



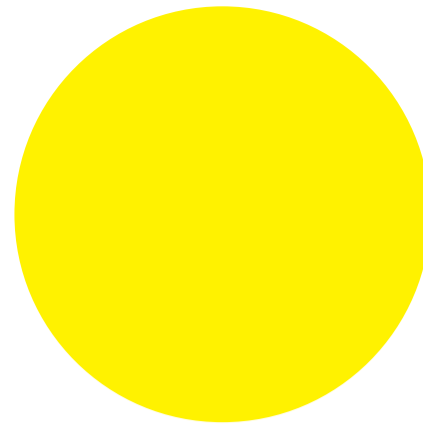
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Houthis setting the stage for Gaza peace talks



By Mohammad Bayat

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OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In the ongoing saga of clashes between resistance factions and pro-Israel forces, Yemeni armed forces targeted a British vessel and brought down an American drone in

response to US and British assaults. As the war on the Gaza Strip is being protracted, the persistent Israeli atrocities against Palestinians have spurred the resistance factions to ramp up pressure on American and British interests in the region as part of their "unification of fields" strategy. Recent events, such as the strike on an American military base on the Jordanian border with Syria and Yemeni assaults on ships en route to Israel in the Red Sea, are key components of this pressure campaign.

These concerted efforts by the resistance factions against Israel and its supporters, namely the US and the UK, aim to bolster peace talks and secure a cease-fire in Gaza. The Houthis have made it clear that they will sustain their offensives until a lasting truce is achieved in Gaza. Consequently, these attacks serve as leverage on the Americans to push Israel toward accepting the cease-fire proposal.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) labeled the recent Houthi assault on the British ship as the most significant of its kind. This could potentially signal a serious intent for peace. However, the cease-fire must be durable, not temporary. While Israel has agreed to a 6-week cease-fire, Hamas refuses to bear the burden of a temporary truce, considering it as a tactical maneuver by Israel to regroup and subsequently target Hezbollah in Lebanon. A long-term cease-fire with backing from major powers and a commitment to Gaza's reconstruction is essential to safeguard the interests of Hamas and the Palestinians.

Amidst the intensifying pre-election heat in the US, the Democratic administration faces severe backlash from the rival Republicans, largely triggered by the attacks on American bases orchestrated by the resistance groups. Thus, brokering a cease-fire in Gaza serves the interests of the American administration and President Biden. US efforts to persuade Israel to embrace the ceasefire align with this objective. Consequently, it's probable that certain resistance group attacks on American interests are carried out with tacit approval and minimal harm, leveraging pressure on Israel while maintaining American lives safe, potentially bolstering cease-fire negotiations in Paris or Egypt.

As campaigning for the US presidential election gathers steam, failing to thrash out a cease-fire poses a significant challenge to Biden and the Democrats. With the Middle East in turmoil, traditional Democratic supporters like Muslims may hesitate to back the party's candidate, compounded by Republican pressure. Hence, establishing a cease-fire is pivotal for the Biden administration. It appears that Iran and the US share common interests in securing a cease-fire, with both sides working to prevent the Gaza crisis from spiraling out of control in the region. Overall, the Houthis and other resistance factions' actions are geared toward setting the stage for a sustainable peace.

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Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi (2nd R) visits an exhibition of knowledge-based products at the Iran House of Innovation and Technology (IHIT) in the capital, Tehran, on February 19, 2024. president.ir



Yemeni TV presenter: Yemen to keep up assaults on Israeli bound ships until achieving its goals

Iran Daily conducted an interview on the sidelines of the exhibition with Mohammed Abdulhameed Mohammed al-Zabidi, the political analyst and presenter of the political section on the Almasirah Yemen TV channel.

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