

Some Persian Gulf states begging American protection: Palestinian lawyer

From page 1 ▶ surround Jerusalem and its neighborhoods, exercising terrible security tightening on all Palestinians, once this operation came as a game-changer to question all of the Israeli security systems.

This process took its echoes in all of occupied Palestine, in addition to the Arab and Islamic interaction with it, where it renewed the conflict between the executioner and the victim.

It showed that the Palestinians are able to resist under pressure and under all complicated circumstances; they adhere to the resistance as a way to liberate Palestine and counter the oppression.

The Jerusalem operation given to its implementation by a man over the age of forty came after a similar operation by a 16-year-old person which indicates that all segments of the Palestinian society support the act of resistance to defeat the occupying side.

The Zionist sources consider every operation carried out by the Palestinians as an act of terrorism. What's your reply?

Heavenly books and international laws guarantee the right of peoples to self-determination and to defend their lands in the case of any occupation.

Palestine is occupied land, and Israel has been established on the ruins of Palestinian land after hundreds of massacres the Zionists committed against the indigenous population from 1948 until today. The Palestinians have the right to defend themselves and their land in the face of occupation.

There is Israeli violence before any case of Palestinian violence, but Israeli violence is terrorism by virtue of occupation, while Palestinian violence is an act of legitimate resistance against the Zionist occupation.

Equality between the occupying power and the people under occupation is part of the upturned international scales, which contradict the spirit of international law, which denies the oppressive measures of the current international community led by the United States and the European states.

What is your comment on the British government's decision to



outlaw Hamas as a terrorist organization? How it can affect the course of the resistance and struggle in Palestine?

Britain does not have the right to classify peoples, states and parties. It is a continuation of misguided arrogance against oppressed peoples.

Britain is engaged in establishing the Israeli regime in 1948 through the facilities it provided for the Zionists to immigrate to Palestine during the occupation period from 1917 to 1948.

Instead of apologizing as atonement for its injustice against the Palestinian people, Britain continues its arrogance in the face of the right by the Palestinian people to resist occupation.

Britain has classified the Al-Qasam Brigades as a terrorist organization and is now seeking to gain the confidence of the House of Commons to vote on designating the political wing of Hamas as a terrorist organization as well.

I do not think that this will affect Hamas directly, but this decision will be used in the face of the British people, who came out by hundreds of thousands during the Battle of Sword of Jerusalem, denouncing the crimes committed by Israel and affirming the right of the Palestinians

to resist the Zionists.

There is an actual popular movement among the British public, rejecting Israel and emphasizing rights of the Palestinian people; this is what the Zionist lobbies in London fear in light of the sharp division in the Labor Party over the concepts of anti-Semitism, and in light of the desire of the Conservative party to support the Zionist and compliance with its orders.

Can you update us about the living and health conditions in Gaza in light of the siege and the outbreak of Corona?

The Israel continues to practice the harshest siege on the Gaza Strip, and besiege it by land, sea and air; the Strip is suffering difficult conditions due to the Corona pandemic under the siege.

It often prevents the entry of required amounts of vaccinations and bans many medicines, treatments and medical supplies needed to confront Corona and the difficult medical conditions.

Israel is the one who controls all crossings into Gaza, controls all human and commercial crossings, and monitors everything that enters the Gaza Strip.

The resistance is trying to put pressure on Israel through mediators, especially the Egyptian and

Qatari sides, but the achievements are still limited in the absence of international pressure on the Israeli regime that obliges it to comply with international norms.

How do you see the efforts made by Persian Gulf Arab states to establish security in the region, which were represented in the Manama Dialogue 2021?

I think that the Manama Dialogue is a call for an escalation in the region and not an effort for pacification.

The (Persian) Gulf is still begging American protection, and it has not yet come out of the idea of the possibility of cooperation between the countries of the region to establish the foundations of stability, while Iran always calls for it.

The (Persian) Gulf the Arab states still believe that Washington can determine international equations and provide them with protection. That is why they welcome every American statement emphasizing this matter, neglecting the disastrous American defeat in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

In fact, the Americans are concerned with their interests only at the expense of the people of this region.

Normalization of ties with Israel will not bring stability to the region because it is a temporary and fleeting regime.

It is not possible to rely on these dialogues and meetings with the presence of the Americans and the Israelis, who spare no effort to undermine the sovereignty of countries and rob their wealth.

Serious and real dialogue is the dialogue between the countries and players of the region, which will help in resolving crises and overcoming obstacles.

The (Persian) Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are playing an unconstructive role in the region. The Yemeni crisis, which led to the worst images of a collapsed state, especially on the humanitarian level, is caused by Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

They are still convinced of the military solution in Yemen, which has proven to be a complete failure.

Can the seventh Vienna negotiation bring good luck to JCPOA?

By Hongda Fan

On November 29th, the seventh round of the Vienna negotiations on JCPOA will begin. Can the United States and Iran reach an agreement on revival of JCPOA? This has once again become a focus issue.

Since President Raisi took office in early August 2021, the new Iranian administration has not been very active in the Vienna JCPOA negotiations. After winning the presidential election in June, President-elect Raisi made it clear that the foreign policy of the new Iranian government will not be limited to the nuclear agreement.

However, Iran has also repeatedly stated that it does not oppose returning to the JCPOA negotiations. Raisi administration has insisted that the United States must lift its unjust sanctions against Iran first, and that there is no point in continuing the previous negotiations that will not yield positive results. Iran also believes that future JCPOA negotiations in Vienna cannot involve Iran's missile development and regional policy.

In the past few months, in order to push Iran to return to the negotiating table in Vienna, the United States has continued to communicate with Russia, Britain, France, Germany, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and China. On August 24, the U.S. special envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, said in an interview that the United States "is prepared to make compromises 'on difficult issues' if Tehran does the same."

In fact, both the United States and Iran do not want to give up the revival of the JCPOA. Without the constraint of the JCPOA, Iran's nuclear project will be more difficult to control. This is certainly not what the United States expects to see. Meanwhile, it seems that if Tehran does not return to full compliance of the JCPOA the U.S. sanctions on Iran will continue.

For the time being, I think Washington's demand for JCPOA is more urgent than that of Tehran. America's "Maximum Pressure" has indeed had a serious impact on Iran, and Iran used to be more eager than the United States to revive JCPOA. However, the successive rounds of the Vienna negotiations failed to achieve the desired results. This disappointed the Iranian side. In addition, the U.S. failure in Afghanistan not only further eases the external pressure on Iran, but also shows that U.S. interest in the Middle East (West Asia) is declining.

Also, according to the relevant provisions of the JCPOA, Iran has the right to redevelop its nuclear program if other signatories fail to perform the JCPOA. In fact, Iran has already done so and has made major advances in its nuclear program. Moreover, in recent years Iran has increasingly emphasized eastward diplomacy and Iran's relations with China and Russia are deepening.

These new trends make the United States and its allies hope to resume the JCPOA as soon as possible, so as to eliminate the challenges posed by Iran's nuclear development. And, considering Iran's Geopolitical position that can't be ignored,

these countries also hope to establish normal or good relations with Iran.

However, there is still a seemingly insurmountable gap between ideal and reality. Many sanctions imposed by the United States on Iran are supported by law and cannot be lifted quickly through executive orders. Moreover, there are still strong anti-Iran and anti-JCPOA voices in the United States. The internal politics of the United States has determined that the sanctions against Iran are difficult to lift in a short time.

On the other hand, it is also difficult for Iran to agree to include missile and regional policy issues in the JCPOA negotiations. And, there are also strong anti-American and anti-JCPOA feelings in Iran. Iran's internal politics has also determined that it is difficult to compromise in the struggle against the United States.

In other words, it seems that neither Washington nor Tehran can meet each other's public demands. Will the seventh round of talks end in fruitless, or will a major breakthrough be made? This mainly depends on the actual attitude of the United States and Iran in the next negotiations.

Once bitten, twice shy. Iran requires the United States to promise not to withdraw once it returns to the JCPOA. Compared with other controversial issues, I think it is possible for the United States

and Iran to reach a consensus on this issue. Also, the United States has room for lifting some sanctions against Iran and helping Iran take back some assets that have been frozen abroad.

As for the issues of Iran's missile and regional policies, the United States can't expect to solve new problems within the old framework. Although Iran does not agree to discuss these two issues in the JCPOA negotiations, can new negotiations be opened outside the JCPOA negotiations to deal with these two issues? If it can get something to make its regime more stable and its country better, is it sure that Iran will not consider discussing missile and regional policy issues?

It is foreseeable that if this upcoming round of negotiations is still as fruitless as the previous rounds, Iran will be more passive towards such negotiations in the future. Moreover, because of the increasingly urgent domestic need for nuclear energy, Iran will almost certainly continue to strengthen its nuclear program. Of course, if this is the case, the United States will not lift sanctions on Iran. In this way, all stories will return to the beginning.

In my opinion, in the current background of competition among major powers, the United States will not spend too much resources in Iran. Iran, whose people are increasingly dissatisfied, also needs a better international environment for development. The United States and Iran have a common need to ease tensions. So, the upcoming JCPOA negotiations in Vienna can be given some cautious optimism.

Hongda Fan is a Professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University in China.

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UN warns of catastrophic Yemen death toll

From page 1 ▶ In fact, soon after the war, the UN stopped updating its death toll because it was difficult for the world body to get an accurate picture of what was happening on the ground. The airstrikes struck UN run health facilities and other services that forced the UN to order many of its personnel out of the country. Other humanitarian and medical agencies such as Doctors Without Borders were also forced to leave because their facilities were repeatedly hit by airstrikes and they too lost members of staff.

Therefore, it is safe to say that the figure of 154,000 killed due to direct combat and violence, provided by the study is not entirely credible and could be a modest number of the real death toll. For instance, in 2018, three years after the war started, the UN death toll remained static at around 10,000, despite the war starting in March 2015. This is while other monitoring groups such as the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project conducted research that found "56,000 civilians and combat-



ants between January 2016 and October 2018." That was its initial results. At the time, the independent group which studies armed conflicts estimated up to 80,000 victims (within the same time frame) when it concluded the research. The absence of real figures for the death toll in Yemen made it easier for western powers to shrug off accusations they are complicit in a human disaster; despite making hundreds of billions of dollars in profit from the war through arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

However, the 68-page report (involving the United Nations, the UN Development Program (UNDP), and some Member States of the United Nations), titled assessing the impact of the war in Yemen - pathways for recovery, makes an interesting read and does reveal the extent of the damage the war is having on Yemen.

According to the study, it has led to urgent, widespread humanitarian and development crises and resulted in significant damage to the economy, physical infrastructure, service provision, health, and education systems, as well as the social fabric of the country. It has also caused hundreds of thousands of deaths. While many of these are the result of direct violence, others are due to the war's indirect effects, including a lack of food and degraded living conditions.

It compares the current reality in Yemen to a scenario where no war ever erupted. The deaths from the war are overwhelmingly made up of young children who are especially vulnerable to under and malnutrition.

The most disturbing line in the report; that in 2021 "a Yemeni child under the age of five dies every nine minutes because of the conflict"; another stark reminder of the effect this war is having on children and the silence of the international community to address and deal with this issue speaks volumes. Profit ahead of a child dying every nine minutes from preventable causes will split history in two factions over this conflict. Those who waged, backed and supported a side purely for profit and those who backed and supported a side to end the conflict and called for peace talks between all "Yemeni" parties to end the war. According to the study, if the war continues through 2030, a child will die every five minutes. In 2019, a similar assessment found a child dying every 12 minutes, so it's a significant increase since then.

When comparing Yemen's current situation to a scenario without war, the reports estimated the country has lost a cumulative US\$126 billion in potential gross domestic product (GDP) since 2015. In addition, 15.6 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty and 8.6 million more people into undernutrition. 22.2 million more people may potentially be forced into poverty and 9.2 million more

people may also experience malnutrition.

The study says that since the Cold War era, the war on Yemen has been among the most destructive that have ever occurred. Another shocking point the reports reveals is that the indirect effects have been so immense, it has setback human development by more than two decades.

Frequently referred to as the greatest humanitarian disaster in the world, the study finds that the effects of war extend well beyond the loss of human life by reducing economic activity, pushing people into poverty, and increasing malnutrition. While the war has proven to be both lasting and devastating, the UN says these costs should encourage serious reflection on the future path of the country and motivate all sides towards a sustained and inclusive political settlement.

Yemeni activists say they have lost hope with the United Nations and its reports or statements. The UN backed 2018 Stockholm agreement was supposed to end the fighting in the key strategic port city of Hodeidah where 90 percent of vital lifesaving commodities enter the country. Since that agreement, instead of peace, Yemeni officials say Hodeidah has witnessed a sharp rise in fighting. Only recently have Saudi backed militants fled the city (around last month) and headed to Ma'rib did the UN called for a revival of the stalled peace talks, which raised eyebrows and question marks in Sana'a.

The UN backed report makes assumptions that the war ends for all recovery scenarios, but refrains from making any "assessment or assumption" regarding how this war can end. The report "does not aim to provide guidance for achieving and sustaining peace as it is beyond our scope."

It is for reasons like this that Yemeni officials and activists based in Yemen say they have given up on the world body coming to their rescue and they must resist the aggression with self reliance.

The reality is many assumptions can be made on how to end this man made crisis and how to pressure some parties to sit at the table and accept there is no way forward in fighting anymore, this is quite a simple assumption. In fact, it's more than that; it's a solution. The only path forward to end this crisis of untold magnitudes must be through peace talks between all the parties involved. This of course, is where the United Nations can play a much more active practical role in ending the now seven year war, before many more are killed or starve to death.

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