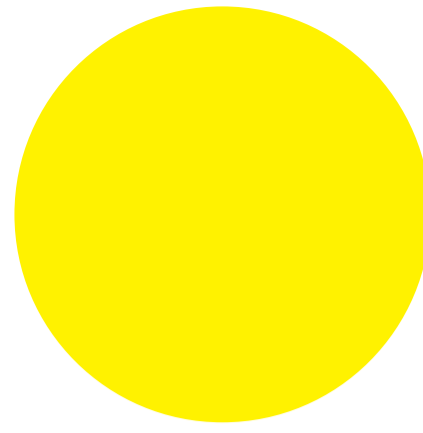


**Leader:** Iran's permanent policy is to support Palestinian resistance



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# The Islamic Republic of Yemen

How did the Yemeni resistance manage to achieve high deterrence capabilities against Israel by drawing inspiration from the Islamic Republic of Iran?

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Yemenis gather during a pro-Palestinian protest to express solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, in Sanaa, Yemen, on October 20, 2023. **REUTERS**

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## CBI says foreign debt shrinks



CBI - Iran's foreign debt at the end of the fourth Iranian month (July 22, 2023) decreased by \$1.576 billion compared to a year earlier, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced.

According to the CBI's report, the total foreign debt of the country stood at \$5.597 billion on July 22. The foreign debt of the country in July 2022 stood at \$7.173 billion, CBI added.

## Trade with EAEU tops \$4b in seven months



TASNIM - The value of trade between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in the first seven months of the current Iranian year (March 21-October 22) reached \$4.258 billion.

In the said period, Iran exported \$922 million worth of products to EAEU member states and imported \$3.33 billion of non-oil goods from those countries, according to the latest statistics.

## Tehran, Dushanbe to foster agricultural cooperation

IRNA - Iran and Tajikistan stressed strengthening bilateral cooperation in the fields of water, soil and agriculture as well as modern irrigational systems. Speaking at a meeting with the Tajik delegation on the sidelines of the 25th Congress of the International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage (ICID), Iran's Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Water and Soil Affairs Safdar Niyazi Shahraki reiterated that the two countries have rolled up their sleeves for expanding bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture. Given that the International Drainage Workshop will be held in Tajikistan next year, cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan should also expand in this field, he said.

## Iran enjoys 'unique position' in China's New Silk Road project: VP

## Economy Desk

Iran's Vice President Mohammad Mokhber said the country has a "unique" position in China's giant New Silk Road project, also known as the Belt and Road Initiative.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum in Shanghai on Sunday, Mokhber enumerated Iran's capacities in the fields of economy, oil and gas resources, minerals and human development index, Press TV reported.

"Iran's position and infrastructure is unique in the Silk Road," he said, referring to the giant project that involves a wave of Chinese funding for infrastructure projects around the world, in a bid to speed Chinese goods to markets further afield. Mokhber also noted that Iran is geographically situated "at the connection center of the Middle East, Asia and Europe," with land and maritime borders with 15 countries and a population of over 600 million.

"It also has 2,700 kilometers of maritime borders, long beaches, Chabahar and Jask ocean ports, as well as a corridor route between the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman and the Caspian Sea, and transit infrastructure along the Silk Road," he added. "In terms of its geo-political situation, Iran connects East and Southeast Asia to Europe and vice versa as a historical and economic bridge."

CIIE is a six-day multi-sector trade show for imported products from all over the world and is the largest event on China's international trade calendar. The annual event was launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2018 to promote the country's free trade credentials and tackle criticism of its trade surplus with many partners.

Opening Iran's pavilion Following the inauguration ceremony, Mokhber, accompanied by the prime ministers of China, Cuba, Australia, Serbia, Kazakhstan, African countries and a group of managers of international organizations, visited Iran's pavilion at the CIIE 2023. Iran and China have long been civilizational neighbors as well as capable partners in the field of commercial and economic interactions, the first vice president said.

The active presence of Iranian companies and economic bodies in the CIIE shows the mutual will and favorable conditions for making fruitful leaps in the relations between the two countries, Mokhber added. More than 50 companies and 250 Iranian businessmen participated in the event. On the sidelines of the CIIE 2023, Mokhber discussed the development of bilateral economic cooperation with Manuel Marrero Cruz, the prime minister of Cuba on Sunday. The level of economic relations

does not correspond to the political relations of the two countries, as there are many areas of cooperation between Tehran and Havana, while the capacities of the two countries complement each other, the Iranian official said.

Iran's 'significant' volume of exports to China Speaking before his trip, Mokhber said that Iran has a "significant" volume of exports to China



Iran's Vice President Mohammad Mokhber speaks at the opening ceremony of the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) on November 5, 2023. [fjpresident.ir](http://fjpresident.ir)

and that the two countries enjoy a good trade balance. He also hailed strategic relations and proper cooperation between Tehran and Beijing in different sectors. President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to China led to good understandings and agreements that need to be followed up, he said, stressing the need to remove obstacles to fully implement the agreements.

'CIIE can help expand Iran's exports to China'

Meanwhile, Mehdi Safari, Iranian deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, said that CIIE can help expand Iran's exports to China by \$2 billion to \$3 billion. China is one of the target countries for Iran's exports, while good agreements have been reached to boost trade, he told IRNA news agency. Iran's trade with China reached almost \$16 billion in 2022, up seven percent from 2021.

## Iran to overcome obstacles for Indian investment in Chabahar port

By Sadeq Dehqan & Yeganeh Kiani  
Staff writers

Iran is to remove the legal obstacles to continue the implementation of the long-term agreement with India for the development of Chabahar as quickly as possible so that the country's investment in Chabahar port can resume, said Esmail Hossein-Zehi, the vice chairman of the Construction Commission of the Islamic Council.

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Hossein-Zehi explained that for several years, the Indians have expressed their willingness to invest in the development of the export capacity of Chabahar port. Based on this, a cooperation agreement was signed between the two countries. However, during this time, the port development operations have not progressed according to plan.

Iran and India's cooperation for the development of Chabahar port was formalized through an agreement in 2016, with India committing to invest \$500 million in the development of Shahid Beheshti port in Chabahar. The development of Shahid Beheshti port strengthens Iran's north-south corridor, and is not only important for Iran but also holds significance in terms of fast and cost-effective transportation of goods for countries in the Caucasus region, as well as from India to China.

The planning and development studies of Shahid Beheshti port in Chabahar were carried out as part of the Chabahar Port Development Project, in five phases, with a minimum capacity of 80 million tons per year. However, to date, only the first phase of the port, with a capacity of eight million tons per year, has become operational since 2017. Since

the port was exempted from the sanctions, it was expected to progress rapidly but it has progressed slowly.

It appears that the Indians have not been in a hurry to fulfill their commitments at Chabahar port. Some critics believe that India, from the beginning, was not the right choice for cooperation in the development of Chabahar port; and that China should have been used instead. India is said to have oriented its foreign policy towards expanding relations with the United States and, as a result, it lacks motivation for cooperation in the development of Chabahar port.

China was willing to invest in Chabahar port from the beginning of the Chabahar port project, but since Iran had already entered into a contract with India, the possibility of the cooperation did not materialize, Hossein-Zehi noted.

It seems that both sides have legal disputes with each other, for example, on issues like how to resolve disagreements that may arise in the execution of the contract at any given time, and who should arbitrate. Naturally, both countries pursue their own interests in the cooperation, and there must be specific regulations and institutions in place that can arbitrate between the two parties and enforce their authority, the official added.

Hossein-Zehi described Chabahar as one of the country's important and strategic ports, adding that Chabahar is a port that opens up to the world's high seas but, so far, we have not been able to fully utilize its export capacities.

Given the considerable distance between Chabahar and the central part of Iran, and even Khorasan Province in the north, the country should provide road and rail transportation capacities so

that goods can be swiftly transported from various parts of the country to the port.

Unfortunately, currently a significant part of the exporting goods from various parts of the country is transferred to Bandar Imam or Bandar Abbas, and then reloaded towards Chabahar. However, some steps should be taken to transport goods directly to Chabahar.

Direct transportation of some goods, including livestock and mineral products, to Chabahar port is underway at the moment, and since Chabahar port has the capability to accommodate 8,000-ton ships, the government should facilitate the direct shipment of other goods to this port as well.

Currently, less than five percent of the country's maritime exports are conducted through Chabahar. However, considering the capacities of the port, the figure can be increased to 70 percent.

## Seven-month transit up by 22%

## Economy Desk



Recently published figures show that 7.917 million tons of goods have been transited from Iran during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21), which indicates a 22% growth compared to the same period last year, said the Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development Shahriar Afandizadeh.

During the seven-month period, the transits of oil and non-oil goods have shown a 34.12% in-

crease with 2.387 million tons and a 17.49% increase with 5.530 million tons, respectively, compared to last year, according to ISNA.

The road transport sector saw approximately 90% of the total transit from the country, equivalent to 7.121 million tons, while rail transport's share was only 796,000 tons. The country's road transport witnessed a 25.76% growth compared to the same period last year.

Iran recorded 1.377 million tons of transit from September 23 to

October 22 of 2023, marking a year-on-year increase of 74%.

During that one-month period, road transit of both oil and non-oil goods demonstrated a growth of 182.7% and 48.1% with figures of 413.864 tons and 821.775 tons, respectively, compared to the corresponding period of 2022.

Oil and non-oil goods transited via rail from the country in the month from September 23, 2023, were registered at 142,000 tons, showing a 57.06% growth.



# Grand Mosque of Qazvin in need of restoration



IRNA

## Iranica Desk

The city of Qazvin, the capital of Qazvin Province, known as the heaven of historical treasures, has a majestic 1000-year-old mosque, adorned with a mesmerizing turquoise dome. This architectural marvel stands as a symbol of the city's rich heritage, unwavering faith, deep appreciation for art, and the love of its people.

The Atiq Grand Mosque, also known as the Grand Mosque of Qazvin, holds the esteemed title of being one of Iran's largest and most ancient grand mosques. This magnificent building is recognized as Iran's largest four-*ivan* mosque, showcasing architectural marvels from different eras throughout history.

The original structure of the ancient mosque was built on a fire temple, dating back to the Sassanid era. Currently, the majority of the fire temple remains can be found within the southern section of the monument.

This magnificent mosque was built upon the order of Harun al-Rashid, the fifth Abbasid caliph, in 808 CE. Sadly, during the devastat-

ing Mongol invasion of Qazvin, a significant portion of the mosque, including its splendid southern *ivan* (portico), was razed to the ground. However, in the following years, dedicated efforts led to its restoration and reconstruction, ensuring that its glory and significance endure.

As tourists step into the grand courtyard of the Atiq Mosque, they are instantly mesmerized by the breathtaking magnificence of this historical treasure. Spanning over 4,000 square meters, this mosque proudly displays the pinnacle of Islamic and traditional architecture. Its awe-inspiring dome, adorned with exquisite tilework, and the elegant minarets that grace its surroundings, truly embody the essence of grandeur and cultural heritage.

In order to preserve and restore the deteriorated dome of this magnificent mosque, various sections, including the dome chamber and courtyards, have been equipped with scaffoldings for the past 50 years. However, these restoration efforts have been delayed and the presence of scaffoldings has hindered the use of some

parts of the mosque's sacred space. Director General of Qazvin Province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization Alireza Khazaeli said, "The installation of the scaffoldings during the initial phase is intended to ensure the preservation and conservation of the mosque's dome. However, the repairs have not yet been completed."

"Based on the contract between Qazvin University Jihad and our team, highly qualified young experts specializing in conservation and structural engineering are working together to carefully remove the scaffoldings of the mosque. Their expertise ensures the preservation and maintenance of this historical site, symbolizing our dedication to safeguarding our cultural heritage," he said.

Conducted studies show that there are some weaknesses in the structure of the ancient dome of the mosque. However, the consultant has come up with recommendations to rectify these weaknesses.

Ali Delzendeh, the manager of the project for restoring and rein-

forcing the dome of the mosque, emphasized the historical significance of the monument, making it one of the most crucial projects in the entire province. It is imperative that this building, along with other historical structures throughout Iran, be preserved by the expertise of Iranian engineers and experts. Experience demonstrates that placing trust in Iranian experts ensures the success of restoration projects.

He noted that in the late 1940s, an Italian team, based on their experience in diagnosing damages to Western structures and even Iranian buildings, studied and examined solutions for the restoration of the Grand Mosque of Qazvin. As a result, they installed scaffolding in the mosque.

"The related studies were done in three stages. The first and second stages were carried out with planning and presenting questions, then examining them and providing the results and solutions. In the third stage, the proposed solution is reviewed and re-evaluated to ensure the main restoration and repair of the building is done with complete confidence."



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## Hamedan, a tale of ancient origins and qanat legacy

Many historical records highlight Hamedan as one of the oldest cities that Persians have ever founded. The fame of Hamedan is mostly indebted to Medes tribes who came together to form the Median Kingdom in the eighth century BCE. Hamedan that was called Ecbatana at the time retained its importance as a summer residence under the Achaemenid Persian kings. Nevertheless, Hamedan's history goes back to as early as stone and copper ages, between 6,000 and 3,100 BCE. During Bronze Age (3100-1500 BCE), Hamedan enjoyed an urban development to which the archaeological site of Pisa northwest of the present-day Hamedan bears witness. The archeological excavations in Pisa revealed a variety of evidences related to the Bronze Age, and the upper layers were awash with Parthian objects. Although Hamedan precedes all known historical empires, the oldest written mention of Hamedan has been discovered in the inscription of Nabonidus who was the last

king of the Babylonian Empire between 556 and 539 BCE.

The next mention of Hamedan has been found in the Bisotoun inscription where Darius the Great describes his victory in 520 BCE suppressing a Median rebellion in

Ecbatana as the rebels' headquarters. The Greek historian Herodotus (484-425 BCE) provides us with valuable information about Hamedan and its development by Deioces as the Medes' capital. Polybius another Greek historian (208-125 BCE) provides more detail about Hamedan that had risen to fame for horse breeding and grain production. Ctesias the Greek physician and historian who served at the court of Persian kings from 416 to 398 BCE ascribes the foundation of Hamedan to the legendary Assyrian queen Semiramis as follows: "When Semiramis arrived in the region of Hamedan, on a flat plain she built a palace more gorgeous than any other palaces she had ever erected. She ordered that a long canal be



An old qanat in Qasemabad village of Hamedan  
rokna.net

dug from Alvand Mountain to Hamedan to supply water". Ctesias's account shows that even in ancient times the prosperity of Hamedan plain was contingent on the water that had to be transferred from Alvand elevations. What Ctesias says about digging a long canal may be an allusion to the tradition of qanat construction that had long been common in the region. We

cannot claim that Ctesias actually means qanat by mentioning such water transfer structures, until we look into the original text to see what word has been translated into "canal". What we can take for granted is the fact that qanats and their irrigation network have always played a crucial role in Hamedan's agricultural production systems. For example, in Ecbatana the

archeological excavations unearthed a network of water canals meandering along the streets of an urban fabric that dates back to the Parthian and Sassanian periods. The remains of those canals are expressive of the important status of water supply systems in the city's socio-economic.

After the invasion of Arabs, Hamedan retained its political and economic status. Although Hamedan remained as an economic hub, its population started to dwindle. Since mid-ninth century, the people who were the descendants of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) migrated to Hamedan in droves until they took control of the city. Their reign lasted for four centuries. In 891 CE, Hamedan has been described as a huge city that afforded to pay an annual tax of six million dirhams, which is a tremendous amount of money that was collected from the farmers and traders. From 931 CE onward, Hamedan was repeatedly invaded. The invaders demolished the city's walls and fortification to make its in-

habitants surrender. At the time, there were two stone lion statues that were gorgeously built on the city's main gate, but both were smashed to pieces by the invaders. Many geographers and travelers who visited Hamedan in tenth century described it as a huge city, which enjoyed a city wall, fortification, watch towers, four iron gates, adobe houses, springs, water ditches and beautiful gardens.

The historical records leave no doubt that Hamedan has always enjoyed plenty of qanats and springs and its urban organization was under the influence of water resources and their geographical distribution. In Hamedan, over the course of history, geometrical formation of urban fabric has been affected by six factors: Food supply, access to greenery, social bonds, security, livelihood and eventually water supply, especially qanats. In Hamedan, qanat could have changed the city's cultural landscape and created a different human ecology, which has defied the natural limitations.



# The Islamic Republic of Yemen

How did the Yemeni resistance manage to achieve high deterrence capabilities against Israel by drawing inspiration from the Islamic Republic of Iran?



The group known as Ansarullah (the Houthis) are Zaidis from the northern region of Yemen, particularly in the province of Saada, where they have lived for centuries. They follow the teachings of Zaid bin Ali bin Hussein (PBUH). Zaid bin Ali is regarded by both Sunni and Shia scholars as a righteous man who fought corruption.

In the 1930s, with the rise of the Al Saud family and their incursion into Zaidi territories, the Houthis entered into conflict with the Saudis. In 1962, with the support of Gamal Abdel Nasser, a revolution took place against the Zaidi imam, leading to the formation of an Arab nationalist state with its capital in Sanaa.

Subsequently, Ali Abdullah Saleh, a Zaidi military officer, came to power in 1978 and remained in power until 2011. In the 1990s, the Houthi movement, led by Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, rose against Ali Abdullah Saleh. In 2003, during the period of the American invasion of Iraq, the Ansarullah movement, led by Hussein al-Houthi, was reformed. They engaged in several rounds of warfare against the dictatorial government of Abdullah Saleh. Ultimately, in 2004, Hussein al-Houthi and 300 of his comrades attained martyrdom. Afterward, the leadership of Ansarullah fell into the hands of Hussein al-Houthi's younger brother, Abdul-Malik Badreddin al-Houthi. In four wars in Saada, they defeated the Saudi-led coalition and the central government.

Finally, in 2014, due to the inefficiency of the Saudi-backed government, the Houthis captured Sanaa and, along with other groups and parties, formed a government of national unity. The rise of Ansarullah in Yemen, with its Shia-oriented thinking and anti-hegemony stance against the United States and Saudi Arabia, led to a seismic shift in the governments of Arab Gulf states. Eventually, an Arab coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, launched an attack on Yemen. After 8 years of war, they were defeated by Ansarullah and its allies, and peace was reinstated in Yemen in 2021.

Under Hussein al-Houthi's leadership, the organization evolved from focusing primarily on cultural matters to embracing a more explicit political dimension, while still serving as an educational and cultural institution. Due to the proximity of Ansarullah's leadership to the grassroots and revolutionary aspirations, the presentation of a clear plan and program, and their non-opportunistic approach in refusing government positions while ensuring the success of the uprising, the revolutionaries rallied under a single leadership and ensured the uprising's success. Although Ansarullah initially formed a joint government with the Abdullah Saleh party to prevent a bloodbath, as time went by and Saleh betrayed by joining the Saudi coalition, he was cast aside by the revolutionaries.



### Emulating the Islamic Republic

The Houthi Ansarullah movement, inspired by Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi's admiration for Imam Khomeini, regards the Islamic Revolution as its intellectual and operational model. Now, with Abdul-Malik Badreddin al-Houthi at the helm of the Yemeni revolution, he precisely follows the same approach as the late Imam and Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Their approach and statements, as well as their views on Islam, the United States, Israel, and Arab countries, align with the perspective of Ayatollah Khamenei. They promote Zaidi Shia culture in Yemen by establishing cultural and social institutions. The pinnacle of the Ansarullah leader's similarities with the leaders of the Islamic Revolution is his reliance on the people. Like Iranian leaders, Badreddin al-Houthi attributes authenticity to the people and sees them as the mainstay of stability in Yemen. For this reason, unlike past Arab regimes, the Yemeni people consider themselves authentic beings who are not to be used as tools, not to be demeaned. Relying on the people has enabled the Yemeni revolution to endure despite an eight-year war, and now, the Yemeni people take pride in their independence.

The leader of the revolution emphasizes the unity of Muslims and constantly advocates for Sunni-Shia brotherhood, seen as a unifying and restraining factor against the conspiracies of Islam's

enemies. Unlike other countries in the region, contemporary Yemen has experienced extreme division. Yemen is the only Middle Eastern country that was split into two separate northern and southern states during the Cold War. Since the 1990s, the Yemeni people have always strived for unity. The unity of Shia and Sunni is another dimension of the unity of the Yemeni people.

Another aspect that the Yemeni leader, like Iranian leaders, focuses on is the dominance of Islam in the people's lives and Yemen's institutions. In the post-2014 revolution education, new books have been written in Yemen, and the books are thoroughly Islamic in content. Yemeni students become familiar with Islam from early childhood through educational and cultural programs. In these books, the virtues of Imam Khomeini and the Islamic Republic are mentioned, introducing the Iranian revolution as the most successful revolution of the century. Holding religious ceremonies, especially the celebration of the Prophet's birth and the martyrdom of the Ahl al-Bayt, is special to the Ansarullah movement. Similar to the Islamic Republic, Ansarullah emphasizes the prohibition of alcohol and narcotics and respecting women.

The martyrdom of Imam Hussain (PBUH) is a model for all Muslims, but the Ansarullah movement has focused a part of its cultural and promotional activities on organizing grand Ashura ceremonies, which have taken on the color of anti-arrogance, anti-oppression, and unity. Recent attempts to disrupt these events and attack mourners have had the opposite effect.

### Military capabilities of Houthis

A series of six wars from June 2004 to February 2010 pitted the Houthi rebels against the government of Ali Abdullah Saleh. Decades of ethnic, political, and religious discrimination against the Zaidis had provided a fertile ground for a profound transformation in Yemen's political history. Yemen's status as the United States' key ally in the fight against terrorism in the Middle East led to the presence of American military and intelligence forces in the country, as well as clandestine visits by some Israeli delegations to Sanaa. This was protested strongly by Hussein al-Houthi and his supporters in the country.

During the conflicts from 2004 to 2010, nearly 4,000 individuals from both sides were killed, and according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, over 200,000 people were displaced. In the first war, the Houthi rebels had limited

casualties, but over the course of the six wars, they gradually acquired a substantial arsenal. Arms smuggling and the arms trade were prominent features of the six wars in Yemen. International organizations, such as the United Nations, reported that between 40 to 60 million weapons existed in Yemen, with the majority concentrated in the northern regions of the country, where the Ansarullah and their supporters were present. Most of these weapons were light arms. Ansarullah also seized a significant amount of equipment from the Yemeni army during these wars. However, Ansarullah and their allies learned various tactics and strategies in these wars, particularly guerrilla warfare and ground combat, and their military forces received the necessary training.

In reality, the six wars became a starting point for the transformation of Ansarullah's military power in Yemen. This experience, along with the strengthening of Ansarullah's defensive and drone capabilities, became a threat to the Saudi-led coalition forces and altered the battlefield in favor of Ansarullah and Yemen. In fact, the acquisition of heavy military equipment, alongside a well-trained human force, especially in guerrilla and unconventional warfare from 2004 to 2010, was one of the main reasons for the success of the Yemeni army and the popular committees against the fully armed Saudi military with its mercenary force.

However, with the outbreak of the war in 2015, the situation of the Yemeni army and popular committees changed entirely. Eight years of war experience, reliance on internal capabilities, and support from the Islamic Republic and Hezbollah transformed this country into one of the most powerful armies in the Arab world.

### Numbers tell tales

The exact number of forces in the Yemeni army and popular committees is not available. However, what follows are the speculated figures for these forces according to Western and Arab regional media and research centers.

● **Popular Mobilization Organization (also known as the Popular Committees):** With approximately 130,000 personnel employed by the Ministry of Defense, it is considered the new arm of this ministry in Yemen. The Popular Committees were formed by the integration of Ansarullah fighters with other popular forces in 2014. Some research centers have mentioned the number of Popular Mobilization Organization forces to be around 200,000.

● **Houthi Jihad Preparation (also known as the Central Recruitment and Mobilization Authority):** This position operates under the official cover of the GMA and is managed by Abdulrahim al-Hamran, the head of the GMA. Under his guidance, various supervisors in Houthi provinces, "neighborhood affairs managers," and "neighborhood elders" prepare families for military-age men and maintain an up-to-date military human resources system.

● **Houthi Support and Reinforcement Brigades:** These are a parallel reserve force to the Popular Mobilization Organization — similar to Iran's Basij forces — and managed by the head of Jihad Preparation. These brigades were developed by Qassem al-Hamran (known as Abu Kuthar), who previously supervised the Ministry of Youth and Sports. They are responsible for the recruitment of young men.

● **Neighborhood Mobilization (also known as Urban Mobilization):** In mosques and various regions of Yemen, Neighborhood Mobilization was formed, employing young men and teenagers. While focusing on educational and moral issues, it also contributes to military training.

In other words, the Houthis are repeating the methods of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and Hezbollah for popularizing military forces in their society and creating infrastructure for permanent mobilization. More than ever, the Yemeni army is an ideological force.

### Missiles and drones

Yemen's missile and drone capabilities have seen significant development over the years. Long before the Yemeni people's revolution, Yemen acquired Scud missiles from North Korea between 1999 and 2002. In December 2002, following the detention of an American-Spanish maritime group, it was revealed that a North Korean cargo ship was carrying fifteen missiles, fuel, and warheads for Yemen.

However, Yemen was not previously known to purchase larger and longer-range Hwasong-7/Nodong-1 missiles, such as the Toofan missile displayed by the Houthi rebels. These missiles have a range of 2,000 kilometers

and were derived from the Hwasong-3. The Houthi rebels also possess Shaheen-III missiles and a range of solid-fueled short-range missiles (250–700 kilometers).

Iranian-made anti-ship ballistic missiles, namely the Persian Gulf and Asef (300 kilometers) and Falaq (200 kilometers), have been displayed, featuring high tracking capabilities at sea. Yemen also showcased various coastal defense missiles, naval mines, and explosive drone boats to be able to deny access to the strategic Babel-Mandeb Strait.

### Sageb missile

● **Sageb missile** are developed based on Russian R-73 short-range and R-27T and R-77 medium-range missiles.

● **Fatter 1 missile:** The Fatter 1 missile is developed from the Russian SAM-6 and is used in short-range Yemeni missiles, including Badr P1 and Badr F, the latter having a range of 160 kilometers.

● **Quds missile:** The Quds missile is a cruise missile with automatic guidance systems, known for its high accuracy in targeting, capable of hitting small-sized objects.

● **Yemeni-made missiles:** Yemen unveiled an indigenous ground-to-ground missile with a range of 1300 kilometers in February 2020. This missile is similar to modern long-range missiles.

● **Qafer missiles:** The Qafer-1 missile is a ballistic missile with a 500-kilometer range and high precision, accurate within 5 to 10 meters. The advanced Qafer M-2 is an upgraded version with a 350-kilogram warhead.

● **Burkan missiles:** The Burkan missiles are advanced versions of short-range Scud missiles from the former Soviet era, with the Burkan 3 estimated to have a range of 1300 to 1800 kilometers. Ansarullah has missiles with a range of over 2000 kilometers.

### Drones

Ansarullah has developed various drones with different capabilities. **These drones include:**

● A 30-kilometer range drone that is challenging to detect and intercept due to its small size and low radar cross-section.

● A 15-kilometer range drone used for target observation, battlefield surveillance, and identification of enemy activities. It employs precise tracking systems and imaging techniques.

● A 35-kilometer range drone with advanced imaging technology and mapping capabilities.

● Yemeni forces also use Qasef drones, including the Qasef K2, for operations against the Saudi coalition and Mansur Hadi's mercenaries inside Yemen.

● **Samad drones, including Samad 1, 2, and 3, are crucial for the Yemeni army and popular committees. Samad 1 is for intelligence purposes, capable of flying over 500 kilometers and providing real-time target information. Samad 2 is a long-range identification drone, while Samad 3 is an offensive drone with a 1700-kilometer striking range, featuring advanced technology that makes it hard to track. In August 2019, the Yemeni army targeted Abu Dhabi Airport for the first time using a Samad 3 drone. Yemen's missile and drone capabilities have evolved significantly, allowing them to have a formidable presence in the region.**

In reality, the Islamic Republic in Yemen has become a reality. The Yemeni people's revolution in September 2014, similar to the Iranian people's revolution in 1979, was for independence, freedom, and the establishment of a government based on Islamic jurisprudence. Now, the Yemeni people's revolution, after enduring 8 years of war and massacres at the hands of the Saudi coalition, is sprouting like a young sapling. This sapling, relying on young and skilled leadership, has led to the formation of a strong government in the northern regions of Yemen in the Arabian Peninsula, and with its formidable military capability, it has managed to stabilize its position in Yemen. Therefore, in any future peace process in Yemen, Ansarullah and the revolutionary Yemeni people will be the main actors.





## Iranian Choopan runner-up in Mr. Olympia 2023



Iranian bodybuilder Hadi Choopan poses during the Men's Open contest in the 2023 Mr. Olympia in Orlando, FL, US, on November 4, 2023.  
● GETTY IMAGES

### Sports Desk

Iranian bodybuilder Hadi Choopan failed to defend his Mr. Olympia crown, finishing second in the prestigious event of the sport in Orlando, Florida.

A close competition in Saturday's final callout at the Orange County Convention Center saw American Derek Lunsford – runner-up to the 'Persian Wolf' last year – beat Choopan to the Sandow Trophy and walk away with the \$400,000 prize money.

An Olympia 212 winner in 2021, Lunsford is the first-ever bodybuilder to secure titles across multiple Olympia divisions.

The American also received the People's Champion title and belt — an award voted by the fans.

Choopan wrote his name into history books last year when he became the first Iranian to be crowned Mr. Olympia, having finished third and fourth in 2019 and 2020 respectively. Choopan's second-place finish was still impressive, as his performance clearly impressed the judges despite not being enough to top Lunsford this time around.

Choopan settled for the \$175,000 prize, with Nigerian Samson Dauda – a 2023 Arnold Classic winner – standing third in the Men's Open class.

Dauda also delivered a commendable performance as the 31-year-old improved on a sixth-place finish in 2022.

Following the top three in the standings were the 2019 champion Brandon Curry and Andrew Jacked in fifth place.

## AFC Champions League preview: Persepolis eyeing double over Istiklol; Sepahan looking to bounce back after AFC ruling

### Sports Desk

Matchday 5 of the AFC Champions League will see Persian Gulf Pro League clubs Persepolis, Sepahan, and Nassaji Mazandaran back in action in the group stage today and tomorrow.

Iranian top-flight champion Persepolis will be after a second successive victory over FC Istiklol when playing away to the Tajikistani club in Dushanbe's Central Republican Stadium on Tuesday.

Saeed Sadeqi scored in each half as the Tehran Reds walked away with a 2-0 win in the corresponding fixture two weeks ago to stay second in the Group E table with six points – three adrift of Cristiano Ronaldo's Al Nassr, which will be looking to continue its perfect start in the Asian elite clubs competition at Al Duhail. Yahya Golmohammadi's side will step into the contest on the back of Thursday's 2-2 home draw in the Iranian league against San'at Naft Abadan – courtesy of a stoppage-time equalizer for the 10-man visiting side.

The game in Dushanbe will be the first in a hectic fixtures list for the injury-hit Persepolis across five weeks, which will also feature away games at Sepahan, in the domestic league, and Al Nassr and home matches against Al Duhail and Havadar, as well as a Tehran Derby against Esteghlal before mid-November's international break.

In Group C, Sepahan will have to play the first of the three home matches away from Isfahan's Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium, facing Uzbekistan's AGMK FC in Tehran's Azadi Stadium today, after being hit with an AFC Disciplinary and Ethics Committee ruling on Thursday.

Sepahan was also handed a 3-0 de-



Persepolis midfielder Saeed Sadeqi (1) celebrates with head coach Yahya Golmohammadi after scoring his second during a 2-0 victory over Istiklol FC in the AFC Champions League at the Azadi Stadium, Tehran, Iran, on Oct. 24, 2023.  
● MOHAMMREZA BOLANDI/ISNA

feat against Saudi side Al Ittihad, while being fined \$200,000, after their game was called off minutes before the kickoff on October 3, due to the Iranian club "displaying a military and/or political statue in the area surrounding the field," which was described by the Asian football governing body as Sepahan's failure to "act in a politically neutral manner." When Sepahan and AGMK squared off in Olmaliq a fortnight ago, in-form fullback Ramin Rezaeian bagged a double, with Reza Asadi also on the scoresheet, as the Isfahan-based club claimed a 3-1 victory. The AFC verdict, however, left Sepahan third in the table – equal on four points with second-placed Iraqi side Air Force Club – with Al Ittihad on top with maximum points, making

today's game a must win for Jose Morais's men, if they are to keep their hopes for a place in the knockouts alive.

Portuguese head coach Jose Morais will hope to see his side improve on a recent poor run in the Iranian league, after a 1-1 draw at Nassaji and a shock 3-2 loss to Malavan at home on Thursday ended the club's five-game winning streak in the start of the new season.

Meanwhile, Nassaji will host Uzbekistan's Navbahor, eager to end a run of six games without a win, in which Seyyed Mahdi Rahmati's side was beaten on five occasions – including a 3-0 away loss to Tractor last time out in the domestic league.

The northern Iranian club felt unlucky to leave Namangan on Match-

day 4, when a Saber Hardani's straight red in the second half was followed by Mehrdad Abdi's OG deep into stoppage time, which led the Uzbek side to a 2-1 comeback victory. Nassaji is third in Group D with three points, with Saudi giant Al Hilal and Navbahor the top two in table with seven points – separated by goal difference.

Rahmati's side might face an uphill battle in securing a last-16 spot, but today's result against Navbahor could still prove decisive in the other two Iranian clubs' quest for progress as the runners-up in their respective groups.

The five group winners in the West Zone will be joined by three best second-placed teams in the round of 16 of the competition.



Anthony Gordon (2nd 1) scores Newcastle United's winner in a 1-0 victory over Arsenal in the Premier League at St James' Park, Newcastle, Britain, on Nov. 4, 2023.  
● SCOTT HEPPELL/REUTERS

## Furious Arteta slams VAR over Newcastle winner

**THE GUARDIAN** – An incandescent Mikel Arteta labelled Arsenal's 1-0 defeat at Newcastle "a disgrace" after Anthony Gordon's winning goal stood despite VAR checks for three possible problems.

It was Arsenal's first Premier League loss of the season but Arteta had no doubt he and his players were the victims of an outrageous miscarriage of justice. It was ultimately decided that there was no proof that the ball had gone out of play before Joe Willock crossed it, and the ruling was that Joelinton had not committed a foul while

challenging Gabriel, and Gordon was judged not to be offside.

"Embarrassing, it's an absolute disgrace, that's what it is: a disgrace," Arteta said. "There's so much at stake, we've put in so many hours to compete at the highest level and you cannot imagine the amount of messages we've had saying this cannot continue. It's embarrassing. "It's not acceptable, there's too much at stake. I don't want to be in the hands of these people. I don't know how to feel. I'm wasting my time, we are wasting our time. It's difficult enough to compete against Newcas-

tle – they are a really good team, but we have to talk about how the hell this goal stood. It's an absolute disgrace it was allowed. For more than one reason it should not be a goal.

"I have been in this country more than 20 years and [the officiating] is nowhere near the level of the best league in the world. I feel sick to be part of this. I feel sick. It's not a goal, it's not a goal!" Eddie Howe affected mild surprise.

"Maybe Mikel has seen something I haven't," said Newcastle's manager. "I had no idea what was going on with the VAR checks. You're in the

lap of the Gods. It was bizarre to have three."

While Arsenal were unhappy about Bruno Guimaraes's clash with Jorginho not being considered a red card, Howe claimed Kai Havertz should have been sent off for a first-half challenge on Sean Longstaff. "My initial thought was that it was a red," he said. "I thought it was high and dangerous but I would need to see it again.

"We're in a difficult moment with a lot of injuries but I'm really proud of my players. They've really stepped up."

## Tatum makes Boston history in defeating Nets

Jayson Tatum scored 32 points on Saturday night as the Boston Celtics pulled away midway through the fourth quarter to remain unbeaten in the NBA with a 124-114 victory over the Brooklyn Nets in New York. The Celtics did not lead by more than 14 and appeared sluggish at times before improving to 5-0 for the first time since starting the 2009-10 campaign with six straight victories.

Tatum reached the 30-point mark for the fourth time this season and

also reached 10,000 career points by converting a three-point play in the second quarter. At 25 years, 246 days old, Tatum became the youngest player in Celtics history to reach the 10K milestone.

Tatum made 10 of 20 shots, hit six of Boston's 15 3-pointers and collected 11 rebounds. Jaylen Brown added 23 points while Kristaps Porzingis had his way inside against Brooklyn's smaller lineup and contributed 22 to help the Celtics get 52 points in the paint.

Playing the second night of their first back-to-back, the Nets shot 43 percent and saw a three-game winning streak end. Cam Thomas led Brooklyn with 27 points while Spencer Dinwiddie and Mikal Bridges added 19 apiece.

Elsewhere, Joel Embiid supplied 26 points and 11 rebounds as hosts Philadelphia 76ers beat short-handed Phoenix Suns 112-100.

Kelly Oubre Jr. added 25 points, but Tyrese Maxey virtually put the game away, canning a pair of triples in a

1 1/2-minute span midway through the fourth quarter that ran the Sixers' lead to 104-86. He finished with 22 points and 10 assists.

Kevin Durant netted a game-high 31 points for Phoenix, which was without star guards Devin Booker (ankle) and Bradley Beal (back).

Nikola Jokic had 28 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists, Michael Porter Jr. scored a season-high 27 points and NBA champions Nuggets defeated the Chicago Bulls 123-101 in Denver.



Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) dunks during an NBA victory over the Nets in Brooklyn, NY, US, on Nov. 4, 2023.  
● WENDELL CRUZ/USA TODAY SPORTS





# Leader: Iran's permanent policy is to support Palestinian resistance

## Israel's atrocities in Gaza

### International Desk

Fighting raged in Gaza on Sunday for the 30th day as Israel's heavy bombardment of Gaza has intensified, particularly in the north where many civilians remain trapped and unable to flee. Israel has relentlessly bombarded the Gaza Strip and sent in ground troops, with the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory saying 9,770 people have been killed, nearly half of them – at least 4,800 – children. The Hamas-run Health Ministry said at least 45 people were killed in an Israeli strike on the Al-Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza late Saturday. Earlier on Saturday, the Health Ministry said at least 15 people were killed when Israel struck the Al-Fakhura school in Jabalia refugee camp, operated by the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA. Thousands of displaced Palestinians were sheltering at the school in the north of the Palestinian territory when it was hit, a ministry spokesperson said. Leaflets dropped by the Israeli Army again urged Gaza City residents to evacuate south between 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) and 2

p.m. (1200 GMT), a day after a US official said at least 350,000 civilians remained in and around the city that is now an urban war zone.

### Support for resistance groups

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei told the top official in the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas that Tehran will continue to support groups fighting the Zionist regime as a matter of policy. "Supporting the Palestinian resistance forces vis-à-vis the Zionist occupiers is the Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent policy," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a recent meeting with the chairman of the Hamas political bureau Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, according to a Sunday report by the official IRNA news agency. The leader said in the meeting that the Israeli regime is enjoying the support of the US and its allies in Europe in its ongoing war on Gaza. "The Zionist regime's crimes in Gaza are directly supported by the US and certain Western governments." During the meeting, Haniyeh briefed the Leader about the latest developments in Gaza and the crimes committed by the regime in the besieged territory as well as the situa-

tion in the occupied West Bank.

### West Bank violence

Israel is also killing Palestinians in the West Bank, where violence is flaring since the start of the Israel-Hamas war. Three Palestinians were killed on Sunday by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank. Two Palestinians, aged 22 and 20, were killed in Abu Dis, a suburb of East Al-Quds, while another was killed in Nuba, to the south, the ministry said. The Israeli Army claimed in a statement the raids were part of its operations against the Hamas organization.

### Humanitarian aid plea

The World Food Programme appealed for more aid for Gaza, stressing that trucks allowed in so far are no match for needs on the ground. The agency's head, Cindy McCain, said on Sunday after a visit to Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Palestinian territory that "the suffering just meters away is unfathomable standing on this (the Egyptian) side of the border". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is in the region, faced a rising tide of anger in meetings with



People carrying some belongings reach the central Gaza Strip on foot via the Salah al-Din road on their way to the southern part of the Palestinian territory on November 5, 2023. **MOHAMMED ABED/AFP**

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) meets with Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the politburo of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, during a visit to Tehran last week.

Arab foreign ministers in Jordan on Saturday. On Sunday, Blinken met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in a surprise visit to Ramallah, as concern grows over rising violence in the occupied West Bank. The pair discussed the need to stop extremist violence against Palestinians in the West Bank, a State Department spokesman said, while Blinken also stressed that Palestinians in Gaza "must not be forcibly displaced".

### 'Comprehensive political solution'

Abbas denounced "the genocide and destruction suffered by our Palestinian people in Gaza at the hands of Israel's war machine, with no regard for the principles of international law," according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa. Abbas said Sunday the Palestinian Authority could return to power in Gaza only if a "comprehensive political solution" is found for the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Abbas told Blinken that the PA will "fully assume our responsibilities within the framework of a comprehensive political solution that includes all of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip".

### Gaza legitimate gov't

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said on Saturday that Hamas is the legal, elected

and legitimate government of Gaza. During a telephone conversation with Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre on Saturday night, Raisi welcomed Oslo's position on the need for an immediate end to Israel's killing of civilians in Gaza as well as international efforts to lift the siege on the coastal enclave and deliver aid to its residents. "Hamas is the legal, elected and legitimate government of Gaza," he said. "The war against Hamas is a war on democracy."

### Pro-Palestinian rallies

Pro-Palestinian protesters once again took to the streets of many cities across the world to demand an end to Israel's brutal attacks on the Palestinian territory. Demonstrators staged protests in London, Berlin, Paris, Ankara, Istanbul and Washington on Saturday to call for a cease-fire in Gaza and castigate Israel after its military intensified its assault against Hamas. In London, television footage showed large crowds holding sit-down protests blocking parts of the city center, before marching to Trafalgar Square. Protesters held "Freedom for Palestine" placards and chanted "cease-fire now" and "in our thousands, in our millions, we are all Palestinians". Police said they made 29 arrests for offences includ-

ing inciting racial hatred and racially aggravated public order. Britain has supported Israel's right to defend itself after Hamas killed 1,400 people in an Oct. 7 assault in southern Israel. Echoing Washington's stance, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government has stopped short of calling for a cease-fire, and instead advocated humanitarian pauses to allow aid into Gaza. Thousands of protesters marched down the streets of Washington waving Palestinian flags, some chanting "Biden, Biden you cannot hide, you signed up for genocide," before congregating at Freedom Plaza, steps away from the White House. Speakers denounced President Joe Biden's support of Israel, declaring "you have blood on your hands". Some vowed not to support Biden's bid for a second term in the White House next year as well as campaigns by other Democrats seeking office, calling them "two-faced" liberals who were "not a refuge from right wingers". Others lashed out at civil rights leaders for not condemning the killing of women and children by Israeli bombings.

### Protests in Paris

In central Paris, thousands marched to call for a cease-fire with placards reading "Stop the cycle of violence"

and "To do nothing, to say nothing is to be complicit". It was one of the first, big gatherings in support of Palestinians to be legally allowed in Paris since Oct. 7. French authorities had banned some previous pro-Palestinian gatherings due to concerns about public disorder. France will host an international humanitarian conference on Gaza on Nov. 9 as it looks to coordinate aid for the enclave. Wahid Berek, a 66-year old retiree, lamented the deaths of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians. "I deplore civilian deaths on both sides. Civilians have nothing to do with these actions. It really is shameful," he said. In Berlin, demonstrators waved Palestinian flags, demanding a cease-fire. Hundreds of protesters also gathered in Istanbul and Ankara. Turkey, which has sharply criticized Israel and Western countries as the humanitarian crisis has intensified in Gaza, supports a two-state solution and hosts members of Hamas. Footage from Ankara showed protesters gathered near the U.S. Embassy, chanting slogans and holding posters which read: "Israel bombs hospitals, Biden pays for it". Indonesians also took part in a mass rally in support of Palestinians in Jakarta on Sunday.

**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist





## Israel looks up to Hitler as leadership role model



By Syed Ali Hassan

Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

The Israeli advance in Gaza continues, with the military conducting attacks on innocent Palestinians from multiple directions. However, the well-equipped Israeli army is encountering significant resistance. It remains uncertain whether these actions are part of a reconnaissance effort or if Israel intends to pursue a gradual escalation in its ground offensive over time. But, the primary goal of the Israeli army, apparently, is to genocide the Palestinian people. Occupying Israel has introduced new regulations designed to shield its soldiers from war crimes prosecutions, which have been implemented promptly. These include permission for the soldiers to use force against any Palestinian obstructing their military operations. Consider the implications; when the Israeli army operates with a legal license for these actions, it becomes easier to justify actions under the pretext of Palestinians obstructing military operations. The regime has put Hitler as its model in leadership who disregarded the lives of ordinary citizens. The Israeli army's ground attacks reflect its evolving strategy. Israeli politicians and soldiers have openly expressed their intentions to change Gaza drastically. They aim to create conditions suitable for the eviction of Palestinians and the settlement of Jewish communities.

On the one hand, Palestinians have been deliberately deprived of all the necessities of life, including food, water, and medical facilities. For the past month, they have also been subjected to indiscriminate bombings from the air, resulting in death and injury. These actions aim to force Palestinians to vacate their homes in northern Gaza and relocate to the south. Israel's clear objective is to occupy northern Gaza, establishing a military zone to permanently displace the Palestinian population living there. One of the disturbing aspects of these events is the level of international support. The US and European countries are standing firmly behind Israel with the United States providing weapons.

Hamas, the military wing of which is not associated with any state, made it a challenging adversary for Israeli soldiers. And in addition to international support, as we examine the positions of Muslim governments in this conflict, we often observe indifference and silence from many. Iran and Yemen are politically supporting Hamas, with Qatar providing diplomatic and communication assistance. Turkey's response to the Israeli aggression was delayed, while the silence of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the UAE has emboldened Israel. Nonetheless, Israeli diplomats in Dubai and Manama continue their work.

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# Israeli crimes from perspective of int'l law



By Reza Gerami

Legal expert

EXCLUSIVE  
OPINION

Throughout history, the punishment of those who commit major crimes against humanity has been a concern for justice advocates. To address this concern, international criminal courts were founded in Nuremberg, Tokyo, Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and ultimately, the International Criminal Court. The primary goal of this policy was to eliminate the impunity of criminals and thus prevent the recurrence of such crimes on a broad international scale. However, what has been happening in the occupied territories of Palestine, including Gaza, shows that serious gaps still exist in this regard. When perpetrators of crimes in Gaza are granted freedom and are not summoned by a neutral and impartial authority, this will pave the ground for Israel to commit similar crimes once again.

Following the eruption of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, the world witnessed another humanitarian tragedy in the Gaza Strip. Israel's war machine, like a gruesome and bloodthirsty monster, preys on the lives of innocent civilians and helpless children in Gaza. Israel has a record of international crimes and violations of international treaties and norms, and once again, with the expansion of its crimes, it reveals its true face to the world. Bombing non-military areas, targeted assassinations, state-sponsored financial support for terrorism, and more are all part of Israel's crimes in recent decades.

What is happening in Gaza today

bears characteristics that can be considered war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. According to Article 8 of the Rome Statute, which is in line with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other international regulations and customary laws of warfare, actions such as extensive destruction of property, attacks on non-military areas and individuals, and their bombardment, as well as attacks on religious and scientific premises, are considered war crimes.

Perhaps the most prominent of these atrocities is the attack on Al-Ahli Hospital, where a large number of non-combatants had sought refuge, resulting in the killing of hundreds of innocent Palestinians. Israel also subjected the Islamic University in Gaza to intense aerial attacks, completely demolishing the building.

Israel's violations of the rules of war and the use of white phosphorus bombs are among its other crimes. According to the 1980 Geneva Agreement, which prohibits the use of white phosphorus as an incendiary weapon against humans and the environment, such bombs are considered prohibited weapons. However, numerous images released by local sources in Gaza prove that Israel has consistently used these bombs in its attacks on non-combatants.

Article 7 of the Rome Statute, which is an international treaty for the establishment of the International Criminal Court, defines crimes against humanity extensively. According to this article, "crimes against humanity" means a series of acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack. These acts include murder, extermination, deportation, or



A Palestinian child wounded in Israeli bombardment is treated in a hospital in Deir al-Balah, south of the Gaza Strip, on Nov. 3, 2023.

● HATEM MOUSSA/AP

forcible transfer of population, torture, and persecution on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, or gender-based grounds, among others.

According to the points mentioned regarding crimes against humanity, one of Israel's primary strategies in its wars is to exert extreme pressure on civilians, often to the highest degree. From the perspective of the conditions that lead to crimes against humanity, such as Israel's attacks organized within the framework of a wide and severe offensive by a regime, resulting in outcomes like killing, destruction, expulsion, or population transfer, and tormenting and harassing non-combatants, it can be classified under the terms mentioned in Article 7 of the International Criminal Court Statute. Repetitive bombardments, blockade, and siege of the people of Gaza, the forced expulsion and relocation of the Arab Palestinian

population through illegal settlements in violation of the Oslo Accords, and... are clear indications and instances of crimes against humanity committed by this "apartheid regime."

Moreover, according to Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948, genocide is defined as certain acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. These acts include killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, and deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part among others (clause C).

According to the definition above, these days in Gaza, the most prom-

inent examples of genocide are occurring, and the most painful form of it is the killing of children who, if they grow up, may become a threat to Israel and jeopardize the security of its settlements. In other words, Israel aims to ensure and secure its safety and well-being in the future by bombarding Palestinian children.

Furthermore, as per clause C of this article of the Genocide Convention, cutting off water and electricity in Gaza, imposing an economic siege, and preventing the delivery of food and essential supplies to the people in this region are other instances of genocide that Israel is currently committing. In this regard, international criminal authorities, along with human rights advocates, Muslim communities, and freedom supporters, must uphold their legal responsibilities to prevent the widespread and continued massacres of innocent civilians.

## A rider called death



By Habib Ahmadzadeh

EXCLUSIVE  
OPINION

It has been nearly 20 years since millions of Palestinians have been confined in what is often referred to as an open-air prison, the Gaza Strip, by an apartheid occupier regime. Israel has shown no commitment to the peace treaties that it, along with its allies, has imposed upon the Palestinian people.

The Gaza conflict has persisted not for just a month, but for over 70 years, according to the perspective of United Nations resolutions, pitting Palestinians against an expansionist occupying regime. Groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad have emerged as natural responses

to the contentious peace agreements and the frustrations of an oppressed population that may have at times preferred sudden death over enduring repeated invasions.

By adopting various provocative measures, such as daily violence, even in the West Bank, where Hamas does not exert control, and by desecrating Muslim holy sites in Al-Quds, even to the extent of hosting celebratory events in the courtyards of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to be attempting to push Palestinian resistance groups into action. The move was seemingly driven by the desire to relieve the pressure stemming from the possible collapse of his extremist cabinet. However, he likely did not anticipate the increased resilience of the besieged Palestinian population. As this war continues, the horri-

ble story of the Al-Ahli hospital and the deaths of hundreds of innocent women and children who sought refuge within its walls, coupled with Netanyahu's shameful acts to evade accountability, are reminiscent of a fictional story from the Cold War era. In this tale, a Russian soldier is compelled to lead 20 German soldiers to execution in the streets of Berlin after its fall. When the family of one of those soldiers pleads for mercy, the Russian soldier, bound by orders to execute exactly 20 soldiers, releases the soldier to his family but substitutes another civilian bystander from the crowd. Individuals like Netanyahu, who are responsible for the deaths of as many Palestinians as the fatalities in the Al-Ahli hospital every two or three days, resemble the fabricated tale of the Cold War soldier replacing a dead soldier. This raises the question of

whether they possess the moral authority to distance themselves from these killings.

For people in the Middle East, the experience and outcomes of the so-called peace agreements, with their grand celebrations and claims, only serve as a metaphorical painkiller prescribed by a doctor named the West. This "doctor" attempts to hide the "cancer" afflicting the patient called the East until it's too late for effective treatment.

Perhaps the innocent people of Gaza can relate to the prophetic words in the New Testament's Book of Revelation: "I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him."

In this apocalyptic scenario, Netanyahu represents the rider of death for all people.

It is a crucial and fundamental question that US President Joe

Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, and other supporters of Netanyahu should consider at all times. If the 20-year blockade of Gaza has only led to the emergence of groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Middle East, what will the ongoing killing of hundreds of women and children each day, along with the ongoing displacement of Palestinians from their homeland, create for Israel in the future?

Do Netanyahu and his backers not realize that the current acts of violence and genocide against Palestinians may be sowing the seeds of future, more intense revenge? This revenge, unlike the Nile, might well begin from within the tunnels running beneath Gaza, taking Israel by surprise, much like the biblical story of Moses, and it could persist within every room of Pharaoh's palace indefinitely.