple at a trailer campground, but finds himself floundering when he makes an awkward advance toward the wife.

As he reflects on his life and relationships while sitting atop his RV on a starry night, Schmidt experiences a moment of forgiveness toward Helen and his own shortcomings, encouraged by a meteor streaking across the sky. Upon arriving in Denver, Schmidt grapples with Jeannie's impending marriage and the eccentricities of Randall's family. Despite his discomfort, he supports Jeannie at the wedding but cannot hide his disapproval.

After the ceremony, Schmidt returns home, burdened by questions of his life's significance and the legacy he will leave behind. He receives a heartfelt letter from Ndugu's nun, expressing gratitude for Schmidt's support, revealing that Ndugu, at six years old, is unable to read his letters but appreciates them nonetheless. Enclosed is a crayon drawing of Ndugu and Schmidt holding hands under a sunny sky, moving Schmidt to tears and reminding him that his actions have made a difference, however small. This moment signifies a renewed sense of purpose and connection as he contemplates the impact he can still have on others.

Rhetoric Orchestra to perform classical masterpieces at Tehran's Vahdat Hall

TEHRAN- Iran's Rhetoric Orchestra is scheduled to perform a concert at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Tuesday. The Rhetoric Orchestra, under the baton of Reza Maryvand, will perform a selection of pieces from global classical music, ILNA reported on Sunday.

The concert will feature Pejman Nour as the

guitar soloist, Moein Shakouri as the harp soloist, and Farbod Latifi as the concertmaster. In the upcoming performance, the ensemble will present works by Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi, Handel, Saint-Saëns, Villa-Lobos, Offenbach, and others to the audience.

Cartoon of Day



Introduction-Development-Conclusion
Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Universal themes of "In the Arms of the Tree" can appeal to international audience: director

By Mohamadreza Seyedagha

TEHRAN-With the closing of submissions for Best International Feature at the 2025 Oscars, 82 films have been selected by their respective countries and more titles are still expected to be announced. This year, "In the Arms of the Tree," written and directed by Babak Khajepasha will represent Iran at the 97th Academy Awards.

The Tehran Times has conducted an interview with the director about the selection of his drama, which happened to be his directorial debut feature film.

Replying to the query if he thought of international success while making the film, Khajepasha said: "During the production process, the main concern of the team involved was to make a good film. Earlier, during the scriptwriting phase, my personal focus was to address a deep pain of modern humanity and to explore issues surrounding the family". "For me, family is one of the most important foundations of human society, and I believe we should do whatever we can to preserve it. From the very beginning, I wanted to create something meaningful," he added.

"Everything that has happened to the film—whether the awards it has won or its selection for the Oscars—is, in my opinion, because of the message the film conveys. The film itself is making its way. Whenever a work of art carries a deeply human message, it can resonate and become lasting. A film that speaks on humanity will achieve great success the creator might never have imagined," he stressed.

The Tehran Times asked the director how well he thinks his film will connect with global audiences considering the film's theme of family. "Themes like family, children's issues, and human concerns exist in every society. I believe 'In the Arms of the Tree' will find its place with international audiences. In the festivals I've attended, I saw that viewers connected with the film. The challenges children face, family issues, and divorce are universal concerns in today's world, and I think this film can resonate on the international stage," he answered.

Khajepasha has collaborated with well-known Iranian filmmakers including Majid Majidi and Reza Mirkarimi as an assistant director, both of whom have had their films represent Iran at the Oscars in previous editions. Speaking about their influence, if any, on his filmmaking,



A scene from "In the Arms of the Tree" by Babak Khajepasha

he said: "I had the honor of working as an assistant for these two distinguished directors for many years, and I certainly gained professional and intellectual influence from them. Their approach to filmmaking has definitely left an impact on me".

"Instead of choosing role models far removed from our own identity and cinema, we can look to those who are closer and more accessible. Both of these directors have been great role models for me, both professionally and through their films," he noted.

"However, right now, I'm trying to develop my own unique perspective in cinema, though of course, every student is shaped by their teachers to some extent," the filmmaker asserted.

Regarding the recent trends in the Best International Feature category at the Oscars and chances for his film to enter the final nominees, Khajepasha said: "Well, in recent years, we've seen films with similar themes and approaches succeed internationally, including at the Oscars. It's true that over the past decade, Iranian cinema has often presented a certain style that some festivals have become accustomed to, but 'In the Arms of the Tree' is a simple, storytelling Iranian film. It carries the flavor, color, and essence of our land. My responsibility is to create a film that elevates my identity. This film attempts to showcase the beauty of this country, to portray the authenticity of the Iranian family, and to highlight its culture. Whether it aligns with the tastes of Academy members is another issue, but our duty as artists is to present what we have in

the best possible way".

"We don't always need to tell the world about our cinema through tragic narratives or portray suffering. Our job is to tell stories, to have strong drama. Sometimes, instead of focusing on telling a well-constructed story, on visual elements, or on logical direction, we turn to themes full of misery and wish for their success in foreign festivals. I believe that we should strive to tell better, more standard stories - stories that elevate both our culture and our filmmaking industry, and move us toward a more distinctly Iranian cinema," he concluded.

Khajepasha, 43, is an emerging filmmaker, and "In the Arms of the Tree" is his first feature-length film, gaining significant attention in Iran's film industry. The movie tells the story of Kimia and Farid, a couple married for twelve years, whose life crisis shatters their children's world, children who know nothing but simplicity and kindness in life.

The movie explores themes of familial relationships and emotional reconnections between parents and children. At the heart of the story is Kimia, a northern mother grappling with the trauma of past abuse and a debilitating fear of distance. Her husband, Farid, an Azeri father with a passion for travel and medicinal plants, adds to the tension as the couple prepares for a separation exercise.

As Kimia and Farid's relationship deteriorates, their two sons, 11-year-old Taha and his five-year-old brother Alisan, become unlikely heroes in this emotional turmoil. Taha, deeply caring and protective, is determined to shield Alisan from the fallout of their parents' crises.

The boys' strong bond and friendship serve as a beacon of hope amid the tumult, highlighting the innocence of childhood and the power of familial love in the face of adversity.

The film captures the impact of marital discord on children, illustrating how their lives can be disturbed by their parents' struggles. Ultimately, it underscores the importance of love, connection, and the delicate balance needed to preserve a family in crisis. Maral Baniadam, Javad Ghamati, Rouhollah Zamani, Ahoura Lotfi, and Rayan Lotfi are in the cast among others.

A production of 2023, the film won a Crystal Simorgh award for Best Screenplay and an Honorable Mention for Best First Film upon its premiere at the 41st Fajr Film Festival. It was also named the best film in the international section of the first edition of Iran's Hava International Film Festival in 2023.

The movie has been screened in several international festivals in countries such as China, Switzerland, and the UAE. Earlier this month, "In the Arms of the Tree" opened the Kazan International Film Festival Altyn Minbar in Russia.

The 97th Academy Awards is set to take place on March 3, 2025 in Los Angeles. A shortlist of 15 finalists in Best International Feature category is scheduled to be announced on December 17, 2024, with the final five nominees announced on January 17, 2025.

Iran has a history of submitting films to the Oscars for over three decades, with past films by directors like Asghar Farhadi and Majid Majidi receiving three nominations and two awards.

Iranian films win awards at Love International Film Festival

TEHRAN- Two Iranian films received awards at the 9th edition of Love International Film Festival, which was organized in Santa Monica, California in the U.S. last week. "A woman with a Wooden Cart" By Khodadad Jalali was named best feature film, while Iranian actress Shabnam Moqaddami received best supporting actress award for her role in the movie "Worker Bee" by Afshin Sadeghi, IRNA reported on Sunday.

"A Woman with a Wooden Cart" follows two philosophy students, Arash and Bahman, as they travel to a lakeside village for research. During their journey, Arash falls deeply in love with a local woman

named Setareh. Their love story unfolds over decades, facing challenges such as a coma and a quest for healing, ultimately exploring the transformative power of love in the face of time and reality.

In the film "Worker Bee," a wealthy young man becomes involved with a village girl in traditional Iranian society, leading to an unintended pregnancy. When he attempts to sever ties with her, a heated confrontation at a gas station results in the accidental death of a worker named Buick. The boy's mother, a politician running for president, seeks to shield her son from legal repercussions.

Meanwhile, Buick's daughter, Inji, fights for justice, determined to ensure her father's death is not overlooked. The only witness to the incident is the young man's girlfriend, and as his family intervenes to manipulate the situation, a series of dramatic events unfold, challenging the integrity of justice and the impact of privilege.

The Love International Film Festival (LIFF) celebrates films and filmmakers from around the globe whose work fosters connections and promotes love and healing through cinema. The festival aims to inspire audiences by showcasing stories that bridge cultures and highlight our shared humanity.

Iran International FICTS Festival to show Brazilian documentary "Aretha on Everest"

TEHRAN-The Brazilian documentary "Aretha on Everest" directed by Roberta Estrela D'Alva and Tatiana Lohmann will be screened at the 14th Iran International FICTS Festival scheduled to take place in Tehran in December. It is the inspiring story of Aretha Duarte in a 100-minute film that captures her extraordinary journey, Honaronline reported.

The film will take the audience on Aretha Duarte's journey of overcoming adversity, showing how her resilience and transformative attitude brought her dream to life. A story of inspiration and courage that changed not only her life, but also

the world around her.

Aretha Duarte achieved an incredible feat by becoming the first black Latin American woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, which stands at a height of 8,848 meters above sea level. Her achievement inspires and motivates those who strive to fulfill their dreams, no matter how difficult and unattainable they may seem.

Despite the worsening COVID-19 pandemic scenario, Aretha and her team reached the summit of Everest in May 2021. The documentary allows viewers to follow every step of their arduous journey.

The International Sports Film Festival of Iran is the exclusive representative of the Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (FICTS). The festival is part of the World FICTS Challenge held across 16 countries worldwide.

More than 620 productions from 72 countries have registered in this year's edition of the festival including more than 250 works and productions from Iran and 370 foreign films.

The festival will be held in collaboration with Iran's National Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the Ministry of Sports and Youth, IRIB, the Cinema Organization of Iran, and

Tehran Municipality.

The FICTS headquarters is located in Milan, Italy, with over 134 member countries. The Iranian festival is recognized as one of the 16 global hubs and hosts 34 Asian countries, serving as a gateway for participation in the global festival in Milan, which attracts filmmakers and cinema professionals from these regions.

Winners in each category, including feature films, short films, documentaries, animations, and TV shows, will qualify for the Milano International FICTS Fest, which serves as the final phase of the World FICTS Challenge.

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The most significant achievement of the Palestinians after a year of unequal war is the world's awareness of the criminal nature of Israel

Global Awakening



A protester waves a Palestine flag from a rooftop at Columbia University on April 30, 2024.



The most significant achievement of the Palestinians after a year of unequal war is the world's awareness of the criminal nature of Israel

Global Awakening

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - October 7 marks the anniversary of the day one of the most devastating wars against humanity was launched. A year ago, Israel began the massacre of Palestinians in Gaza through airstrikes, starvation, and torture. The enclave now lies in ruins with approximately 45 million pounds of rubble scattered across the Strip. Entire families have been wiped off the face of the earth, and those managing to flee the direct fire of the Israeli military will carry the physiological scars of the war forever.

A year of attacks on homes, hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, and refugee camps has passed and the Palestinian civilians in Gaza do not see any prospects for the regime's aggression ending. Not only hasn't Israel's violence in Gaza abated, but also it has spread to other parts of the region including Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, and even Iran.

Hamas fighters that caused Israel's biggest intelligence defeat and shattered the myth of the regime's invincibility are still resisting strongly. Rockets are still being fired at Israeli positions in the occupied territories out of Gaza, and Resistance forces continue to liquidate Israeli soldiers in ground battles.

The end of this conflict remains uncertain, but it's crucial to reflect on the events of the past year and understand the underlying causes.

What were the circumstances surrounding Operation Al-Aqsa Storm

The Hamas Resistance movement carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the backdrop of months of heightened Israeli aggression against Palestinians in the occupied territories and over seven decades of oppression against the indigenous people of Palestine.

Hamas said its successful attack was a response to Israel's ongoing occupation, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the expansion of settlements, Israel's disregard for international law, threats against the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the overall suffering of the Palestinian people.

Has Israel achieved its



stated objectives one year after the war?

When launching the devastating war on Gaza, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared his intention to "eradicate Hamas," vowing to achieve this goal. However, Hamas remains far from defeated, and other mooted objectives of the regime, such as expelling Palestinians from Gaza or assassinating key Hamas leaders, have also failed to materialize.

What are the costs for Israel?

The biggest asset Israel has lost in the past year is undeniably the public opinion it had worked so dearly to keep on its side in the past several decades. Hundreds of thousands of people in different countries have taken to the streets in the past year to slam the regime's war in Gaza, international organizations have grown scathingly critical of the Zionist regime, and more and more citizens across the world have begun to understand that Zionism has nothing to do with Judaism.

The regime has also suffered great economic losses which are expected to intensify, and most importantly Zion-

ists no longer believe that they can be said in the "holy land".

What impact has Al-Aqsa Storm had on the normalization process?

The train of the Abraham Accords, which was pushed out of the station by U.S. President Donald Trump in 2020, aimed to sideline Palestinians and integrate Israel as a normal state into the region. Trump managed to get Sudan, Morocco, Bahrain and the UAE to hop on the train and Saudi Arabia was the next to join. Only a week before Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman said he would soon normalize ties with Israel but that plan was immediately scrapped after the Hamas operation.

With growing hatred of Israel in the region, it seems unlikely that any West Asian state would be able to normalize ties with Israel without losing popular support.

How many civilian casualties have resulted from Israel's actions?

More women and children have been killed in Gaza by the Israeli military over the past year than in an equivalent period of any other conflict over

the past two decades. Almost 42,000 Palestinians have lost their lives and around 96,000 civilians have been injured. Medical experts believe the number of casualties is a lot higher than the official figures, as the decimation of Gaza's medical system makes it impossible to accurately keep track of the dead and injured.

The end of this conflict remains uncertain, but it's crucial to reflect on the events of the past year and understand the underlying causes.

What has been the most significant outcome of Al-Aqsa Storm?

While the past year has brought undeniable pain and suffering for the Palestinians, it is also indisputable that what Hamas did on October 7 has once again made the

Palestinian cause front and center in the Islamic Ummah. The growing number of Abraham Accords signatories had threatened to further marginalize the Palestinian cause, pushing it to the backburner, if not completely forgotten. While this process may not have been stopped forever, it will likely remain stalled for a considerable period.

Can Israel restore the situation to what it was before October 7?

Since October 7, Israel has encountered many firsts. The regime was infiltrated by Gazans; its settlements in northern parts of the occupied territories were evacuated, leaving hundreds of thousands of Israelis homeless; its positions were attacked by dozens of missiles at a time, and its entire population spent several nights in shelters – all instances that had never happened to the Israelis before.

With Israel's myth of invincibility gone, and the world growing more and more hateful of the regime, it seems unlikely that Netanyahu or any other Zionist government would be able to return to the time before October 7, 2023.

'Free speech cannot be silenced because authorities disagree'



In an interview with the Tehran Times, Christina Jump, lead attorney for the Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA), shared her insights on the challenges faced by Muslim, Palestinian, and pro-Palestinian students across American universities amid rising tensions following the Israel-Gaza conflict.

As the key figure behind multiple legal complaints, including ones filed against Harvard University and Brown University, Jump is at the forefront of efforts to protect students from religious discrimination and harassment.

With a career dedicated to civil rights law, she draws on her personal experiences and professional expertise to defend those impacted by religious and racial bias in the U.S. In this interview, she discusses the legal implications of stifling student protests, highlights ongoing investigations, and reflects on the broader societal challenges faced by Muslim communities in the U.S., particularly in the face of high-profile incidents such as inflammatory rhetoric from political figures.

Following is the full text of the interview:

From a legal perspective, how do you assess the stifling of pro-Palestine protests at American universities? Does the crackdown infringe on students' First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and assembly?

Protests form the backbone of American culture. From the Boston Tea Party to the Civil Rights protests of the 1950s and 1960s -- including peaceful sit-ins and the Montgomery bus boycotts -- to Black Lives Matter protests and even Kid Rock's right to boycott a brand of beer he doesn't like, peaceful civil protests weave throughout our country's history. The tradition of college students protesting on campuses across the country runs deep as well: they happened in the 1960s during the civil rights movement, in the 1980s during challenges to South Africa's apartheid regime, in the early 2000s during Occupy Wall Street times, and earlier this decade in support of Black Lives Matter.

Campus protests are not new. They are not fabricated.

Campus protests reflect our society's changing fabric as a whole, and always have.

Those claiming that college students don't know what they are protesting, or that they are only doing so because they've been told they should, likely haven't sat down to speak to the actual student protestors. And I wish they would. Because these are young adults doing exactly what young adults in America have done for decades, for centuries: speaking their minds, and using their voices for change.

The United States Constitution protects that right. Even many state laws, like in Texas, provide additional protections. Our laws enshrine the right for these students, and others, to do exactly what they've always done.

The difference we see lately is the gross overreaction by some campus and local officials to squelch these rights under the guise of security, simply because they disagree with the expressed viewpoints. But our laws prohibit exactly that type of viewpoint-based discrimination.

Can you please share specific examples of the complaints you have filed on behalf of Muslim students facing consequences for their pro-Palestine activism or stances at American universities? What were

the circumstances of these cases, and what were the outcomes?

We filed complaints against Harvard University on behalf of more than a dozen students, including those who are Muslim and those who are allies. The Department of Education opened an investigation into our claims on behalf of these students, and continues to actively investigate the allegations. In the meantime, Harvard's own task force recently found that Harvard has a long history of "intolerance" toward pro-Palestinian viewpoints, and recommended a long list of needed changes. We will continue to follow through on behalf of the students we represent to get resolution of our complaint to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, and to see that the task force's recommendations in fact take place.

We also filed a complaint against Brown University on behalf of multiple students who are Muslim, Arab, Palestinian, pro-Palestinian allies, and those perceived as being in one of those categories. We anticipate the Department of Education will open an investigation in the near future into this complaint as well.

In addition, we continue to work with students and faculty on multiple campuses to either file additional complaints or advise them in how to safely and legally protest. I am glad to keep you posted of additional devel-

opments as they become public. One of the things we value we out the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and its process is that it allows the students to retain confidentiality instead of once again being subjected to intense personal scrutiny and retribution as many of them have already endured.

U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump recently used the term "Palestinian" in a manner widely perceived as a racial slur. How do you think this incident reflects the broader challenges faced by Muslims in the United States?

Societal protections still require additional changes, without a doubt. Donald Trump's reputation has never been one of equality and his most recent actions echo his earlier actions. He tells people exactly who he is; anyone who didn't believe him in his first campaign saw the Muslim bans come right after his inauguration.

I believe strongly that most Americans are better than that. Most Americans want to honor our Constitution and the values it represents.

And the widespread protests, by Muslim, Jewish, and allied protestors alike, show that sentiment can and will turn.

Until then, we work hard to help those treated unfairly and judged for their religions, and national origin, and race. We will continue that work as long as we see the need.

What personal experiences or observations have inspired you to dedicate your legal expertise to defending the rights of Muslims in the U.S. court system?

The work we do is not a mystery and it doesn't require a lot of decoding. We simply ask the courts to enforce what U.S. laws already require: equal treatment for all. In my personal view, that represents the purest form of law I've been able to practice. I'm honored to do this work, and honored to represent our clients. They are good people and hard-working Americans with strong family values. They deserve everything our laws promise to all citizens here.

When I began working here in early 2016, I got mostly encouraging responses from my previous colleagues in the legal profession. Several rightly noted that this is the strongest need right now, just like anti-Japanese and anti-Semitic discrimination and racial discrimination all create needs as well. And I agree. One set of rights doesn't cancel out another, and no group should feel threatened by calls for equality. That's what our laws promise, it's what my personal faith requires, and it's simply what's right.





'Student activists facing more repression compared to previous generations'



American students protesting for divestment from Israel are facing greater levels of violence and disciplinary action compared to their peers who engaged in similar activism in past decades, according to UCLA Professor of Urban Planning and Sociology Chris Tilly.

Professor Tilly, a longtime activist himself, has spent the past year engaging in dialogue with UCLA students protesting the war in Gaza, listening to their stories and concerns.

The full text of Professor Tilly's interview with the Tehran Times can be read below:

What do you believe is the driving force behind the pro-Palestine demonstrations? Do you concur with some American leaders who assert that these protests are rooted in anti-Semitism rather than activism?

I don't think students are driven by anti-Semitism. Students have always come up with creative ways to protest; ways that have an impact, will make news, attract attention, and get discussion going on campus. Encampments are not entirely new tactics. We had encampments during previous years. At UCLA, for instance, we had encampments in 2011 and before that, there were movements across American universities asking for divestment from South Africa.

So, encampments are both established and impactful forms of protesting in American universities. It may not be a typical way of protesting but that's the point. Students are saying that there is a genocide going on and that something needs to be done as soon as possible.

UCLA is believed to have encountered one of the worst cases of violence against students protesting for divestment from Israel. Can you tell us more about that?

The incident you are referring to happened on the evening of April 30th when outside counter-protestors came in and attacked the en-

campment. I myself wasn't there at the time but I heard accounts from colleagues and students that were present during the attack. I sense that what happened on April 30 was a total and utter disgrace. It was a disgrace on the part of the university that didn't keep its students safe and also a disgrace on the part of the police who did not intervene for hours when students were getting assaulted. Police only acted when the attackers left and from what I've heard, only one of those attackers has been arrested so far. Not only didn't the university or police effectively act when the attacks happened, but they also did not go after the culprits when the air was clear.

The university and police claim they want to keep the campus safe, but they miserably failed at that on the night of April 30th.

I understand that investigations and arrests take time, but we are still waiting for action from administrators and law enforcement several months later despite the large number of photos and videos captured during the attack.

Have university administrators been out of step in their reaction to Gaza solidarity encampments compared to how authorities used to address similar situations in previous years and decades?

I think the scale of disciplinary action taken against students asking for divestment from Israel has been significantly larger than what we had to face when we were students.

I went to Harvard College and during the time I was a student there were lots of protests happening. While I myself did not passionately take part in some of them, many of my classmates did.

While it is true that during the 60s and 70s, universities weren't fond of these protests and actively tried to identify the participants to discipline them, they never did anything quite like the administrators are doing today. There was usually no police violence against the students, and arrests weren't common.

While the Vietnam War saw tragic incidents of anti-war students being shot and killed by police and the National Guard, thankfully, Gen Z hasn't faced that level of violence. However, the average level of violence they have experienced is arguably higher. University administrators have, overall, reacted to student activism with a more aggressive and repressive approach.

Do you think American public opinion about Israel is beginning to shift? What about the U.S. government's policies?



The fact that thousands of students have protested Israel and are willing to take risks has already affected public opinion a lot. More people are now reconsidering their support for Israel. But in terms of government policies, sadly things have not changed much.

The Biden administration has so far made very limited concessions. Kamala Harris might pursue a different stance towards Palestine but it's too early to comment on that.

But overall, the fact that people are now discussing the Palestinian cause, reading history, and understanding that things did not start on October 7 is very valuable.

Are there any American university professors and lecturers who are refraining from expressing their opinions on Israeli actions out of concern for potential job consequences?

A: There are certainly professors who are mobilized across the country and have shown support for the students protesting the war in Gaza. But I'd say professors who have spoken out the most are the ones like me who are tenured professors, which means they are the furthest in their career and are not looking to get promotions.

Many junior faculty members have

spoken out too, but I'd say there are many professors and instructors who prefer not to comment on the situation because they don't want to risk getting fired or facing penalties.

How did you come to support the Palestinian cause?

When I was a child, my parents were very concerned about social justice, and they taught me and my sisters to have the same concerns about democracy, freedom, and racial justice.

When I was very young, my parents took me to demonstrations for civil rights in the United States. Later, I participated in demonstrations against the war in Vietnam and then when I got older, I became involved with solidarity for Latin America movements. So, this type of activism is not new for me and has helped me gain a broader perspective with time.

The first time I learned about Palestine was through a book I picked up at the bookstore in the 1970s. And then I kept learning about Palestine here and there. I would also credit my wife who has an activism history as well. She has visited Palestinian communities within Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza and listened to their concerns.

American students: part of a global anti-colonial movement



Recent student protests at universities across the United States have ignited a contentious debate over the motivations behind the demonstrations and the allegations of antisemitism.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Martin Puchner, a literary critic and philosopher, delves into the complexities of these protests, examining the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of the participants, the role of university administrators, and the potential impact of these movements on academic freedom and U.S. foreign policy in West Asia.

Martin Puchner holds the Byron and Anita Wien Chair in drama and English and comparative literature at Harvard University.

The interview's text is as follows:

Recent student protests at universities across the U.S. have sparked debate, with some administrators claiming they are driven by anti-Semitism. What is your perspective on these allegations and the motivations behind the protests?

As with all protest movements, people gather from different places. Some protesters have gravitated to the Palestinian cause from other protest movements, such as Black Lives Matter. There are also a significant number of Jewish students who want to dissociate themselves from the conduct of Israel (the Harvard encampment celebrated a Jewish seder, for example). Yet another group considers the Palestinian cause as part of a larger anti-colonial strug-

gle. As for anti-Semitism, there is a very public controversy about its definition, so let me answer in a very personal way, as someone who has written a book about anti-Semitism (*The Language of Thieves*) that deals in part with the anti-Semitism of my own (German) grandfather, who was a member of the Nazi party, the storm troopers, and who published anti-Semitic tracts. Based on this family history, I am sensitive to anti-Semitism. I do not think that a critique of Israel is automatically anti-Semitic, I do think that some protesters veered into anti-Semitism. What worries me is that these pockets of anti-Semitism are mostly tolerated within the protest movement. Some of this is due to a lack of historical knowledge and I think it's important to teach the history of anti-Semitism. At the same time, I also think American students need to learn more about the history of West Africa and the Middle East. I myself have traveled to Iraq, Beirut, and the West Bank as well as to the UAE and Oman (sadly, I have not been to Iran, but would very much like to go!), and those travels, and my engagement with figures such as Ibn Sina and texts such as the 1001 Nights, have been incredibly important for me, and I do my best to teach American students about that history.

How do you evaluate the authorities' response to student protests at American universities? Do you believe the use of force has been justified and proportionate to the situation?

I was very glad that at Harvard the encampment was dissolved peacefully at the end of the semester. The images from Columbia University, where I taught for twelve years, were horrible. I definitely think that student protests should be protected by free speech. One problem is that in the past universities had been very selective in their commitment to free speech, for example by not encouraging more vigorous debates about other social



protest movements such as Black Lives Matter.

As for proportionality, I think there were many different situations. I do believe that universities have a right, even a duty, to determine reasonable procedures for protests. Some protesters deliberately violated such rules, including by occupying buildings, in part to attract more attention. It's o.k. to do that, there is a long history of civil disobedience, but they should then accept that they will get arrested. But ideally, protesters in the future will stick to those rules, and universities will in turn honor their right to free speech. It's important to allow protests, but it's also important to find the right form for it.

How might the reaction of university administrators to student protests influence the academic environment in the United States? What potential consequences could arise for academic freedom and open dialogue?

I don't envy university administrators right now (full disclosure: my partner is a dean at Harvard). There are so many pressures and so many different perspectives on the conflict. I think universities

should do what they do best: provide a place for dialogue. It is depressing how little of that happens right now, but things are changing a bit. What is so difficult is that both sides see the conflict as a zero-sum game: whatever hurts the other side is good for me. They don't acknowledge the suffering on the other side. I find it very moving, for example, how many Jewish students participate in the pro-Palestinian protests and vigorously critique Israel. I wish there were a similarly vigorous critique of Hamas, or at least some of its actions, among the pro-Palestinian protesters.

To what extent do you believe American university professors and lecturers may be hesitant to express their views on Israeli actions due to concerns about potential job consequences?

It's always difficult to measure self-censorship. My own impression is that there are many colleagues who have signed pro-Palestinian letters or weighed in on the conflict on social media. There are also many deans who are sympathetic to the Palestinian cause. But a very heated climate can spill over into a stifling of free speech.

Do you think the recent student protests at American universities have the potential to influence Washington's foreign policy in West Asia in the future? If so, how?

Throughout the last year, I have felt it odd that pro-Palestinian protests should focus on universities, especially since American universities are much more hospitable to the pro-Palestinian cause than any other American institution. Also, universities are best at teaching history and complexity and different perspectives, not at political advocacy. That's not what they are designed to do. So, my own hope is that protests will be more effective, and more impact-oriented in the future. This means being more vigilant about anti-Semitism among the protesters; being more vigorous in a critique of Hamas or at least some of its actions, both past and present; and aiming protests at the political process, at political parties, at the government, not at universities. Then, only then will protesters have a chance of actually changing the conduct of the government.



Timeline of the Gaza War

**October 7, 2023**

Israel begins airstrike against the Gaza Strip after a successful Operation by Hamas Resistance movement inside the occupied territories

**October 8**

Hezbollah begins attacks against Israeli positions in northern parts of the occupied territories in support of Palestinians. Tens of thousands of Israelis start fleeing the illegal settlements

**October 17**

Israel strikes the Al-Ahli Arab hospital in northern Gaza, in its first attack on a medical facility. 500 Palestinians are killed during the attack

**October 19**

Yemen fires missiles in the direction of the occupied territories, marking the first time it's attacked Israeli positions or assets

**October 28**

Israel begins a ground invasion of the Gaza Strip

**October 29**

A British doctor volunteering in Gaza says he is increasingly treating patients with "distinctive phosphorus burns"

**October 30**

Israel attacks the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahia and begins a siege of the medical facility

**October 31**

Israel launches devastating airstrikes at the Jabalia refugee camp, killing countless civilians

**November 1**

Airstrikes target the Holy Family Church in Gaza

**November 2**

The regime bombs the surroundings of Gaza's Al-Quds hospital

**November 4**

Several schools in Gaza are hit by Israeli airstrikes, including Al-Fakhoora.

**November 5**

Israeli Minister Amihai Eliyahu suggests nuking Gaza

**November 15**

Israeli forces enter Gaza's biggest hospital, al Shifa, in Gaza city. Patients and newborn babies are found dead after days of siege by the regime

**November 24**

A four-day humanitarian ceasefire between Israel and Hamas is brokered, allowing for the exchange of hostages. The agreement is eventually extended for a week, resulting in the release of 105 Israelis and approximately 240 Palestinians

**December 1**

Israeli forces launch their first major ground offensive in southern Gaza, targeting the outskirts of Khan Younis

**December 6**

22 members of the same family are killed in an Israeli airstrike at the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza

**December 15**

The regime kills three Israelis held captive in Gaza

American and British forces conduct airstrikes on Yemeni soils over the Arab country's anti-Israel operations in the Red Sea

**December 25**

Seyyed Razi Mousavi, an IRGC advisor in Syria, is assassinated as Israel targets his residence in the Sayyidah Zaynab district south of Damascus

**January 11**

The U.S and UK kill 5 people during airstrikes on Yemen. Ansarullah's attacks against Israeli-owned and Israeli-bound ships continue nonetheless, later expanding to the Mediterranean

**January 22**

Israel says it has witnessed its deadliest day since the beginning of the war. At least 21 Israeli soldiers are killed in a single Hamas attack

The UN warns over 1.1 million people in Gaza are starving

**April 1**

Israel strikes the Iranian embassy in Damascus, killing a high-ranking IRGC commander and his deputy



April 2

The regime murders 7 aid workers from World Central Kitchen in Gaza, drawing global disbelief and outcry



April 13

Iran carries out its first direct attack against Israeli positions in the occupied territories, firing around 300 hundred drones and missiles and hitting the military bases involved in the regime's strike on the Iranian embassy in Syria. The attack is dubbed Operation True Promise



July 19

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivers a landmark ruling, declaring that Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territories is in violation of international law. The ICJ, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, finds that the construction and maintenance of settlements by Israel within the occupied territories, constitute a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.



July 30

Top Hezbollah Commander Fuad Shokor is assassinated by an Israeli airstrike in Beirut



July 31

Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh is assassinated by Israel hours after attending the inauguration ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian. Iranian armed forces say Haniyeh was killed by a short-range missile that hit his room at the Tehran guesthouse he was staying at. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Iran will avenge the blood of its "dear guest"



August 13

Ceasefire talks between Hamas and Israel fail. Sources in Egypt and Qatar, the brokers of the negotiations, say Netanyahu was the main obstacle towards reaching a deal



August 24

The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) calls on judges to "urgently" rule on his request for arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and others linked to the war on Gaza



September 17

Thousands of pager devices explode across Lebanon killing dozens of people and injuring at least 3000. Hezbollah declares Israel carried out the attacks to target its fighters



September 18

Dozens of walkie-talkies as well as other communication devices explode in Lebanon. More people are injured



September 27

Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah and IRGC Commander Abbas Nilforooshan are assassinated during Israeli airstrikes in southern Beirut. The regime uses 85 U.S.-supplied one-tonne bombs to carry out the attacks



October 1

Iran carries out Operation True Promise II. At least 180 ballistic missiles are fired at the occupied territories, reaching their Israeli targets after 10 to 14 minutes. Three Israeli military bases are successfully hit despite heavy fortifications



October 4

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei appears in public to lead the Friday prayers for the first time in 4 years, defying Western reports that he has been transferred to a "safe" location out of fear for Israeli attacks. He lauds Operations True Promise II and says more action will follow if necessary

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi travels to Lebanon despite non-stop Israeli airstrikes against Beirut and its surrounding areas



October 5

Iran's foreign minister travels to Syria, threatens that Tehran will deliver "harsher" blows to Israel if the regime responds to Operation True Promise II



October 7, 2024

The world watches with growing anxiety as tensions escalate between Israel and Iran, with Israel's repeated threats of military action raising the specter of a devastating regional conflict





'Americans have no romance left for Israel'



Former UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter, who spent time with Israelis in the occupied territories during his career, believes the romanticized and heroic image Americans once held of Israel is permanently tarnished. He argues that Israel's numerous transgressions have stripped it of its perceived moral high ground and that Americans have gradually come to this realization over the past year.

Below is the full text of Ritter's interview with the Tehran Times:

Almost a year has passed since Israel began its war in Gaza. The enclave now lies in ruins, and tens of thousands are dead. How do you assess the US's role in the conflict? Do you think Washington actively worked to secure a ceasefire and that it was unable to exert sufficient pressure on Israel or that it doesn't mind the current state of the region?

The United States intends to create stability in West Asia, but stability that centers around Israel. The U.S. has been promoting policies that are only beneficial to Israelis and based on that, any policy which creates prospects for the establishment of a Palestini-

an state is an unacceptable one. The Biden administration has repeatedly said that it is trying to bring back the situation to how it was before October 7, 2023, and we know that before the Hamas operation, no pathway to a Palestinian state existed. In the past year, Washington has also attempted to expand the Abraham Accords by pressuring Saudi Arabia to join the pact, which again sidelines the Palestinians.

When we try to return to the kind of stability that existed a year ago, we are acting as if Netanyahu has not committed some of the worst crimes against humanity. We are acting as if thousands of Palestinians have not been murdered, and as if Hind Rajab wasn't brutally murdered.

The Israeli lobby in U.S. politics and the fact that we are in an election year, make it impossible for the Biden administration to deviate from the illegitimate and illegal policies that are being implemented by Israel.

After what's happened in the past year, do you believe there has been a shift in American public opinion in regard to Israel?

The image of Israel in the United States used to be shaped by the legend of Exodus. Israelis were seen as heroic people who were being mass murdered in Europe and as a result, decided to find new life in the Middle East. We looked at that narrative and resonated with Israelis because it looked like the birth of our own nation. We were patriotic people who fought with the British for freedom and so did Israelis! This was the narrative that had gotten into the hearts of many Americans, myself included.

Other fabrications added to that romantic notion of Israel. We later witnessed what we were told was the "glory" of the six-day war that involved Israel getting attacked from all sides by Syria, Jordan, and Egypt who were touted as bloodthirsty Arabs who wanted to eradicate Jews. We understood that "brave" Israel in the end, won miraculous victories and defeated the Arabs. This made us feel good that we had Israel as an ally in the Middle East.

After that, we threw our weight behind Israel every time they entered a war. We backed them during the Yom Kippur War, we backed them in the 80s when they wanted to invade Lebanon, and we fought Operation Desert Storm in 1991 to stop Arab missiles from striking Israel. For us, we needed to go to war to save Israel, because that meant we were saving the righteous.

As of 2024, however, this romantic notion of Israel is no longer there. What's now left is just cold hard reality. Now, if an American supports Israel they are not doing it out of romance, but out of the logic that tells them doing so would have geopolitical benefits for the United States.

The new generation of Americans meanwhile, are decoupling from all these biases. For them, Israel stands for whatever they don't stand for. Israel is committing genocide, Israel is killing six-year-old girls, and it even kills its own people. So there has been a kind of awakening in the United States because people are being confronted by the harsh reality of what Israel really is.

More and more people in America are talking about a one-state solution – a

one-state solution that only includes a Palestinian state. I think this going to be extremely harmful for Israel in the long run because the seeds that have been planted in the American society are deeply rooted in the crimes Israel has committed in the past year.

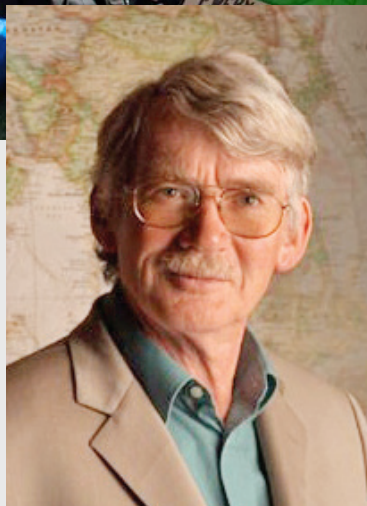
What do you think Israel has gained and lost in the past year?

One of the greatest things Israel has lost is undoubtedly public opinion. All around the world, we have different countries lining up for a Palestinian state which is a huge defeat for Israel. We had the International Court of Justice calling Israel an apartheid and genocidal state. We have the International Criminal Court preparing indictments for the sitting Israeli Prime Minister and Minister of Defense for war crimes. All this is unprecedented in the history of Israel and has long-term repercussions for it.

Even if Israel can survive this current calamity, its ability to recover would be contingent upon the international community's willingness to invest in Israel. The international community used to invest in a romantic vision, but can it now do the same for an apartheid and genocidal state? I think the answer for many people is no.

So, the loss of public opinion will eventually lead to irreparable economic losses for Israel, losses that could wreak its ultimate downfall. Israel cannot exist without a thriving economy that is thoroughly integrated into the world's economy and if the world doesn't want to get affiliated with the regime, Israel will be killed.

'Horror pictures out of Gaza sparked student protests'



Michael Mann, Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology at UCLA and renowned author of *The Sources of Social Power*, believes what primarily provoked the student pro-Palestine demonstrations across U.S. universities are the horrifying pictures of Gaza devastation that "have the chilling statistics of death."

Mann's insights on the growing wave of pro-Palestine demonstrations are shared in an exclusive interview with the *Tehran Times*.

With a career dedicated to understanding power dynamics in human societies, Mann examines the motivations behind these protests, the response from university administrators, and the broader political implications of student activism.

He argues that empathy, not antisemitism, is fueling the demonstrations, driven by the harrowing images of destruction in Gaza. Mann also raises concerns over police bias at UCLA protests, the

changing perspectives of younger generations on Israel, and the potential long-term effects on U.S. foreign policy.

Here's the full text of the interview:

What do you believe is the driving force behind the pro-Palestine demonstrations? Do you concur with some American leaders who assert that these protests are rooted in anti-Semitism rather than activism?

The main driving force has been the horrifying pictures of the devastation of Gaza—especially the deaths and terrible wounds of women and children, now being worsened by starvation. These images have dominated our television news programs for months, as have the chilling statistics of death. Although criticizing the policies of the state of Israel is always claimed by some Jewish organizations to be antisemitic, this is very rarely true. There is antisemitism in the U.S. today, but it tends to be found on the extreme right of the political spectrum, while these demonstrators are from the political left or center. I should add that at both UCLA and in London where I have witnessed demonstrations, Jewish groups have been among the active demonstrators. Not all Jews support Netanyahu's policies.

Do you believe the handling of student protests at UCLA and other locations by administra-

tors and authorities has been fair and appropriate?

I can only speak with the authority of the UCLA protests, in which the authorities initially responded calmly to a peaceful encampment occupying one of the main plazas of the university. Then at 11 pm at night, about fifty young men armed with sticks and clubs suddenly appeared and violently attacked the encampment. They were not UCLA students and the leaders had flown from the East Coast to organize this attack. During their attack, a large body of police stood by and did nothing. Then, after these thugs had left, the police broke up the encampment with force and arrested a number of students. This certainly seemed like blatant police bias. In general, universities faced with occupations have been very concerned about not alienating large private donors to their universities, and rich Jewish donors have been prominent in applying pressure on them. On the other hand, at UCLA, most professors have been very critical of both the police and the university authorities.

There seems to be a change in how younger generations in the U.S. perceive Israel and its ties with Washington compared to older generations. Surveys indicate that fewer members of Generation Z hold a favorable opinion of Israel. What do you think could

be the reasons for this shift?

The main factor I think is that older generations had grown up viewing on their televisions not only Israeli violence, but also violence and wars launched by Arabs against Israel. These were also linked by many to the Holocaust, which has been a great legitimization for the state of Israel. Generation Z has only seen Israeli violence in the West Bank, (except for October 7th) culminating in the horrors of Gaza. But there has also been increasing immigration of Muslims into the US, and immigrants tend to be young.

Do you believe that Washington's unwavering support for Israel and its disregard for domestic dissent could be harmful in the long run?

It's very harmful to Palestinians, obviously. And it will likely increase the appeal of violent tactics to young Palestinians. Hamas or something like it will re-emerge. And that is not good news for Israel. But I am not optimistic that Washington will change.

Do you anticipate that U.S. students will eventually succeed in achieving divestment from Israel at their universities? Could this influence Washington's foreign policy in the long run as well?

Some will, some won't. But it will have very little effect on US foreign policy. I can't be optimistic about this whole problem.



‘Empathy, not hate, fuels pro-Palestine demonstrations’



In his interview with the Tehran Times, Robert L. Reece, an Austin-based sociologist and researcher, discusses the growing pro-Palestine demonstrations on U.S. university campuses, responding to allegations that these protests are rooted in antisemitism.

Addressing a range of issues, from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's dismissive remarks about student activists to the parallels between the pro-Palestine movement and Black Lives Matter, Reece empha-

sized that empathy and a desire for justice are at the heart of these demonstrations. They also criticized the heavy-handed police responses on campuses and raised concerns about the long-term impact of such actions on the academic environment and U.S. foreign policy.

Reece holds a PhD in sociology from Duke University and is an associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin.

The full text of the interview is as follows:

What do you believe has been the main driving force behind the pro-Palestine demonstrations at U.S. universities? Do you align with some officials who claim these protests have been in-

fluenced by antisemitism?

Of course, this isn't driven by antisemitism. The powers that be in the United States are so driven by hate, they hate immigrants and poor people and people of color and Muslims and feminists, that they have a hard time conceptualizing that people can be driven by empathy and love. Those are the driving forces behind the demonstrations. People see the suffering of the Palestinian people and are drawn to help. They want to end the suffering. This is nothing about hate, and everything about love and care.

How do you feel about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's remarks during his speech to the U.S. Congress, where he referred

to student demonstrators as "useful idiots" and suggested they were being funded by Iran?

His comments almost sound as if they're from a right-wing playbook. This is the stock response whenever people begin to push back against right wing policies and violence. They almost always claim that the demonstrators have no agency or independent thoughts and that they are being funded by some conspiratorial political entity. Frankly, I'm disappointed by the lack of originality.

The police response at the University of Texas has been among the most intense seen at American universities. Do you consider this response to be justified and appropriate?

Incredibly inappropriate. These students paid to be here. They and their parents and communities pay for this space with their taxes. They have the right to demonstrate on their own campus without the threat of violence from law enforcement emboldened by the administration. Assembly and protest are constitutionally protected rights and the university demonstrated nothing but hypocrisy by deploying law enforcement against these students in the name of protecting the campus. The students ARE the campus.

Do you observe any parallels between the Black Lives Matter movement and the protests advocating for Palestine?

Definitely. Both series of protests were motivated by people's desire for justice while they were being gaslit by the people in charge, who tried to convince everyone else that the protestors were the problem, that the protestors were the violent ones, rather than the violence that led to the protests. This is archetypical of movements in the United States. The government uses violence against its own citizens for asking that they stop using violence.

In your opinion, has the strong reaction from university administrators and local authorities to student protests negatively impacted the academic atmosphere at American universities?

Universities now appear less trustworthy and less safe than they already were. Students and faculty have received an acute reminder that they, the backbones of the university system, are expendable if it means protecting the violent interests of the administration and military. How can universities claim to be places of free expression if students and faculty are arrested for doing just that?

What are the potential long-term consequences of the growing pro-Palestine student movement on US foreign policy?

Honestly, I don't know. Hopefully the pressure forces the United States to divest some of its financial and military support, but this country has proven its resilience to calls for it to cease violence abroad.



Samir Abu-Rumman, a visiting researcher scholar at Princeton University, has dedicated years to studying American public opinion on the Israeli-Arab conflict. His 2013 book, "Arab-Israeli Conflict in American Opinion Polls," concluded that Americans were remarkably pro-Israel. However, Abu-Rumman believes that sentiment is shifting in 2024.

In response to the Tehran Times' inquiry about this potential change, he shared his insights:

My book, "Arab-Israeli Conflict in American Opinion Polls," explored American public opinion on the conflict between 1991 and 2008, while also considering the previous 50 years for a comprehensive

understanding. My research revealed a consistent pro-Israel bias in American public opinion, a stark reality that cannot be ignored. However, there are nuances. When it comes to specific issues like a Palestinian state, settlements, and the return of refugees, opinions sometimes align more closely with the Palestinian perspective.

Public sentiment can fluctuate based on events and crises, often leading to harsher criticism of Palestinians than Israel. Even those acknowledging possible Israeli overreach often view Palestinian reactions and protests as excessive, overlooking the role the occupation itself plays in driving these responses. The occupation is at the heart of the conflict, fuelling aggression, conflict, and war.

American public opinion is diverse, and shaped by a complex interplay of factors like media coverage, personal beliefs, and education. I believe a new generation, particularly

'Younger American generations gazing deeper into Palestinian issue'



since the 2008 Gaza conflict, has shown a shift towards greater criticism of Israel and support for Palestine, especially among younger generations. This shift, fuelled in part by social media and a move away from pro-Israel bias in mainstream media, is encouraging.

However, caution and realism are necessary. The influence of pro-Israel lobbies in the U.S., evident in the actions of politicians, cannot be overlooked. It's crucial to differentiate between genuine pro-Palestine support and simply desiring a fair resolution. American public opinion

is not monolithic, and while a shift is occurring, it might not be as dramatic as we hope. Change takes time, and while some progress is happening, the situation is complex and demands careful consideration.

'World now sees Israel as a society of monsters'



Norman Finkelstein, an American political scientist and activist born to Jewish survivors of the Second World War, has dedicated his career to analyzing the politics of the Holocaust and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Finkelstein expressed a bleak assessment of Israel's current state, arguing that the regime has suffered profound losses in the past year, particularly in terms of public opinion and its very humanity.

Finkelstein believes that Israel's actions, particularly in Gaza, have alienated the world, leading to a dramatic erosion of the regime's global standing. This loss of public opinion, he argues, is a significant blow to the regime's ability to operate on the world stage. Furthermore, Finkelstein contends that Israel's actions have eroded its very humanity, turning its society into bloodthirsty monsters.

Below are his remarks on what Israel has lost in the past year:

The events of the past year have fundamentally shifted global perceptions of both Israel and, unfortunately, Judaism itself. While I wouldn't call Jewish people victims in this situation, the fact remains that Israel's actions, particularly in Gaza, have led many to conflate the regime's policies with Judaism, resulting in a rise of anti-Semitism. This is further exacerbated by the blatant support Israel receives from powerful Jewish figures in the United States, fueling the misconception that Jewish interests are inextricably tied to Israel's aggressive agenda.

It is essential to acknowledge that this isn't about political correctness. It's true that the actions of a state do not define an entire religion. However, the consequences of Israel's actions are undeniable. They have not only alienated the world but also created a dangerous precedent for how Jews are perceived.

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, famously remarked during World War II that there was only one thing worse than being a Jew at that time: being a German. It is a tragic irony that people who claimed they want to create a new home founded on the principle of refuge from persecution now embody the very violence and brutality they used to criticize. This is not simply about the loss of international support or moral standing; it is a fundamental loss of humanity. The



Israelis, in their pursuit of power and control, have become the very monsters they claim to fear. Israel is now a society of monsters; monsters that are willing to do anything to get rid of the indigenous people of the land they have occupied.

So, while it is true that Israel has lost public opinion and the world is increas-

ingly growing critical of the regime, I think the most important thing Israelis have lost in the past year is the last drops of their humanity. We know that 95% of Israelis have said they support the genocide that's taking place in Gaza.



Pro-Palestine protests on American university campuses by the numbers

9 About 9% of American university students across the United States took part in Gaza solidarity protests beginning in November of 2023

3300 Over 3,300 people have been arrested or detained in universities across the United States since November of 2023.

167 Encampments, walkouts, sit-ins, or occupations have taken place on at least 167 American campuses

3 Student protesters in different American universities have had different sets of demands. But there are 3 main demands frequently put forth by them: transparency over financial ties with Israel, end to partnerships with Israeli institutions, or severing of financial ties with the Israeli regime

6 9 universities across the U.S. canceled their graduation ceremonies in 2024 to avoid the occurrence of anti-Israeli protests

16 So far, 16 American universities have agreed to fully or partially divest from Israeli institutions

45 out of 50 U.S. states have seen university students protest against the war in Gaza and ask for divestment from Israeli institutions

200 Over 200 rights groups have exposed solidarity with pro-Palestinian student protests

45

