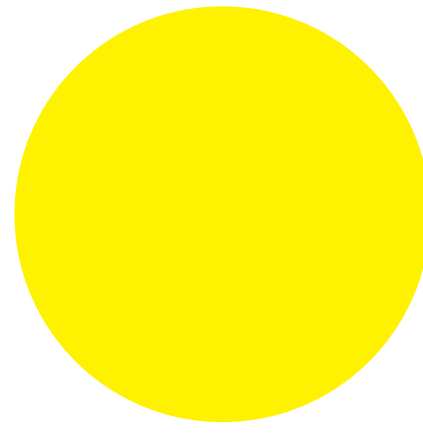


Not just Columbia, center of campus resistance is in Israel

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Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (C) poses for a family photo with workers during a visit to an auto factory near Tehran, Iran on April 30, 2024. president.ir

US gripped by public outrage

By Amir-Ali Abolfath
US affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

University protests in the United States, criticizing Washington's pro-Israel policy, led to a series of evolving demands. Initially, following the Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip and the regime's atrocities, a large portion of the American society, including

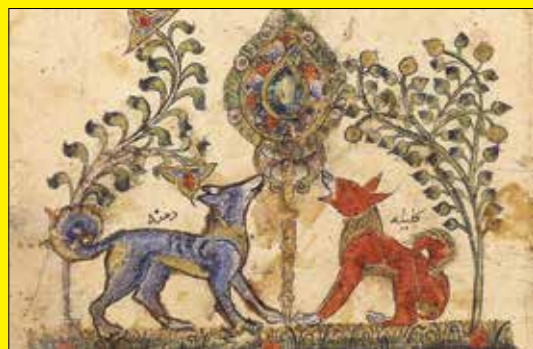
college students, called for the US administration to lean on Israel for a cease-fire. Not only did the US administration brush aside this plea, but it also killed the cease-fire resolutions in the UN Security Council. In the subsequent phase, students pushed to sever ties between their universities and Israeli institutions. They insisted on halting any collaborative ventures between American universities and their Israeli counterparts. However, this plea fell on deaf ears as US university presidents rejected the students'

demand. The tipping point that sparked recent protests was the intervention of law enforcement at Columbia University at the university president's behest, resulting in the forceful treatment and arrest of students. This act acted as fuel to the fire of dissent. Alongside the previous requests, which include censoring the US' unwavering support for Israel, the violation of free speech enshrined in the First Amendment of the US Constitution has now been raised.

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Raisi hails workers for bringing hope to society



● president.ir

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said high-quality and diverse production of Iranian labor force which done under the sanctions, pressures and some shortcomings, is a source of hope for the society.

Speaking in a ceremony for marking May Day in Thran on Tuesday, the president added that as you defeated the enemy in various fields, you Iranian workers with your precious mentality, will defeat them in the economic field as well, according to president.ir.

The president emphasized the necessity of implementing all legal, financial and social supports for workers in order to improve the quality and quantity of production.

The nation of Iran as well as our workers have shown that they can have products whose quality is higher than all the necessary and global standards, as during our recent trip to Sri Lanka, Sri Lankan engineers and experts emphasized that the work of Iranian experts in the construction of dams and power plants have been completely up-to-date and even unique.

Pointing out that the enemies thought they could stop the Iranian nation with sanctions and threats, Raisi said: "Today, the enemy observes that despite all the pressures, Iran has economic growth, production, innovation and technological creativity, as in the field of exporting knowledge-based products, an annual record of over \$2 billion dollars has been set".

The president also referred to his government's special attention to production and employment, to the restoring of more than 8,000 closed production units, urging all managers and officials of the executive bodies that under no circumstances should any factory be closed and stop production.

Raisi also emphasized the banks' special attention to the payment of employment, housing and marriage facilities for young people and announced the readiness of the Bank Refah to provide facilities of housing for workers.

NIOC allocates \$6.4b for development of 16 gas fields

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) inked signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) worth \$6.4 billion with Iranian companies to raise the country's natural gas output by 127 million cubic meters.

Under the MoUs, signed in a ceremony in Tehran on Tuesday, domestic petrochemical holdings and exploration and production companies will conduct development studies on 16 gas reserves across the country, Shana reported.

The signing ceremony of the mentioned MOUs was attended by senior officials, including Oil Minister Javad Oji, NIOC Head Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr, and the Head of National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shahmirzaei.

With the implementation of the mentioned development projects, in total, about 127 million cubic meters will be added to Iran's gas production capacity, which can play an important role in compensating for gas imbalance in the cold season, providing stable feed for petrochemical complexes, and increasing Iran's gas exports.

The completion of the said projects



● SHANA

is also expected to create 25,000 direct and indirect job opportunities, especially in the provinces and cities where the projects are implemented.

As reported, part of the gas output of the projects is going to be used by the petrochemical

complexes conducting them as feedstock. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Oil Minister Javad Owji said 79 major semi-finished oil industry projects with a total investment of \$16 billion are going to be completed in the current Iranian calendar year (to end

March 20, 2025).

According to Owji, 50 new projects with a total investment of \$25 billion will also be started in the current year.

Announcing that Iran's oil production will increase significantly this year, the official said: "We

will also face an increase in gas production."

"Six million tons will be added to the country's annual petrochemical production capacity and 50,000 barrels will be added to the oil refining capacity of the country," he added.

IsDB approves Tehran's proposal for preferential financing

Iran's finance minister said the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has accepted a proposal from the country to launch a preferential financing program.

Ehsan Khandouzi said after an IsDB annual meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, that the bank had agreed to create a new mechanism under which member countries can receive finances from the lender under a preferential arrangement, Press TV reported.

In preferential financing, a bank agrees to offer a lower rate of financing to clients so long as they adhere to a certain set of commitments. The minister had said earlier on

Monday that Iran will negotiate with the IsDB to receive new loans for key development projects in the country, including projects focused on health and knowledge-based enterprises.

He had said last week before departing for Saudi Arabia that Iran had paid back all its debts to the IsDB in order to be able to receive new loans from the lender.

In his address to the IsDB's meeting in Jeddah, Khandouzi described the bank as a "credible international financial institution" which has played a "pivotal role in the progress and solidarity" of nations in the Muslim world and in the West Asia region.



Iran-UAE joint economic commission convenes for first time in 10 years

A rare Iran-United Arab Emirates joint economic commission convenes in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday to Wednesday, the Iranian Labour News Agency reported, as Tehran seeks to bolster economic ties with Persian Gulf states.

This is the first meeting in 10 years for the bilateral joint economic cooperation commission, with Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash and Emirati Minister of Economy Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri in attendance, Reuters reported.

The development of relations between the two countries in the field of international transit corridors especially the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to transit Emirati goods to the Central Asian states, the Caucasus, Russia and Europe through the Iranian land and territory has been put on the agenda of the meeting. Business-to-business (B2B) meetings will also be held among the economic activists and entrepreneurs of the private sectors of the two countries.



Iran seeking win-win ties with African countries: IDRO

The chief executive of Iran Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) said Iran is ready to cooperate with African countries in the industrial and production sector.

Iran has adopted an equality approach to cooperation with African countries and is pursuing win-win ties and using the capacities of each other complementarily, Babak Ahmadi stated, reported Tasnim News Agency. Speaking in a specialized meeting of the 2nd International Iran-Africa Summit, he emphasized that the development of cooperation with African countries has been given special attention in Iran's international cooperation.

Studies show that African countries have taken effective measures in the field of industrial development in recent years especially in importing industrial equipment and machinery, he said.

The deputy industry minister pointed to the capacities and the natural resources available in Africa in the three sectors of mines, oil, gas and fertile agricultural lands, and stated that Iran can be active in Africa in the fields of minerals, oil, gas sectors and also processing industries, according to Mehr news agency.

Iran and African countries enjoy high capacities and potential to spur economic activities mutually, Ahmadi underlined. Exporting technical and engineering services to African countries is the other area of cooperation, he said, and expressed hope that Iran and African states will continue industrial cooperation and interaction in the international arena.

US gripped by ...

The intrusion into the university space and the heavy-handed treatment of students are deemed as infringements on people's and students' fundamental rights. Moreover, in addition to condemning the US policies toward

Israel and Palestine, a substantial faction of protesters essentially protests the societal disparities within the United States. They argue that the US policies, both domestically and internationally, have trampled on people's rights. Consequently, these protests em-

body a collective rage directed at the prevailing situation in the United States.

While these protests challenge the US administration's policies, they do not appear to jeopardize the strategic relations between the United States and Israel. Instead, they intensify pressure on the US government to engage in negotiations or exert more force

on Israel to rein in Netanyahu's extremist and aggressive cabinet. Netanyahu's longstanding vow to strike Rafah has raised global apprehensions about the recurrence of Israeli atrocities in Rafah. The delay in Netanyahu's assault on Rafah can be attributed to the mounting international and US administration pressures. Before students rallied in sol-

idarity with the Palestinians, other parts of American society, such as anti-war activists, anti-Zionists, Arabs, Muslims, and critics of the capitalist system, had organized various protest gatherings. It is anticipated that with the surge of student protests and the harsh crackdown by law enforcement, other dissenting groups opposed to US

administration policies will re-emerge onto the streets, especially given that this year marks an election year in the United States. Besides election campaigns, protest rallies are likely to take place. Much remains to be seen. As anticipated, anti-war advocates will leverage the Paris Olympics in France as a platform to voice their discontent.

Rock carvings in Varzaqan, a window into ancient nomadic life



IRNA

Iranica Desk

The Director of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization of Varzaqan, a city in East Azarbaijan Province, underscored the importance of recently unearthed rock carvings on stone slabs as pre-Islamic rock art linked to the South Caucasus, emphasizing their value for further research as a pivotal means to comprehend the socio-anthropological landscape in the northwest of Iran. Mosayeb Narimani noted that Varzaqan, situated in the northwest of Iran, has long been a focal point in archaeological investigations. Previous studies in the area have unveiled a variety of ancient structures such as fortresses, cemeteries, rock architecture, and tombs

from the Islamic era, chn.ir wrote. "In 2021, an archaeological survey near the Sungun Copper Mine revealed a range of rock carvings. This rock art on stone slabs, akin to similar discoveries in other parts of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, plays a crucial role in enriching our understanding of pre-Islamic rock art in Iran and the South Caucasus."

He added, "The carvings, identified both individually and in clusters on black stone slabs using pecking techniques, predominantly depict mountain goats, aligning with comparable examples from Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan. These carvings suggest the nomadic lifestyle and hunting practices of the artisans behind these creations. Due to the absence of laboratory

studies in Iran, the exact time periods of these carvings remain undetermined, making it challenging to establish a specific chronology through comparative analyses.

He said: These rock carvings are located at an altitude of 1300 meters above sea level. Additionally, this area has been suitable for pastoral activities, and from ancient times, the primary occupation of the people in the region has been animal husbandry, especially the breeding of goats and sheep.

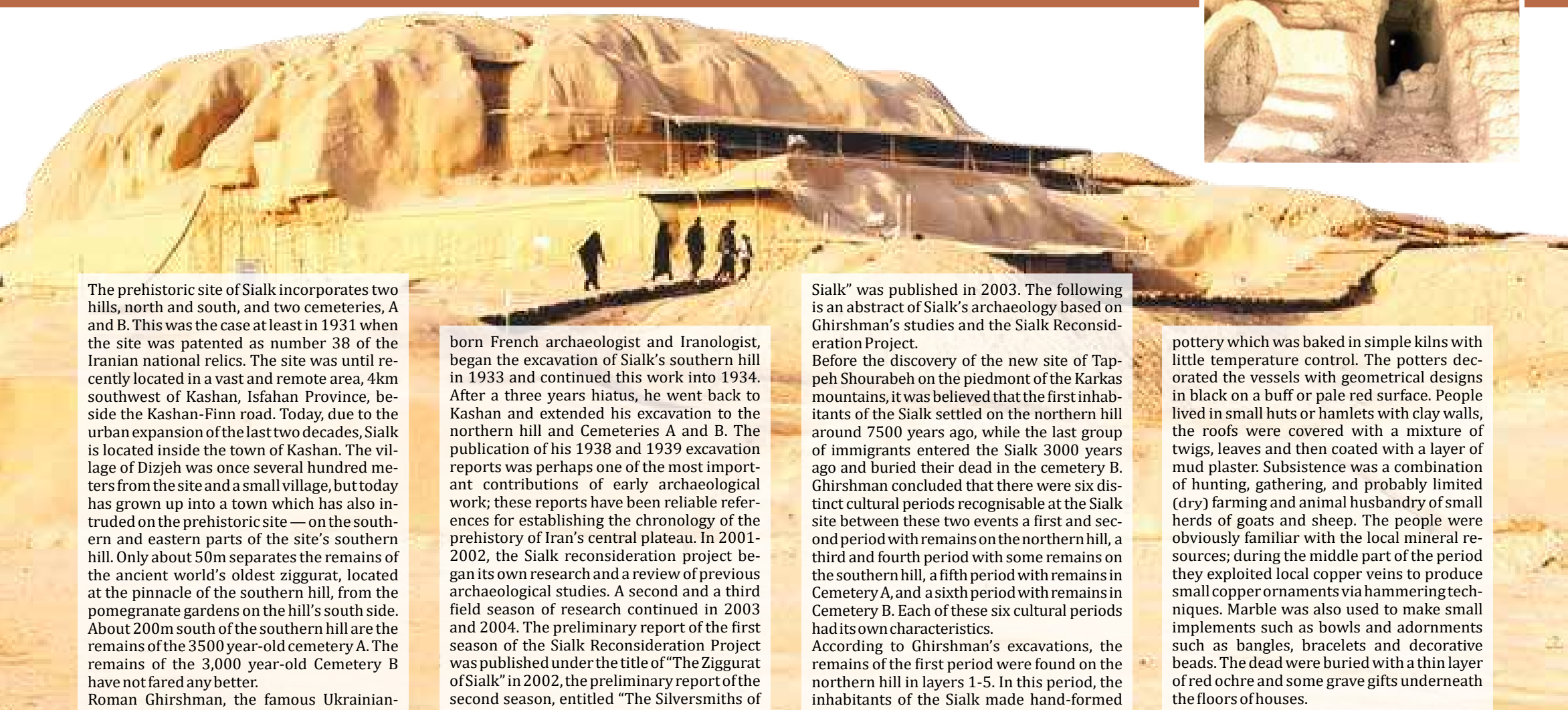
Referring to the importance of conducting studies in the field of rock art and understanding the socio-anthropological and human aspects of the region, he said: This site includes carvings of goats, deer, and humans that have been displayed separately or in groups.

These carvings can provide insight into some socio-anthropological and human concepts based on nomadic life, animal husbandry, and hunting activities.

The goat carvings indicate an economy based on animal husbandry and nomadic activities, while the deer symbolizes hunting in this society. Some researchers in Iran associate the creation period of these carvings, especially the goat carvings, with prehistoric times. However, due to the lack of laboratory studies in Iran, it is not possible to determine the antiquity of this rock art, and a specific timeframe cannot be considered for these artifacts. These carvings are highly important in completing the information related to rock art in Iran and the South Caucasus.



Mysteries of Sialk prehistoric site in Kashan



The prehistoric site of Sialk incorporates two hills, north and south, and two cemeteries, A and B. This was the case at least in 1931 when the site was patented as number 38 of the Iranian national relics. The site was until recently located in a vast and remote area, 4km southwest of Kashan, Isfahan Province, beside the Kashan-Finn road. Today, due to the urban expansion of the last two decades, Sialk is located inside the town of Kashan. The village of Dizjeh was once several hundred meters from the site and a small village, but today has grown up into a town which has also intruded on the prehistoric site — on the southern and eastern parts of the site's southern hill. Only about 50m separates the remains of the ancient world's oldest ziggurat, located at the pinnacle of the southern hill, from the pomegranate gardens on the hill's south side. About 200m south of the southern hill are the remains of the 3500-year-old cemetery A. The remains of the 3,000-year-old Cemetery B have not fared any better.

Roman Ghirshman, the famous Ukrainian-

born French archaeologist and Iranologist, began the excavation of Sialk's southern hill in 1933 and continued this work into 1934. After a three years hiatus, he went back to Kashan and extended his excavation to the northern hill and Cemeteries A and B. The publication of his 1938 and 1939 excavation reports was perhaps one of the most important contributions of early archaeological work; these reports have been reliable references for establishing the chronology of the prehistory of Iran's central plateau. In 2001-2002, the Sialk reconsideration project began its own research and a review of previous archaeological studies. A second and a third field season of research continued in 2003 and 2004. The preliminary report of the first season of the Sialk Reconsideration Project was published under the title of "The Ziggurat of Sialk" in 2002, the preliminary report of the second season, entitled "The Silversmiths of

Sialk" was published in 2003. The following is an abstract of Sialk's archaeology based on Ghirshman's studies and the Sialk Reconsideration Project.

Before the discovery of the new site of Tappeh Shourabeh on the piedmont of the Karkas mountains, it was believed that the first inhabitants of the Sialk settled on the northern hill around 7500 years ago, while the last group of immigrants entered the Sialk 3000 years ago and buried their dead in the cemetery B. Ghirshman concluded that there were six distinct cultural periods recognizable at the Sialk site between these two events a first and second period with remains on the northern hill, a third and fourth period with some remains on the southern hill, a fifth period with remains in Cemetery A, and a sixth period with remains in Cemetery B. Each of these six cultural periods had its own characteristics.

According to Ghirshman's excavations, the remains of the first period were found on the northern hill in layers 1-5. In this period, the inhabitants of the Sialk made hand-formed

pottery which was baked in simple kilns with little temperature control. The potters decorated the vessels with geometrical designs in black on a buff or pale red surface. People lived in small huts or hamlets with clay walls, the roofs were covered with a mixture of twigs, leaves and then coated with a layer of mud plaster. Subsistence was a combination of hunting, gathering, and probably limited (dry) farming and animal husbandry of small herds of goats and sheep. The people were obviously familiar with the local mineral resources; during the middle part of the period they exploited local copper veins to produce small copper ornaments via hammering techniques. Marble was also used to make small implements such as bowls and adornments such as bangles, bracelets and decorative beads. The dead were buried with a thin layer of red ochre and some grave gifts underneath the floors of houses.

Not just Columbia

Center of campus resistance is in Israel

By David Theo Goldberg
Scholar, author

PERSPECTIVE

Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian is becoming the face of academic political resistance in Israel. And as American campuses, most notably Columbia University and the University of Southern California, are being rocked by crackdowns on political speech, she may well become the face for campus protesters across the globe.

Shalhoub-Kevorkian, a Palestinian-Israeli professor of criminology and law at Hebrew University and a US citizen, was arrested at her home in East Jerusalem by Israeli police last week on suspicion of incitement to terrorism and violence. Her home was searched, and a laptop and cell phone were confiscated, along with some papers on which she was working and a collection of books by the noted Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish.

This is the long shadow of apartheid state tactics. Shalhoub-Kevorkian's harassment was punishment for her principled and sustained criticism of Israeli practices of racial violence. While incarcerated overnight, she had her arms and ankles shackled and was held in urine-drenched and cockroach-infested facilities and denied her essential medications. A judge who ordered her release found no adequate reason for her arrest, noting that, if some statements occasionally "crossed the line," she was not a threat, nor had she incited violence.



Demonstrators protest in support of Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, who was arrested on suspicion of incitement

The reason for her treatment is clear: She has long stood against Israel's curtailment of any possibility of a Palestinian future and dares to publicly charge Israel with genocide. She spoke out against the war, as she has long spoken out, knowing full well the awful weight of the Israel cabinet that will be brought to bear down on her. Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's far-right minister of national security, said her detention "conveys an important message — whoever incites against the State of Israel, we will take action against them."

Hers is a profile in barricading against the erasure of war crimes from the academy of higher learning. She exemplifies a pedagogy of the oppressed. That pedagogy is now on view in the US, especially at Columbia.

Taking a cue from 1980s anti-apartheid campus activism — and the famous 1968 Columbia protests against the Vietnam War — student protesters last week pitched camp on the central Columbia lawn fronting the famous Butler Library, on the same day Columbia President Minouche Shafik appeared before a Congressional committee.

The university declared the students to be trespassing and ordered them to leave. When they refused, arrests of more than 110 students started on grounds that they constituted "a clear and present danger". The NYPD was asked to assist campus police in the action.

As word circulated, nearly a thousand students left class and circled the encampment in their support. The NYPD Chief characterized arrested students as "peaceful," saying they "offered no resistance whatsoever". Now, Columbia has notified student campers of their suspension and is threatening some with canceling their graduation this spring.

Columbia's administration appears to have learned nothing from the protests of the university's past, in which harsh consequences for participating students only fueled the protest movement. Their actions have brought more attention to the students' cause. Protesting encampments have started to pop up on other campuses around the country, in solidarity.

So, who did they learn from? Perhaps the administrators of Hebrew University — Shalhoub-Kevorkian's employer.

widely misreported as suggesting that there were no atrocities committed on October 7. Hebrew University's leaders seemed especially incensed that she had signed a letter, penned by international researchers on childhood, characterizing Israel's onslaught in Gaza as genocide and calling for an immediate cease-fire.

In announcing Shalhoub-Kevorkian's suspension, Cohen declared the institution "a Zionist university". Following global criticism by scholars objecting to both the suspension and

a social media post announcing her suspension from its website.)

Principled protests have effects. Columbia's administrators are now learning that lesson.

Monday afternoon, hundreds of Columbia faculty walked out to protest the university's choice to call in the police to arrest the student protesters. Too many university administrations have rushed to limit faculty and student activism and teaching critical of Israel as too sensitive to touch.

USC canceled a planned com-

bioengineering and Holocaust studies student, lauding her for her commitment to justice for all.

But USC President Carol Folt has only continued to dig in, canceling all commencement addresses. The point, it seems, is to punish all graduating students in the name of donors, unconditional supporters of Israel, and politicians bent on controlling criticism and transforming a perceived culture of campus liberalism.

As a society, we have accepted that the global rise in authoritarian regimes represses free thought and speech. Now, we must confront the surprising extent to which societies that self-characterize as liberal democracies committed to free speech have also made it clear they are ready to restrict critical expression. Israel is helping to make otherwise self-declaratively liberal societies and their institutions more comfortable with being less liberal and less democratic.

Yes, it is true that ugly antisemitic incidents have proliferated around campus protests, including at Columbia, where Jewish students reported hearing chants including "go back to Poland". But the vast majority of protesters are not expressing hate. Instead, they are upholding Shalhoub-Kevorkian's baseline principles: That Palestinians should be treated with dignity, equality, and respect, and that giving them such treatment would lead to a decline in violence. She would have us think and act toward the world we want to inhabit.

And she would have us know, in Israel as on Columbia's campus, that repression is the weapon of unjust power. Thankfully, some American students appear to be hearing the call.

The article first appeared on the Forward.

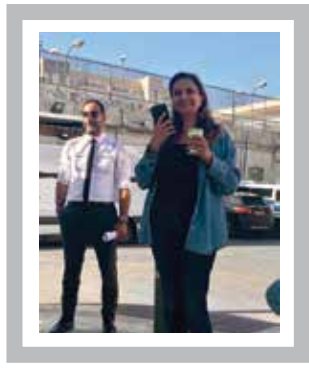


In this screenshot, the renowned Palestinian scholar Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian arrives for a court hearing at the Jerusalem (Al-Quds) Magistrate's Court, on April 19, 2024.

A month before her arrest, Hebrew University officially suspended Shalhoub-Kevorkian, and the university's president, Asher Cohen, asked her to resign. Her views had by then been mischaracterized in much of the mainstream Israeli media, most notably her point that the actions of Hamas were not done "in her name" — a statement

the university's shameless embrace of a political ideology — and at least one prominent faculty resignation — Hebrew University reinstated Shalhoub-Kevorkian fully, if begrudgingly. It also retracted its self-characterization as "Zionist". (While Hebrew University issued a statement against Shalhoub-Kevorkian's arrest, it has also failed to remove

ment address by its Muslim, pro-Palestinian valedictorian, Asna Tabassum, because her critics had uncovered an old social media post calling for Israel's ending. The director of USC's "genocide and resistance studies" program, noted Holocaust historian Wolf Gruner, wrote a strong letter supporting Tabassum, a stellar



Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian and 'liquidation of all untruths'

As Shalhoub-Kevorkian has herself documented, such violence is the norm in Israeli jails. Fortunately, an Israeli court declared later on Friday that her arrest was unlawful and that the police had failed to find "substantial evidence to support the severity of the accusations or to indicate [her] involvement in further offenses". Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian was released, but her ordeal is far from over. The terms of her release stipulated that in addition to paying a bond, she would have to "attend" a further interrogation. That interrogation was set to take place Thursday, April 25, behind closed doors and without legal representation.

Shalhoub-Kevorkian's arrest and violent interrogation marks an escalation in a sequence of harassment, intimidation, and attempts at censorship that has been ongoing for years, but which intensified after "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" shook Israel's sense of security on October 7. Her own institution, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where she is among the most eminent professors, holding the Lawrence D. Biele Chair in Law at the Faculty of Law-Institute of Criminology and in the School of Social Work and Public Welfare, has been profoundly complicit in the campaign of intimidation that has seriously endangered her life, as a Palestinian resident of occupied East Al-Quds (Jerusalem) who lives among fanatical and violent settlers. In October, the administration of HUJ wrote to her requesting that she step down from her post at the University as a result of her signing a statement, previously published in *Mondoweiss*, by childhood researchers and students calling for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza. Not only did they pressure her to resign, but they also took the extraordinary step of making public an employment-related letter that would normally have remained confidential as a personnel matter.

The inevitable consequence of their public statements has been a tirade of death threats and trolling on social media, such that Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian has had to go to campus — where both professors and students are openly armed — protected by a phalanx of her students. In March, the administration followed up by suspending her from teaching on security grounds, a decision eventually rescinded after an international outcry from scholars around the world. Her arrest in April followed hard on the heels of the University's very public harassment and targeting of her scholarship on political grounds, a fundamental violation of internationally respected conventions of academic freedom that Israeli universities have constantly invoked to protect themselves from the global movement for academic boycott.

It is no small irony that, in this instance, the administration of HUJ has made a public pronouncement that it is not an institution of higher learning in the normally accepted understanding of what that entails, that is, an institution where scholars pursue research in order to establish facts free from political interference or the need for obedience to social orthodoxy or other extraneous pressure. On the contrary, the grounds they declared for asking

Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian to resign from her post was that she should "seek an academic home aligned with her positions". Such a statement is tantamount to declaring that HUJ is, first and foremost, a Zionist institution and that it values political conformity with Israeli ideology above scholarly integrity.

In doing so, the university effectively declared that it can no longer be regarded as an academic institution protected from censure by the very conventions of academic freedom that it denied to its colleague. It has confirmed what the BDS movement has long argued: that Israeli universities are, first and foremost, instruments of the cabinet and agents of Zionism's project of dispossession, apartheid rule, and the ultimate moral eviction and dehumanization of Palestinians that subjects them to genocidal violence. This means that any such institution, and any faculty member who has not openly protested against the discrimination against Palestinian scholars — of which Professor Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian is but one instance — have forfeited any right to appeal against being boycotted on the grounds of academic freedom or freedom of speech, generally.

age of this interview has consistently failed to cite her explicit repudiation of sexual violence as a feminist — "not in my name and I will never accept it" (at 36 minutes) — and her analysis, as a longstanding scholar of what she calls Israeli "security theology," of the ways in which states produce stories to justify their violence — a technique that Israeli hasbara has notoriously deployed on multiple occasions and that has regularly been accepted without question by US media.

Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian's remarks in this interview do directly challenge both the legitimacy of Israel's undeniably genocidal war on Gaza and Israel's long-term project to use the tools of racial dehumanization of the colonized to justify its ongoing effort to displace Palestinians — not least in her own home in the Armenian Quarter of East Jerusalem. But it is important to insist that these demonized "positions" are not what drive her widely respected scholarship, but, rather, that her consistently articulated views on the condition of Palestine are grounded in decades of careful and empirically-based scholarship. This is the scholarship that her own university administration and some colleagues have sought to impugn lately on Israeli

By David Lloyd
Founding member of US
Campaign for Academic,
Cultural Boycott of Israel

OPINION

The Israeli security state's malicious cat-and-mouse game with internationally renowned feminist scholar Dr. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian continues. Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian was arrested at her home in occupied East Jerusalem last Thursday, April 18, on charges of "serious incitement against the State of Israel" and held in a Jerusalem police station. According to her family, while in detention there she was shackled and subjected to severe interrogation under torture for hours, incarcerated in a freezing, urine and cockroach-infested cell, prevented from sleeping, yelled at and intimidated, and denied essential medication. Anyone who followed the torture debates around Guantanamo, Bagram Airbase in Afghanistan, or Abu Ghraib in Iraq will recall precisely what the function of such methods of sensory deprivation is: to reduce the prisoner to a psychological state of terror such that they will confess to whatever their interrogator wishes them to admit.

But it is also written within the framework of a long tradition of scholarship on settler colonialism that stretches back to the classic work of Frantz Fanon, Albert Memmi, and Faye Sayegh and forward to the studies of scholars like Patrick Wolfe, Steven Salaita, Brenna Bhandar, or Ronit Lentin. Though doubtless the notion that Israel is settler-colonial has already been censored as antisemitic on certain US campuses, it has a long tradition within mainstream Israeli sociology and offers an important model for explaining the contours of Israel's specific form of colonialism, which is both typical and has invented unique new forms of population control and regulation of apartheid. Given Israel's longstanding practice and explicit policy of expropriating Palestinian homes and lands in order to extend Jewish ownership across Eretz Israel, it would be difficult to deny that it has always been by definition a typical settler colony in seeking to displace the native population and replace them with Jewish settlers. In maintaining an entirely separate body of laws and regulations, infrastructure, and property rights for Jews and Palestinians across historic Palestine, and thus creating a regime typical of settler states that Fanon fa-

she has recently put it, "swarming" of Israeli agencies and regulations. While the Israeli police have accused her of interviewing child terrorists, what her work as a criminologist who studies state crimes reveals is, on the contrary, the way in which Israel's practices of surveillance and terrorization "penetrate the most intimate spaces of childhood" and of the family. They deny children the right to be and live as children, and mothers and families the right to care, even the right to retrieve the bodies of their sons or daughters murdered in Israeli actions. Though it emerges from careful and objective scrutiny of the impact of Israeli settler colonialism — which famously declared Palestinian children to be "little snakes" — Shalhoub-Kevorkian's work reaches beyond that immediate context to offer important paradigms for the understanding of the "unchildering" of racialized and colonized youth everywhere, from Ferguson and Chicago to the lethal indigenous boarding schools of the United States, Canada, or Australia.

Scholarship of this integrity and rigor could scarcely be confused with incitement. As the Israeli court was obliged to admit, Shalhoub-Kevorkian's books and articles are already studied even at HUJ. Considerably more expensive than the flyers, pamphlets, and manifestoes that are the usual medium of "incitement," they are hardly the instruments of agitation. But they should be in every public as well as university library in both Israel and the United States, even if they face the doctrinaire censorship of right-wing agitators. Their careful and detailed scholarship is the best means we have of informing ourselves about the actual nature of Israel, which pretends to be "the only democracy in the Middle East" while maintaining the most intensive regime of apartheid yet established and serving as the laboratory for the instruments of surveillance and mass death that it exports as "battlefield tested" to repressive regimes around the world. As HUJ's efforts to defame and delegitimize her scholarship attest, and as the fate of many Palestinian scholars throughout historic Palestine who have been dismissed, silenced, detained, or assassinated for their work bears witness, Israeli institutions are, first and foremost, political ones, doing the repressive work of the cabinet under the guise of liberal values. And it has proven that no Palestinian, however renowned, is exempt from Israeli violence and repression. Under such conditions, no scholarship that studies Israeli society and that presents and analyzes the facts dispassionately could fail to be political in its implications, whether those implications shore up or resist the Zionist project, as Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian has so courageously and consistently done on the basis of what her scholarship reveals. Under apartheid, there can be no middle ground. We urgently need such scholarship as hers to ground our resistance in fact and argument, and, as Shalhoub-Kevorkian puts it after Fanon, to "pay attention to the liquidation of all untruths". That is why Zionist institutions, the police, and the universities, seek to silence her.

The article first appeared on Mondoweiss.



Panelists Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian (R) and Kate Rouhana (C) speak at a session of the Palestine Forum, titled 'Jerusalem: Politics of Erasure and Resistance,' in Doha, Qatar, on February 10, 2024.

Shalhoub-Kevorkian's thought crimes against this state-aligned institution have been several. In the first instance, the statement she signed in October referred to the unfolding Israeli assault on Gaza as genocidal — an assessment that had been made already by no less than 800 scholars of genocide internationally and that has since been elaborated in extensive detail by the South African government and found at least plausible by the International Court of Justice. Subsequently, the target has been her remarks on the Makdisi Street podcast on March 9, in which she questioned Israel's allegations of the systematic use of sexual violence and mass rape by Hamas on October 7 — allegations that have consistently failed to furnish concrete evidence or reliable witnesses — and called for the abolition of Zionism. Press cover-

media, against the better judgment of scholars in her field. Her outstanding books, all published by Cambridge University Press, and her many scholarly articles, offer their readers a finely-grained analysis of the impact of the Israeli regime on Palestinians and also of the impact of their own brutality on Israelis themselves.

Security Theology, Surveillance, and the Politics of Fear (2015) explores how "violent acts committed against Palestinians in the name of 'security necessities' ... demand further surveillance over certain racialized bodies in order to maintain and sometimes reproduce the Israeli political economy of fear". It is grounded in large part on interviews with Palestinian subjects of Israeli surveillance and oppression, attending "to the voices of those who 'keep on existing'".

mously described as "Manichean" formations, Israel also conforms to the definition of apartheid as established in international law.

What is less typical is the care that Israel, as a belated settler colony, has taken to mask the nature of its regime, by the mostly slow if steady extension of its settlements since the ethnic cleansing of the 1948 Nakba and by the careful fragmentation and dispersal of the legal apparatus through which it controls, evicts, and intimidates its Palestinian subject population. Part of the extraordinary achievement of Professor Shalhoub-Kevorkian's work, both in *Security Theology* and in her subsequent *Incarcerated Childhood* and *the Politics of Unchilding* (2019), lies in her careful and rigorously feminist attention to the everyday lives of Palestinians living in the web or, as

Persian Gulf Pro League preview:

Decisive tests for Tehran archrivals in title hunt



● ALI SHARIFZADEH/IRNA

● RASOUL SHOJAEI/IRNA

Sports Desk

With only a single point separating the Tehran archrivals on top of the Persian Gulf Pro League table with six games to spare, it is fair to say that the battle for the domestic crown will go down the wire on May 31. Still, Esteghlal and Persepolis supporters could expect a pivotal point in the title race when their teams are involved in two highly-anticipated fixtures – featuring the top four in the table – today in what will arguably be the toughest tests for both sides until the end of the season. Sitting atop the table with 53 points, Javad Nekounam's Esteghlal visits Tabriz to play

fourth-place Tractor in an expected jam-packed Yadegar-e Imam Stadium, before Persepolis welcomes Sepahan to the capital's Azadi Stadium for the day's late kickoff.

The Tehran Blues are on a 21-game unbeaten run the league – their sole defeat of the campaign coming away to Sepahan in August last year – though even a draw could see them drop to second in the table by the end of the day.

Iranian under-23 international Mohammadreza Khaledabadi will make his Esteghlal debut between the sticks as skipper Seyyed Hossein Hosseini, who has registered a season-high 14 clean sheets, will serve a one-

game suspension by the federation for disciplinary reasons. Argentine striker Gustavo Blanco will be the man to watch in the Blues outfit after scoring four goals in the previous six matches, while in-form left back Abolfazl Jalali, who has 10 assists under his belt, is also tipped to make a massive contribution. Tractor, meanwhile, has been without a league win in four matches though a shootout win against Zob Ahan in the Hazfi Cup last time out could see the Tabriz-based club regain momentum for today's encounter. An ex-assistant to Yahaya Golmohammadi on Persepolis bench, Hamid Motahari, who was appointed to Tractor's caretaker

role – replacing Spanish Paco Jemez – before the cup tie, will surely be eager to dent Esteghlal's title charge, while winter signing Amir-Arsalan Motahari will be highly motivated against his former club after spending a half-season behind Blanco in the pecking order.

Relief for Reds?

Persepolis has been in flying form in the league since Brazilian Osmar Vieira was promoted to the head coach role following Golmohammadi's departure in January as the Reds have won seven in nine games, while keeping seven clean sheets in the process. However, Osmar's coaching acumen went under huge scru-

tiny after last Friday's cup exit against Iralco – in which the Reds relinquished a two-goal lead twice before losing on penalties – and the Brazilian's future on the bench could be dealt further blow with a defeat in the so-called 'Iranian Clasic'. The Reds will have to do without their key trio in Alireza Beiranvand, Omid A'lishah – who are both injured – and suspended fullback Danial Esmailifar, though they will still be looking to build on impressive performances by Oston Urunov, Mahdi Torabi, and Issa Alekasir in chasing a first league win over Sepahan since December 2021. Widely regarded as the title favorite in the early stages of the

season, Sepahan is now lagging behind the top two – trailing the Blues by eight points – and a loss today will all but ruin the club's slim trophy aspirations, not to mention it will mark the beginning of the end for Portuguese manager Jose Morais after two seasons in charge. Elsewhere today, relegation candidates San'at Naft Abadan and Nassaji Mazandaran will play away to Havadar and Zob Ahan respectively, with Esteghlal Khuzestan – third from bottom – hosting fifth-place Malavan in Ahvaz. Moharram Navidkia's Mes Rafsanjan will welcome Golgohar Sirjan, while Iralco and Foolad will square off in Arak.

Uzbekistan and Japan secure qualification for Olympic Games



Uzbekistan players and coaching staff celebrate after the victory over Indonesia in the U23 Asian Cup semifinals in Doha, Qatar, on April 29, 2024. ● AFC

and the U23 Asian Cup final. They will next take on a Japan side that handed Iraq a 2-0 defeat at Doha's Jassim bin Hamad Stadium, with Mao Hosoya and Ryotaro Araki scoring in the 28th and 42nd minutes respectively. That win means Japan maintain their record of qualifying for every Olympics since 1996. Uzbekistan, winners of the Asian Under-23 title in 2018, will face Japan on Friday in the final, while Indonesia and Iraq meet on Thursday for Asia's third confirmed berth in Paris. The losers of that Olympic playoff will enter into a final eliminator against Guinea, the fourth place finisher in Africa's qualifying tournament, on May 9 for the final spot at the Games.

REUTERS – Uzbekistan and Japan secured two of Asia's three berths at this year's Olympic Games football tournament with wins over Indonesia and Iraq respectively at the Under-23 Asian Cup in Qatar. Uzbekistan sealed a 2-0 semi-final win against the Indonesians to confirm their

first appearance at the Games since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Husain Norchaev put Timur Kapadze's side in front with a volleyed finish from close range in the 68th minute before Pratama Arhan's late own goal confirmed Uzbekistan's progress to both the Olympics

NBA play-offs: Lakers knocked out by Nuggets

BBC – LeBron James' Los Angeles Lakers were knocked out of the NBA play-offs as the Denver Nuggets completed a 4-1 series win in the Western Conference. In the fifth game of the best-of-seven series, defending champions the Nuggets won a tense encounter 108-106. Jamal Murray scored 32 points, including the winner with just 3.6 seconds left when the scores were tied. James' 30 points and 11 assists were in vain for the Lakers. The NBA's all-time leading points scorer was chasing his fifth title and his first with the Lakers since 2020. But when asked about his future, James would not confirm whether he had played his last game for the Lakers. "I'm not going to answer that," he said. "I just want to get home to the family, honestly, and start looking at the schedule." He said that after spending some time with his family, he will travel to Las Vegas for a USA Basketball training camp ahead of the Olympics. Elsewhere in the Western Conference, the Oklahoma City Thunder



Nuggets' Jamal Murray (1) dribbles to the rim during a victory over the Lakers in Denver, CO, US, on April 29, 2024. ● AP

also progressed to the last eight with a 97-89 win over the New Orleans Pelicans. Jalen Williams scored 24 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 24 with 10 rebounds to complete a 4-0 series clean sweep. The Thunder had a slender 44-43 advantage at half-time, before the Pelicans took a 80-75 lead but could not cling on as they struggled defensively. In the Eastern Conference, the Boston Celtics edged closer to

the next round as they took a 3-1 advantage in their play-off series with the Miami Heat. They won the fourth match 102-88, but were dealt an injury concern as centre Kristaps Porzingis limped off the court with a calf strain shortly before half-time, and did not return. Derrick White's career-best 38 points helped the Celtics to victory, with the fifth match of the best-of-seven series taking place today.

Students occupy NYC campus building in pro-Palestinian protest

UN troubled by treatment of protesters

International Desk

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators at Columbia University barricaded themselves inside a campus building early Tuesday as pro-Palestinian protests spread across the United States.

The occupation of Hamilton Hall at the prestigious university in New York came hours after administrators said they had begun suspending students for failing to comply with an order to disperse.

Masked individuals smashed windows and moved metal tables to block the building's entrances, images shared overnight on social media showed.

"After 206 days of genocide and over 34,000 Palestinian martyrs, Columbia community members took back Hamilton Hall just after midnight," the group said in a statement citing Israel's war in Gaza.

It said the group had renamed the building "Hind's Hall" in honor of a six-year-old Gazan girl killed by Israel during its ongoing offensive on the Palestinian territory.

The demonstrators vowed to remain at the hall until their demands are met, including that Columbia divest all financial holdings linked to Israel.

Arrests in universities

Protests have swept through higher education institutions from coast to coast, with many erecting tent encampments on campus grounds, after around 100 protesters were first arrested at Columbia university on April 18. More than 900 people have been arrested by the US police since the anti-Israel campaign started at the Columbia university.

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, police moved in Tuesday morning to clear one encampment, and could be seen in social media



Protesters link arms outside Hamilton Hall barricading students inside the building at the New York Columbia University on April 29, 2024. **REUTERS**

images detaining a few protesters. TV footage showed police at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond on Monday evening pushing and shoving away protesters, with students saying teargas and pepper spray was deployed. Protests against the Gaza war have posed a challenge to university administrators trying to balance free speech rights with complaints that the rallies have veered into anti-Semitism and hate.

Footage of police in riot gear summoned at various colleges to break up rallies has been viewed around the world, recalling the protest

movement that erupted during the Vietnam War. UN human rights chief Volker Turk voiced concern Tuesday at the heavy-handed steps taken to disperse the protests, saying that "freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly are fundamental to society."

He added that "incitement to violence or hatred on grounds of identity or viewpoints - whether real or assumed - must be strongly repudiated." Some demonstrations have also arisen outside the US in solidarity with Palestinians, including at the University of British Columbia's Point Grey campus in Vancouver and at McGill University in Montreal.

Similar protests in world

The protests have spread to other countries including France, Germany and Australia. Iranian students also

held demonstrations on Monday in support of the student protests in the US.

Dozens of Lebanese students also gathered at the prestigious American University of Beirut (AUB), some wearing the traditional Arab keffiyeh scarf that has long been a symbol of the Palestinian cause, to protest against Israel's genocide in Gaza.

"We are Palestine's neighbors. If we do not stand with them today, who will?" asked AUB student Zeina, 23, declining to provide her surname.

"Around the world, students my age, from our generation, are the ones raising their voices," she added.

Since October 7, Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip have killed more than 34,500 Palestinians so far - mostly women and children. The regime attacks have also displaced millions of Palestinians across the besieged territory.



Russia: US hypocritical over ICC, Israel

Russia said on Tuesday that the United States was being hypocritical by opposing the International Criminal Court's (ICC) investigation of Israel but supporting the court's warrant for the arrest of President Vladimir Putin.

White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre said on Monday the United States did not support the ICC's investigation of Israel and did not believe that the court had jurisdiction.

US President Joe Biden said last year that the ICC decision to issue an arrest warrant for Putin was justified. The United States has shared details of alleged Russian war crimes in Ukraine with the ICC.

"Washington fully supported, if not stimulated, the issuance of ICC warrants against the Russian leadership," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said in a post on Telegram. But "the American political system does not recognize the legitimacy of this structure in relation to itself and its satellites," Zakharova said, adding that such a position was intellectually "absurd". Israel is not a member of the ICC, while the Palestinian territories were admitted as a member state in 2015.

Israeli officials are worried that the court could issue arrest warrants against the regime's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other top officials for alleged violations of international humanitarian law in Gaza, Israeli media have reported.

After days of conjecture in Israeli media, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said late on Sunday that it has issued warnings to senior political and military officials that they could soon face arrest warrants.

The ministry said it has informed Israeli missions of "rumors" concerning prosecutions.

The ICC has given no indication that warrants are imminent and has made no comment on the claims.

Israeli officials have referred in recent days to an ICC probe launched three years ago into possible war crimes committed by Israel going back to the 2014 Israel-Hamas war. The investigation is also charged with looking at Israel's construction of settlements in occupied territories such as the West Bank.

IAEA chief to visit Iran next week

The head of the UN's atomic watchdog will travel to Iran next week to attend a conference and hold talks with Iranian officials regarding the country's nuclear program, Tehran said on Tuesday. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi will visit

Iran to attend the "the nuclear sciences and technologies of Iran" conference, which will be held from May 6 to May 8 in the central city of Isfahan. During his visit, Grossi will also meet with Iranian officials to discuss the country's nuclear program, Tasnim cited

the spokesman of Iran's atomic agency Behrouz Kamalvandi as saying. "We can confirm that director general Grossi will be in Iran on May 6-7 for meetings with senior Iranian officials," a spokesman of the UN nuclear agency told AFP.

Iran commutes death sentence for billionaire Zanjani



Iran's judiciary said Tuesday it had commuted a death sentence

handed down against a billionaire business tycoon convicted of pocket-

eting \$2.8 billion while circumventing US-led sanctions for the oil ministry.

Following an appeal for clemency, Babak Zanjani, 50, was sentenced instead to 20 years behind bars, judiciary spokesman Asghar Jahangir told reporters.

"With the approval of the head of the judiciary, and the agreement of the Leader, his death sentence was overturned and was commuted to 20 years of imprisonment," Jahangir said.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1403/04

Analysis%

| | | |
|------------|-------|----------|
| Ave | 66.50 | Fe |
| Min | 24 | FeO |
| Max | 28 | P |
| Max | 0.05 | S |
| Max | 1 | SiO2 |
| Max | 2.5 | Al2O3 |
| Max | 0.5 | CaO |
| Max | 0.9 | MgO |
| Max | 2.5 | Moisture |
| Max | 3 | Size Ave |
| 98%<3mm | | |
| 80%<0.45mm | | |

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 10.000 metric tons of Iron Ore Concentrate (%Fe:66.5) on basis of F.O.B at Rajaei Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 14:00 P.M. on 13. May.2024 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 14.May.2024 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Notice of tender for export sale No. Z/1403/03

Analysis%

| | | |
|-------|-------|---------------|
| Min | 65.00 | Fe |
| Ave | 1.0 | FeO |
| Max | 0.05 | P |
| Max | 0.01 | S |
| Max | 3.5 | SiO2 |
| Max | 0.7 | Al2O3 |
| Max | 0.9 | CaO |
| Max | 2.5 | MgO |
| Ave | 250 | CCS(kg/p) |
| Min | 90 | 8-16 mm% |
| Ave | 5 | -6 mm% |
| Max | 3.8 | A.1% |
| Min | 95 | T.1% |
| 19-24 | | Prosity% |
| Min | 90 | Reducibility% |

Golgohar Mining and Industrial Company Hereby Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 140.000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 14:00 P.M. on 13. May.2024 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 10:00 A.M. on 14.May.2024 at the office of the Seller.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Iran's 'Kalila and Dimna' in spotlight at Abu Dhabi Int'l Book Fair



various creative fields and Mahfouz's exceptional literary legacy, which has enriched Arab literature and introduced Arab culture to the world.

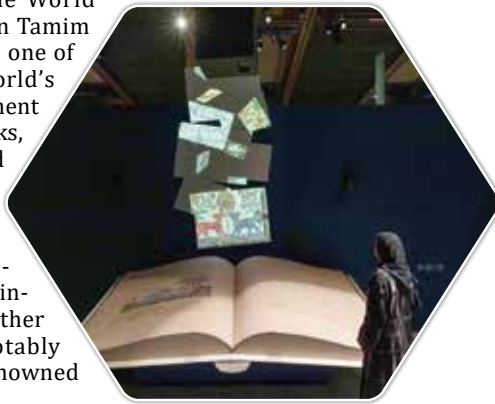
figures like French poet Jean de La Fontaine and Arab poet Ahmed Shawqi. Furthermore, the fair celebrates the selection of Naguib Mahfouz, the Egyptian novelist, as the central figure for this year's event. Mahfouz, the first Arab Nobel laureate in Literature (1988), is renowned for his exceptional literary contributions spanning over 70 years, including over 50 novels, five plays, 350 short stories, and numerous screenplays. The ADIBF continues to serve as a platform for cultural exchange, intellectual discourse, and literary exploration, reaffirming its commitment to promoting global cultural heritage and fostering dialogue among diverse communities.

Arts & Culture Desk

The 33rd edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) showcases a special focus on the renowned literary work 'Kalila and Dimna' as one of the world's most influential literary pieces. 'Kalila and Dimna,' translated by Abdullah Ibn al-Muqaffa, takes center stage at this year's event, alongside an engaging art exhibition titled 'From Kalila and Dimna to La Fontaine: Travelling through Fables,' hosted by the Louvre Abu Dhabi. The book fair began on April

29, and will continue until May 5 at the Abu Dhabi Exhibition Center, ISNA wrote. The Cultural Programme of this year introduces innovative sections, including the "Book of the World" section highlighting prominent works that have shaped human civilization over the years and influenced cultures uniquely. Ali bin Tamim, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre (ALC), emphasized the significance of honoring influential cultural figures. He highlighted Egypt's pioneering role in

Regarding the selection of 'Kalila and Dimna' for the newly launched "Book of the World" program, bin Tamim praised it as one of the Arab world's most prominent literary works, recognized for its representation of cultural amalgamation and its influence on other cultures, notably inspiring renowned



Iranian traditional tile making receives global recognition

Arts & Culture Desk

Isfahan's traditional skill of "Seven-color Tile Making" was registered globally and earned an international geographical indication mark, announced by the Director General of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Organization of Isfahan Province. Amir Karamzadeh stated that after enamel work and qalamkari (Persian hand-painted fabric), Isfahan's seven-color tile making has become the third craft of the province to receive an international geographical indication mark, IRNA wrote. He mentioned ongoing efforts to register more crafts from Isfahan internationally, highlighting that once these crafts receive international geographical indication marks, they will be recognized globally under the name of the region. Comprehensive information regarding the art of seven-color tile making, including its history, techniques, and the number of active workshops in the past year, was gathered, leading to the successful acquisition of the international geographical indication mark in April of this year. Previ-

ously, Isfahan's enamel work and qalamkari were internationally registered in May of last year, receiving international geographical indication marks. While many workshops across Isfahan are involved in producing seven-color tiles, the neighborhood of Dehno in the city boasts over 100 workshops, serving as a hub for this type of tile production. The Safavid era witnessed a peak in the use of seven-color tiles, although this art form dates back even further to the Timurid period. Iconic structures in Isfahan, such as the Imam Mosque and Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque in Naqsh-e Jahan Square, showcase remarkable decorations made of seven-color tiles. Isfahan became the first Iranian city to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in the field of handicrafts and traditional arts in 2015. Additionally, it was granted the title of "World Craft City" by the World Crafts Council. Out of the 602 identified crafts worldwide, 299 belong to Iran, with Isfahan alone accounting for 200 of these crafts, highlighting the province's historical significance and artistic heritage.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran, Russia to enhance cultural collaboration

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran and Russia are expanding their cultural and artistic cooperation, as discussed in a meeting between Russian cultural attaché and the CEO of Roudaki Foundation. During the meeting, Mohammad Allahyari, the CEO of the

Roudaki Foundation, highlighted the artistic capacities of both countries and emphasized the potential of the Roudaki Foundation as a venue for cultural exchanges between Iran and Russia. He mentioned the successful international programs jointly held with Russia, such

as the participation of symphony orchestras in the 2018 World Cup and the performance of the Iranian National Orchestra during Iran's Cultural Week in Russia. Allahyari expressed the importance of establishing connections and introducing cultural foundations that align with the Roudaki Foundation's activities, envisioning significant steps in cultural diplomacy and increased cultural interactions. Lilia Vladimirovna Votnova, the cultural attaché of Russia, welcomed the meeting and praised the Roudaki Foundation's capacities. She expressed readiness to ex-

pand cooperation in various artistic fields, including the possibility of joint programs. Votnova mentioned the exploration and implementation of agreements to enhance collaboration, aiming for mutual cultural exchanges. Proposed collaborative efforts include establishing connections with Russian artistic foundations, mutual participation in prestigious festivals, organizing performances for symphony orchestras, holding various art exhibitions, inviting guest conductors for the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, and conducting joint cultural weeks.

