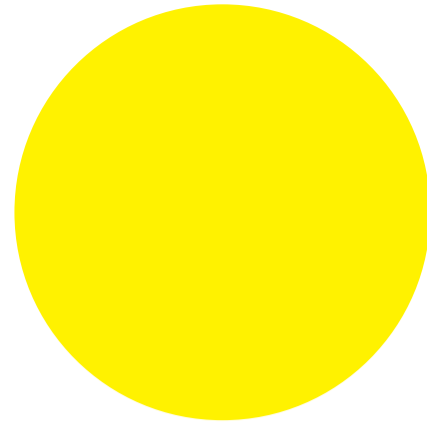




Leader calls for mounting pressure on Israel over its war in Gaza

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## Masoud Oskouei, veteran Iranian sportscaster, dies at 85



Veteran Iranian sportscaster and journalist Masoud Oskouei passed away at the age of 85 in Tehran on Wednesday. Oskouei, who had been hospitalized with a broken hip and leg since early April while also suffering from cancer, will be laid to rest in the Iranian capital's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery today.

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## ISIS in service of Zionist regime



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An Iranian mother caresses her daughter at the emergency ward of Mofid Children's Hospital in Tehran where free healthcare for children under 7 is delivered. © ERFAN KHOSHKHOO/ISNA

# Why do Iranian people hate British media?

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

### EDITORIAL

The Iranian people have never trusted the UK. BBC Persian, which was launched to win the trust of Iranians in British policies, has now become the most detested foreign Persian-language media outlet among Iranians. Whether Iranians agree with or criticize the policies of the Islamic Republic, there is consensus on one thing: that the UK has never been sincere toward the Iranian people, a sentiment with a long historical background. Due to its diversity, Iranian society rarely reaches a consensus on issues; however, perpetual mistrust of the UK and the use of the word "sinister" to refer to the British government

and politicians is almost universal among Iranians. When Gore Ouseley, the first British ambassador, arrived in Iran, he paid 600,000 tomans directly to Fath-Ali Shah Qajar and thereby gained the Shah's attention. He was fluent in Persian and Turkish and had Saadi's Gulistan published in Western Europe. He was very pleasant and observed proper etiquette. Abd al-Razzaq Beg Donboli wrote in his book about him: "The recounting of his good qualities is reminiscent of the assemblies of kings and the mention of his good manners adorns the gatherings of nobles and kings." He later managed to win the trust of Abbas Mirza as well. At his suggestion, the mili-

tary officers of his country engaged in a series of military exercises with Iranian officers under Abbas Mirza's command against the Russian troops, under the command of Rtishchev. Ouseley's story does not end here. He outwardly appeared very peace-loving and sought to establish peace between Iran and Russia. He organized several rounds of negotiations between Iran and Russia. The Iranians were willing to make peace on the condition that the Russians withdraw from their territories (including Georgia), but during the talks, Ouseley suddenly ordered all British officers and officials of the Iranian army to leave the camp.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

Campaigns  
begin for  
parliamentary  
run-off

## National Desk

Iran's Election Headquarters said on Wednesday that campaigns for the parliament's run-off elections will begin from today (Thursday) and will last for one week.

Candidates running for seats in Iran's Parliament will compete in second round of the elections slated for May 10.

A total of 90 candidates are going to run for the 45 remaining seats in the parliament. The spokesperson for Iran's Election Headquarters, Mohsen Eslami, said on Sunday that the elections will be held in 22 constituencies across the country where the candidates had failed to receive an absolute majority (more than 50%) of votes cast during the first round which was held on March 1.

He noted that the upcoming run-off elections will be held with electronic voting machines in 22 districts across 15 provinces, including in the capital, Tehran.

The first round of the elections was held on March 1. On the same day, Iranians also voted to elect the members of the Assembly of Experts.

Over 130 IAEA  
inspectors  
allowed  
in Iran

## International Desk

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said on Wednesday that more than 130 inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are permitted to work in the country.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet session, Mohammad Eslami, said Iran has not barred any IAEA inspector from entering the country.

Currently, more than 130 IAEA inspectors are permitted to conduct inspections in Iran, he said, noting that the UN agency is regularly carrying out its inspection activities at Iran's nuclear sites.

His comments came after spokesman of Iran's atomic agency Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Tuesday that 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. 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.

Leader calls for mounting pressure  
on Israel over its war in Gaza

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called for piling up pressure on the Israeli regime so that the issue of Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip cannot be undermined.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in an address to a group of teachers and academics on Wednesday on the occasion of the National Teachers' Day, which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Morteza

Motahhari, Press TV reported. "Today, the issue of Gaza tops the world's issues. At the international scene, the Zionists and their American and European supporters are doing whatever they can to cross out the issue



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of teachers and academics on the occasion of Iran's National Teachers' Day on May 1, 2024.

● leader.ir

of Gaza from the agenda of the world's public opinion, but all in vain," Ayatollah Khamenei said. The Leader pointed to the pro-Palestine protest by students in American and European universities, and said, "Nations have become sensitive to the Gaza issue as it is the world's top one. We should not allow this issue to be removed from the world's public opinion, and pressure must increase on the Zionist regime day by day." Touching on the US police violence and excessive force against student protesters, the Leader said the harsh treatment attested to the Islamic Republic's rightful stance regarding its mistrust of America.

"Look at how the Americans and the relevant bodies in the country are dealing with verbal opposition to Israel. The students of US universities did not van-

dalize anything, did not shout destructive slogans, did not kill anyone, did not set fire to any place, did not break any glass; [but] this is how they are being treated," the Leader said.

"What people see in practice shows America's partnership and complicity in this horrific crime, in this unforgivable sin, with the Zionist regime. They are accomplices. How can one be optimistic about such a system, about such a regime? How is it possible? Or how can one trust their words?" he added. Ayatollah Khamenei underlined that Palestine belongs to its "original owners" and normalization attempts will not calm the situation in the West Asia region.

"Palestine must return to its original owners. Palestine belongs to the Palestinian people, including Muslims, Christians and Jews; Palestine is for them and should return to them ... this is how the problem of the West Asia region will be solved," the Leader said.

"Some imagine that forcing neighboring countries to normalize their ties with the Zionist regime will iron out the problem. No, they are mistaken," the Leader added.

US police arrests dozens of  
pro-Palestinian protesters in universities

## International Desk

Dozens of students have been arrested after hundreds of New York City police officers entered Columbia University on Tuesday night to clear out an academic building that had been taken over as part of a pro-Palestinian protest.

Live video images showed police in riot gear marching on the campus in upper Manhattan, the focal point of nationwide student protests opposing Israel's war in Gaza.

Before long, officers were seen leading protesters handcuffed with zip ties to a line of police buses waiting outside campus gates.

One protester at Columbia, who only gave their name as Sophie, told the Guardian that police had barricaded protesters inside buildings before making arrests. "It will not be forgotten," she said. "This is no longer an Israel-Palestine issue. It's a human rights and free speech and a Columbia student issue."

The police operation follows nearly two weeks of tensions, with pro-Palestinian protesters at the university ignoring an ultimatum on Monday to abandon their encampment or risk suspension. On Tuesday, Columbia University officials threatened academic expulsion of the students who had seized Hamilton Hall, an eight-story neo-classical building blocked by protesters who linked arms to form a barricade and chanted pro-Palestinian slogans.

New York congressman Jamaal Bowman said he was "outraged" by the level of police presence at Columbia and other New York universities. Separately, the New York Times



NYPD officers in riot gear arrest pro-Palestinian protesters as they evict a building that had been barricaded by pro-Palestinian student protesters at Columbia University's encampment in New York City on April 30, 2024.

● JIA WU/AFP

reported dozens of arrests at City College of New York, part of the City University of New York system (CUNY), when some students left Columbia and moved north to the campus where a protest sit-in was still in effect. One protester who offered their name as OS, told the Guardian: "We need to keep protesting peacefully and the truth needs to come out. This is a genocide happening in front of us, and the people in power are allowing this to happen."

Meanwhile, clashes broke out on Wednesday at pro-Palestinian demonstrations on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Protesters and counter-protesters were seen clashing with sticks, and tearing down metal barricades, TV footage showed. The weeks of demonstrations – the most sweeping and prolonged unrest to rock US college campuses since the Vietnam war protests of the 1960s and 70s – have already led to more than 1,000 arrests of students and other activists.

In another of the newest clashes, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, police moved in Tuesday to clear one encamp-

ment, detaining some protesters in a tense showdown.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk voiced concern at the heavy-handed steps taken to disperse the campus protests, saying "freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly are fundamental to society." Pro-Palestinian students are calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and an end to college ties with companies supplying weapons to Israel.

The United States has been providing Israel with unrestrained military, intelligence, and financial support since October 7, when the regime unleashed the war against the besieged Palestinian territory. Washington has also vetoed several United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for a cease-fire in Gaza.

## Why do Iranian ...

This news, along with military secrets of Iran, reached the Russian camp.

As a result, the morale of the Russians was boosted, and with the help of this superior military and intelligence advantage, they attacked Abbas Mirza's camp in Aslan Duz in the middle of the night. The Iranian army, under the control of British officers, did not function properly that night.

The Iranian forces were scattered, and many soldiers were martyred, leading the remaining forces to retreat to Tabriz. As a result of this major defeat, Iran was forced to negotiate. The Treaty of Gulistan was written under the mediation of Augustus Ouseley, and swathes of Iranian territory were separated. Later, when Ouseley's reports were published by the British government, he expressed his strategy as follows: "We must ensure that the Iranian nation remains in savagery and barbarism." This perpetual policy of the UK has been to keep Iran backward and to exploit it to the fullest extent possible in any situation.

Iran witnessed a major famine in 1917, which according to historical records, is considered the most horrific event in Iranian history—a catastrophe in which the UK played a central role. Following this, the exploitation of Iran's national resources by the UK began during the reign of Mozaffar ad-Din Shah through an individual contract known as "Knox D'Arcy." Subsequently, with the establishment of the "Anglo-Persian Oil Company" by Lord Fisher and its transformation into the An-

glo-Iranian Oil Company, various unilateral agreements heavily favoring the British side were concluded between the two countries, allowing British control over our oil resources.

The imposition of the "Reuter concession" in 1872, which effectively sold Iran to the UK for 70 years, is another issue that has added to Iranians' historical resentment towards the UK.

Simon Shercliff, the current British ambassador to Iran, like the first British envoy, now seeks to showcase his affinity for Iran and Iranian culture on various occasions. One day in the embassy courtyard, he grills chicken kebabs, and the next day, he tries to mimic popular Iranian figures on social media, pretending that the UK is a friend to Iran and Iranians. However, this approach can no longer win the trust of Iranians. Thinking about how the UK can gain the trust of Iranians is very challenging, as there is likely no other answer to this question.

The BBC, which launched its Persian television in 2009, initially aimed to be an opposition media outlet against the Islamic Republic, drawing attention from some of its opponents. However, gradually along its course of operation, it even failed to gain the trust of the opposition. The reasons behind this could serve as a subject for researchers. It's even recommended that the BBC World Service take more oversight of this sub-division's activities, as the publication of inaccurate, forged, and unsubstantiated news multiple times has irreparably damaged the reputation of this media brand.



# ISIS in service of Zionist regime



## PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

*Contrary to what has been said in the media, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) did not appear in 2012 or 2013. Its history goes back to the beginning of the 21st century.*

*What this article intends to prove is that, contrary to what the leaders and media organs of this seemingly Islamic group show, ISIS is entirely in service to the interests of the United States and especially the Zionist regime in the region.*



The illustration shows Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, founder of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), being puppeteered by Israel, the US, and the UK.  
khamenei.ir

Regarding the American nature of this group, as well as other Takfiri groups in the region, numerous documents have been presented by American officials, some of which are briefly mentioned below.

Daniel McAdams, president of the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity in the US, stated in an interview, "The United States has helped the growth of ISIS for tactical, not ideological, reasons. The US has bolstered ISIS to destabilize Syria, as the country wanted to overthrow Bashar Assad." Donald Trump, the then-president of the United

States, accused the Obama administration of actively supporting extremist groups that later became ISIS. Trump repeatedly stated, "I want to say that Hillary Clinton is also one of the founders of ISIS." Mike Pence, Trump's vice president, also stated that Obama and Clinton's policies led to the creation of ISIS.

However, the main focus of this article is a documentary and analytical examination of the connection between the Takfiri and terrorist group ISIS and the Zionist regime. ISIS's actions in the past and especially in the current period (i.e., after

Hamas's Operation Al-Aqsa Storm) have entirely served the media interests and military interests of the Zionist regime.

Regarding media interests, the Zionist regime, which is battling the Hamas organization, has committed numerous horrific crimes against the oppressed people of Gaza. Consequently, the international reputation and legitimacy of the regime have been shaken in an unprecedented fashion. For this reason, the regime needs to utilize the ISIS brand in the media to reverse the negative ongoing trend in its favor and to consolidate relations with

its own society, "Jews worldwide," and even "the Islamic world". It also aims to secularize the Islamic world. ISIS's current attacks on Jews and Christians worldwide follow this trend. The article will mention cases that facilitate these interests.

In terms of the military interests of the Zionist regime, it should be emphasized that almost the entirety of ISIS's existence, from a theoretical and practical perspective, especially in the current period, has served the Zionist regime. Prioritizing the fight against apostates and polytheists over the followers of Abrahamic religions, prioritizing the distant enemy over the near enemy, directly fighting the jihadist organizations, and making the environment unsafe for anti-Zionist demonstrations all originate from 'Wahhabism' and are aimed at strengthening and expanding the Zionist regime's military interests in the Gaza war. Further evidence and more detailed explanations will be provided later in the article.

### A mutually beneficial tie

The Zionist regime has directly and indirectly supported ISIS at various times, which has repeatedly been reciprocated by the terrorist group.

The following media attitudes reveal that ISIS serves the Zionist regime and the Zionist regime benefits from the ISIS brand — details will follow in the next section:

1. ISIS's avoidance of using the term Zionism
2. ISIS's attacks on Jews and Christians at this time
3. ISIS's press reaction to the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm by Hamas

The following actions also prove ISIS's service to the Zionist regime:

1. ISIS's enmity with the Islamic Resistance groups, laid bare by declaring organizations like Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood as apostates and Hezbollah in Lebanon as polytheists
2. Executing Musa Abu Zamat by ISIS for smuggling weapons to Hamas
3. Creating insecurity for anti-Zionist demonstrations
4. Apologizing to the Zionist regime for mistakenly engaging with it in the Golan Heights!

In addition to the above points, the following points show the various ways the Zionist regime has supported ISIS:

1. Promotion of Wahhabism by Avichay Adraee, the spokesman for the Israeli army
2. Endorsing the ideology of Wahhabism, the core ideology of ISIS, by Mordechai Kedar, one of the extremist Zionist thinkers
3. Israel's purchase of oil from ISIS, which financed the terrorist group

### Tiptoeing around 'Zionism,' attacking Jews, Christians

Almost all the announcements issued by ISIS, especially at this period of time, use the term 'Jews' instead of using the word 'Zionists'. Added to the facts that, on the one hand, ISIS has been attacking Jews and Christians and, on the other hand, Israel calls Hamas "ISIS", one and only one sobering conclusion can be drawn: By conducting attacks on Jews and Christians of the world at this critical time, ISIS is trying to strengthen the weakened alliance between Jews, Christians, and Zionists.

When ISIS, on the one hand, pretends that it is carrying out these operations against innocent Jews and Christians in retaliation for the Israeli war on Gaza and, on the other hand, it constantly emphasizes enmity with 'Judaism' and 'Christianity' in its statements, the Jews and Christians of the world naturally become afraid. As a result, those who can once again seek refuge in the Zionist regime for their security, even if they are against Zionism and the actions of the Zionist regime.

This corresponds with a sociological theory that states external hostility towards a specific group leads to internal cohesion among the members of that group.

If ISIS really wanted to engage with the Zionist regime, it should have intervened in the Gaza war and entered into a war with the Zionists.



**هجوم لمقاتلي الدولة الإسلامية على كنيسة بمدينة "إسطنبول" في تركيا يسفر عن مصرع نصراني وإصابة آخر بجروح**

**أعماق**  
الإخبارية  
AMAQ NEWS AGENCY



صورة منشدي الهجوم على الكنيسة النصرانية بمدينة "إسطنبول" في تركيا

**تركيا - إسطنبول - وكالة أعماق:** نفذ مقاتلان من الدولة الإسلامية هجوما مسلحا على كنيسة للنصارى بمدينة "إسطنبول" التركية. وقال مصدر أمني لوكالة أعماق إن مقاتلين من الدولة الإسلامية هاجما صباح اليوم، الأحد، كنيسة للنصارى في حي "بويوكدير" بمدينة "إسطنبول". وأضاف المصدر أن الهجوم وقع أثناء تأدية النصارى لطقوسهم المعتادة يوم الأحد، وأسفر عن مقتل نصراني وإصابة آخر بجروح. وأكد المصدر انسحاب منفذي الهجوم من مكان العملية بسلام. وبين المصدر أن الهجوم جاء استجابة لنداء قادة الدولة الإسلامية باستهداف اليهود والنصارى في كل مكان.

28 يناير 2024

The following statement by ISIS, issued in Arabic, describes an attack on "Jews" and "Christians" inside a church in Istanbul, Turkey, which was allegedly carried out "in retaliation for the Gaza war".

**حقيقة اليهود**

فيجب على المسلمين أن يعرفوا حقيقة اليهود كما بينها الله تعالى، وأن يدركوا طبيعة المعركة معهم في ضوء آيات القرآن الكريم، وليس كما تذكرها كتب السياسة الجوفاء والمراجع الوطنية العوجاء. فالمعركة مع اليهود معركة دينية ليست وطنية ولا قومية!

مقتطف من كلمة الشيخ أبي حذيفة الأنصاري -حفظه الله- «واقتلوهم حيث تقتلتموهم»



In this ISIS statement, Abu Hudhayfah Al-Ansari, spokesman of the group, is quoted regarding the fueling of the fire of enmity with "Jews" and not "Zionists".

**Reaction to Operation Al-Aqsa Storm**

After Hamas's Operation Al-Aqsa Storm began on October 7, 2023, many Islamic and even non-Islamic countries supported Hamas and condemned the subsequent crimes committed by the Zionists. This effectively formed an international and Islamic coalition around the unity of the Islamic world and the rejection of Zionism in the region. Even though almost all Islamic communities in the Middle East region as well as Western and Eastern politicians and officials took a negative stance against the actions of the Zionist regime and condemned its crimes — even if it was just to keep up the pretenses — the least reaction was observed from ISIS. This lack of reaction demonstrates that ISIS is acting against Hamas and in the interests of the Zionist regime. For instance, in the first week after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, ISIS did not show any reaction to the operation. However, ISIS supporters republished some old media content originating from this group that called Hamas apostate. Eventually, to maintain appearances, ISIS reacted implicitly to the events of the Occupied Territories in its final editorial and infographic in the 412th issue of its al-Naba Weekly, which was published on Friday, October 21. In the editorial, ISIS implicitly referred to the sufferings of the people of Gaza and, in the form of religious discourse, demanded support for the afflicted Muslims. Despite the situation, the ISIS group still could not hide its grudge against Hamas. By highlighting the need to help the people of Gaza in their plight, it criticized Hamas and the people of Gaza. For example, its

Al-Battar Foundation tried to give advice in one of its infographics, and without mentioning names, invited the people of Gaza to endure suffering and hardship in the way of God and not in the way of the nation or the land. The same foundation, in another infographic titled "Which way are you walking?" stated that the sympathy of the nation of Muhammad with their brothers in Palestine is pleasing, and they are happy to kill and reject the Jews. But the question is, did these actions take place in the way of God and with the announcement of "the word Allah" or were they done to establish a civil and secular Palestinian government? In fact, the positions taken by ISIS reveal that instead of defending Muslims against the Zionists with all its might, it has adopted a policy that both confirms the doubts about its cooperation with the Zionists and opposes Hamas and other resistance groups in order to weaken them. After adopting these positions, ISIS has not taken the slightest action to show that it intends to harm the Zionists. Instead, with blind attacks on Jews and Christians of the world, it is trying to divert public opinion, which is now heavily against Zionism, from the incident in Gaza. The terrorist group is trying to switch the places of the oppressor and the oppressed, or, in other words, the executioner and the martyr. Furthermore, it plays into the hands of those who try to cast Muslims as terrorists. Of course, as stated, these actions are all aimed at re-legitimizing the Zionist regime in bombing the innocent people of Gaza. The Zionist regime has also shown us another piece of the puzzle via its precise division of labor, and that pertains to its efforts at aligning ISIS with

Hamas in the media and public opinion. When you combine the narratives that, on the one hand, ISIS is attacking innocent Jews and Christians all over the world and, on the other hand, the Zionist regime has entered into a war with Hamas, which is repeatedly labeled as similar to ISIS, it appears to the untrained eyes of the public opinion that the Zionist regime's war with Hamas is, in fact, a war with a group like ISIS — a group that has no other goal than carrying out terrorist operations against innocent people around the world. Therefore, it is quite clear that the actions of ISIS in the last few months have not only not harmed the Zionist regime, but have completely been in service to the Zionist regime.

**A note on ISIS ideology**

In the previous section, we explored the media favors given to the Zionist regime by ISIS from behind cameras and computers. They were essentially aimed at inciting the Jews and Christians of the world and pushing them back towards Israel. However, in this section, we try to provide evidence that ISIS serves the Zionist regime from a military point of view as well. But before fully exploring this position, it is necessary to mention the basis on which ISIS acts against the axis of resistance and thereby serves the Zionist regime. The basis in question, of course, relies on Wahhabism, a way of thinking based on which the Shias are polytheists and apostates and have left the Islamic Ummah, and as a result, the battle with them precedes the battle with the Jews, Christians, and infidels. It was for this reason that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi

(spiritual father of ISIS) also considered the battle with the Shias to be superior to the battle with the infidels and people of the book. He officially declared: "Our fight with America is an easy task because America is a clear enemy and due to its lack of intelligence, it neither knows our land nor the real position of the Mujahideen. We know for sure that these crusading forces will leave either today or tomorrow. But the real enemies are Rafidas [a derogatory term that refers to Shias] who seek to expand their control over military and economic forces. They are also seeking to form a comprehensive government that includes Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and the Gulf countries. For this reason, the Rafidas are considered an adjacent and dangerous enemy of the Sunnis. Of course, it is true that America is the main enemy, but the danger of the Rafidas is greater and their harm is more severe. They are more deadly for the Islamic Ummah than America." It is based on such principles, branched off from Wahhabi thought, that ISIS prefers fighting against Shias and their allies (even if they are Sunnis) over fighting against infidels. In other words, they consider Shia to be polytheists and Sunni jihadist organizations — which, they claim, support polytheists — to be apostates. Then, they argue that fighting polytheists and apostates is preferable to fighting the followers of the Abrahamic religions (i.e. Jews and Christians). Therefore, paying attention to the destructive effects of Wahhabi ideology is obligatory for every careful observer. That ideology, which is at the core of the ISIS movement, is further promoted by Zionist thinkers and leaders.



The photo shows the Arabic editorial published by ISIS in al-Naba Weekly on October 21, 2023, where the terrorist group finally addressed the suffering of Gazans at the hands of the Israelis.



ISIS's Al-Battar Foundation criticizes the national take on Operation Al-Aqsa Storm in an infographic titled "Which way are you walking?", an Arabic excerpt of which is reflected in this photo.



**حزب الله أم حزب الشيطان؟**

ماذا سيحدث لو سيطر الرافضة المنتسبون على بيت المقدس؟ الجواب يقيناً أنهم سيفعلون بالمسلمين ومفحساتهم هناك ما فعلوه بالمسلمين في العراق والبلاد واليمن ومكرب مات لبنان، فليل وأسز والتهالك للكرامات وتحسيساً للمفحسات، ولعل أول من سيكتوي بنارهم هم أشباعهم الذين الحازوا بالكلية إلى محورهم الإيراني، وطافوا بعلمائه المنجسة في طهران وبغداد ولبنان، وكذبوا عليها لخور الولاء للخميلي وثورته الرافضية، وقدموا قرابين الوفاء لإيران المجوسية. لعقود طويلة خلت، كانت القدس "حصان طروادة" الذي امتطاه أغلب طواغيت العرب والأحزاب المرتدة على اختلاف مذاهبهم الشركية، فكلهم استغلّ مخالفة القدس في الصلح والترحيل لرباهم وغاياتهم الجاهلية، فالقوميون والوطنيون والبعثيون كلهم تغلّبوا وتمسكوا بالقدس، فالطاغوت حافظ الأسد كان يردد، "رريد فلسطين قبل الجولان" والطاغوت صدام أسّس "جيش القدس" وقد سار الرافضة اليوم على نفس المنوال ولعبوا نفس الدور باسم "محور القدس" و"فيلق القدس" و"مليحة القدس" و"قواء القدس" و"يوم القدس"، وعلى إرهم سار أولياؤهم فحلبتوا "سيف القدس" و"درع القدس"... وعقد ما شئت من الأوصاف والألقاب مضافه موصوله بالقدس، والقدس لا تقر لهم بوصول.

إن "يوم القدس" و"فيلق القدس" و"سيف القدس" و"درع القدس" و"قواء القدس"، كلها مفردات تدور في فلك المحور الإيراني لتصره وتخدمه وتواليه وتؤيده.

1 صحيفة النبا العدد 386

Al-Naba Weekly, affiliated with ISIS, attributes falsehoods to Hezbollah and Iran in issue 386, an Arabic excerpt of which is reflected in this photo.

**أهم نوافض الإسلام التي وقعت فيها حركة حماس**

قال الله تعالى: (ومن يتبع غير الإسلام فهو كالمختروق الذي سفلت فيه أنفه) [آل عمران: 85].

**الإيمان بالديمقراطية ديناً ومنهجاً**

قال الله تعالى: (ألم تر إلى الذين يؤمنون أنهم آمنوا بما نزلنا وما نزلنا من قبله يريدون أن يتحاكموا إلى العقائد وقد آمنوا أن يكفروا به ويريدوا يتحلفوا أن يكفروا بما نزلنا من قبله) [آل عمران: 76].

**التحاكم للتشريعات الطاغوتية الدولية والمحلية التي تناقض شريعة الله سبحانه**

قال الله تعالى: (ولا تقولوا لما تصف ألسنتكم الكتاب، هذا خلاف عهدنا نحن لنفتنوا على الله الكتاب إن الذين يكفرون على الله الكتاب، لا يخفون - متاع قليل ولهم عذاب أليم [آل عمران: 117-116].

**المشاركة في كتابة التشريعات الكفرية أو التعديل عليها في البرلمان الشركي**

قال الله تعالى: (يسر المتكفرون بأن لهم عدائنا أيما - الذين يتخذون الكافرين أولياء من دون المؤمنين أيتنون بغيرهم أهلاً لأن الهلاك بهم جميعاً) [آل عمران: 120].

**موالدة الطواغيت والمرتدين ومودتهم والتعاون معهم، كحالهم مع طواغيت إيران وغيرهم**

قال الإمام محمد بن عبد الوهاب رحمه الله: "النافع الممنع، مخالفة المشركين، ومعاونتهم على المسلمين، والدليل قوله تعالى: (ومن يتولهم منهم فإنه منكم إن الله لا يقبل التوبة للذين كفروا) [المائدة: 51].

**التنسيق والاستعانة بالطواغيت وجندهم لقتال الموحدين في ولية سيناء وغيرها**

قال الله تعالى: (وما يؤمنه بائعاً إلا الكاذبون) [المائدة: 47].

**جحد وتعطيل الكثير من نصوص الكتاب والسنة بل والديكار على من طيقها، كضرب الجزية وقتال الكفار**

قال الإمام محمد بن عبد الوهاب رحمه الله: "من لم يكفر المشركين، أو شك في كفرهم، أو صمم على قتلهم قتلهم".

**أسلمة الرافضة وتصحيح دينهم والتقارب معهم**

يقول ابن القيم: "الرافضة هم الذين كفروا بالله ورسوله".

انقوغرافيك النبا  
رقم العدد 386

Al-Naba Weekly lists actions taken by Hamas that ISIS believes to be blasphemies in an article, an Arabic infographic of which is seen in this photo.

**ISIS's enmity with Hezbollah**

The fact that ISIS calls all the forces that engaged in direct, armed combat with the Zionist regime — whether they be Sunni or Shia — apostates and polytheists is one of the most significant indicators that this terrorist organization is in the pocket of the Zionists. As it was discussed, Wahhabism also plays a role in this regard. Furthermore, not only does ISIS declare war on the aforementioned forces, but also actively engages in combat with them. Among such resistance groups is the Hezbollah movement of Lebanon.

It is no secret that in the last few decades, the Lebanese Hezbollah, which is one of the most important forces of the resistance, has had the most intense conflicts with the Zionist regime, but ISIS considers the organization to be a polytheist. To humiliate it, it frequently calls Hezbollah (literally translated as the party of Allah) as Hezb al-Shaytan (literally translated as the party of Satan). The documentation for this is given below.

In an audio message published by Al-Furqan, an ISIS media outlet, ISIS spokesperson Abu Hudhayfah Al-Ansari labeled Iranians and Shias as polytheists and Lebanon's Hezbollah as the party of Satan and his alliance. Al-Ansari considers the alliance with Iran as the work of the Muslim Brotherhood and the cause of deviation and misguidance. He namely considers the Islamic Republic of Iran to be the cause of the deviation of the Mujahideen groups on the way to the liberation of Palestine. So, with false and baseless claims, he tried, in that message, to make Iran look bad in the eyes of the Mujahideen of the Islamic world.

In addition, in issue 386 of Al-Naba Weekly, which is affiliated with ISIS, Hezbollah is once again called the Hezb al-Shaytan. The article further claims that the goal of Hezbollah and Iran in fighting against Zionism is to put pressure on and harass Sunnis and other Muslims, insult their sacred items, and allow Shias to take control of Al-Quds (Jerusalem).

In response to these false claims, it suffices to mention that Iran has provided financial and meaningful aid not just to Hezbollah, but also to other Sunni groups such as Hamas and the the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement, all of which are fighting against Israel. These organizations have emphasized this fact at various times.

**ISIS's enmity with Hamas, Muslim Brotherhood**

In addition to Lebanon's Hezbollah, Sunni groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas have had intense conflicts with Israel. Hamas's recent Operation Al-Aqsa Storm not only shattered the illusions of grandeur surrounding the Zionist regime and its military but also revealed its anti-human and terrorist nature in front of the free-thinking people of the world. However, ISIS is not only not supporting these Sunni groups,

but calls them apostates — again influenced by its Wahhabi ideology. Our evidence for this claim is given below.

In another article, published by Al-Naba Weekly, it is claimed that Hamas believes in ruling based on tyrannical laws, writes blasphemies, communicates with apostates and tyrants such as Iran, fights against Mujahideen (i.e. Daesh), does not implement the teachings of Qur'an, and refrains from engaging in war with the "infidels" and instead, recognizes the Shias and cooperates with them. Therefore, it is concluded that Hamas is violating Islam and are apostates. These baseless and false claims are also based on the teachings of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab.

In addition to the above, on page five of another article published by al-Azaim Media, affiliated with a Khorasan branch of ISIS, on the occasion of the war between Hamas and the Zionist regime, the conflict with the Jews "at this point in time and in this way" is considered "pointless". The article employs sophistry and a harsh tone when referring to Hamas and says:



Musa Abu Zamat (sitting) who allegedly worked with ISIS and provided weapons to Hamas's armed wing is being sentenced to execution by an ISIS speaker.

"Hamas is a movement based on thoughts of patriotism and democracy, and cultivated with the beliefs of the Brotherhood. Their fight against the Jews has only the color of patriotism and is not based on Sharia and ideological rules. Their leaders have admitted that their fight against the Jews

is not because of the war against Judaism, but because Jews have occupied the land of Palestine, while the Muslim war against the Jews is a definite, religious, and ideological matter. Hamas does not implement many of the rules of the Quran and the Sunnah.

They even slander the enforcers of the Sharia law, especially those who enforce the rules of jizya and fight with the infidels, or enforce limits. Hamas considers the polytheists to be Muslims, they consider their religion to be true, and they accept them because of their main leaders, and they are always trying to get closer to them."

ISIS has at various times considered the Muslim Brotherhood, which is a large longstanding Sunni organization, as an apostate group. For example, in a series of eight-part audio lectures, titled "Al-Ikhwan al-Murtadoon" (literally translated as The Brotherhood of the Apostates) on Radio Al-Bayan, affiliated with ISIS, the Muslim Brotherhood group has been declared apostate. In issue 14 of the multilingual magazine Dabiq, also affiliated with ISIS, the Muslim Brotherhood was

also introduced as Al-Ikhwan al-Murtadoon, and a detailed article was written to prove the apostasy of this group.

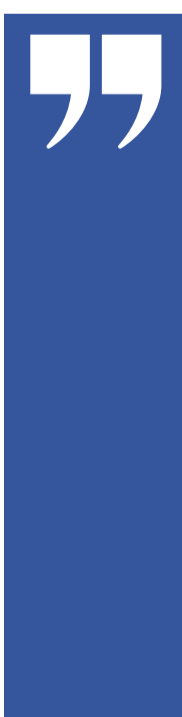
It can be seen that all the groups that engage in direct battle with the Zionist regime are declared by ISIS, which is influenced by Wahhabi thinking, as

either apostates or polytheists. On the other hand, based on the theory of the "near enemy and distant enemy" that ISIS put forward, the fight against the near enemies (that is, the apostates and polytheists, or Hamas and Hezbollah) precedes the fight against the distant enemies (the Zionists). For this reason, even at this point in time, ISIS is conflicting with Hamas and other groups involved with Israel. Now, the question is: isn't this an obvious and valuable service to the Zionist regime?

**Execution of Musa Abu Zamat**

ISIS not only considers Hamas as apostates but executes anyone who helps the apostate — again influenced by Wahhabi thinking. Among other documents that clearly show that ISIS, from an operational point of view, has been at the service of the Zionists and serves their interests, is the release of a video, entitled "Mullah Ibrahim," from the so-called Sinai province of this organization. In this video, the ISIS speaker claims that a person named Moussa Abu Zamat was sentenced to death for the crime of supplying weapons to "the apostate Hamas" and supporting "the apostate battalions of the Qassam Brigades," Hamas's armed wing. In a part of his speech, he says: "The Sharia court of ISIS in Sinai Province has ordered the killing of apostates who have helped the polytheists in the war. This person, Musa Abu Zamat, was previously in the ranks of ISIS Mujahideen, but he helped the polytheists and provided weapons to apostates such as the Qassam Brigades."

In fact, the positions taken by ISIS reveal that instead of defending Muslims against the Zionists with all its might, it has adopted a policy that both confirms the doubts about its cooperation with the Zionists and opposes Hamas and other resistance groups in order to weaken them.







Avichay Adraee, head of the Arab media division of the IDF Spokesperson's Unit, defends the Wahhabi thought against Shia in a video published in Arabic.

It can be seen that the Wahhabi thinking has reached a point where those who help the Qassam Brigades, which are in direct battle with the Zionist regime, are also executed by ISIS for the crime of cooperating with the so-called apostate and polytheist groups. Cases like this clearly show that ISIS, from a military point of view, is completely in the service of the Zionist regime.

#### Disrupting anti-Zionist gatherings

In addition to the above actions, ISIS not only excommunicates anti-Zionist groups under false pretenses but also attacks anti-Zionist gatherings and actually makes the space unsafe for public demonstrations against the Zionists. For example, while the Iraqi Popular Forces were heading to the Trebil crossing on the Iraqi border for an anti-Zionist rally, ISIS announced an ambush near the town of Kabisa in Anbar. The town is located on the way to Trebil crossing. Since the actions of the Iraqi people were against the Zionists, ISIS made it unsafe to rally.

#### Apologizing to Zionist regime

Among the other pieces of evidence that prove the connection between ISIS and the Zionists and show that from the military point of view, ISIS serves the Zionist goals and does not harm it, is the Israeli Defense Minister's admission that ISIS apologized for the conflict with the Israeli forces. Moshe Ya'alon, former Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces and Minister of Defense from 2013 to 2016, announced in a statement that ISIS had "apologized" for engaging with Israel in November 2016. The IDF declined to comment further on the matter.

The British online newspaper The Independent also confirmed this story. It further explained that Moshe Yaalon was referring to an incident in which a group linked to ISIS clashed with Israeli forces in the Syrian Golan Heights the previous November. That area is a rocky plateau in southwestern Syria, part of which was captured by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War and then annexed in a move never recognized by the international community.

Yaalon made another mention of the story at an event in the northern city of Afula, during which he was being interviewed about Israel's policy toward Syria. According to The Times of Israel, after a brief shootout, the Israeli army attacked the Syrian group of Khalid bin Walid with air strikes and tanks and killed four of them. An army spokesman said at the time that it was the first direct clash between Israeli forces and ISIS militants since the terrorist group opened fire on a military patrol on the Israeli side. Yaalon declined to elaborate on how ISIS apologized to Israel after the attack, and the Israel Defense Forces declined to comment.

Zionist support of ISIS  
Up until here, a set of facts were mentioned that clearly showed that ISIS is at the service of the Zionist regime in the media and on the ground. It was also emphasized that Wahhabism is the main axis and foundation of ISIS.

The following sections seek to show, citing reliable facts, that the Zionist regime supports ISIS back in direct and indirect ways in line with its strategic interests. These indirect ways include the confirmation, promotion, and expansion of the Wahhabi idea by the leaders of the Zionist regime. The direct methods include financing ISIS with ac-

tions such as buying oil from it. These cases will be discussed further.

#### Israel's promotion of Wahhabism

One of the things that confirms the above claim is the spokesman of the Israeli army's all-out defense of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab and his anti-Shia thoughts. In a video in Arabic, Avichay Adraee advised the Palestinians to learn authentic Islam, the Muhammadan Sharia, and the Sunnah from Ibn Taymiyya and Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, and not to follow Iran and Shia ideas. He said:

"Islamic Sharia and Prophetic tradition hate Shias. Thus, what heresy do you come up with, and by what right do you follow Iran's terrorism? Blindly following to paint the region in the color of Iran's government. Hamas! You have become like Iranian and Hezbollah mullahs and their ilk. You have officially become a Shia according to the noble prophetic hadith and the principles of the Iranian system. Have you not read the texts of Ahl Zikr from the religious scholars, jurists, and fathers of the sharia of Prophet Muhammad? They clearly warned you and your nation against the danger of becoming Shia in the Iranian model. The Salafism of Imam Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab warned again about the danger of heretics for the religion of Islam: 'Look at the speech of this atheist. You will find him from the speech of Rafidas [Shias]. They are far more harmful to the religion than Jews and Christians.' Don't you understand the danger of Iranians from these words? And do you still follow Iranian Shias? Those who are more dangerous to you than any other human being?"

It is interesting that the issues raised in this speech correspond to the ideological texts and declarations of ISIS leaders. This degree of conformity does not seem to be accidental.

#### Confirmation of Wahhabi ideology

One of the other cases that shows that the Zion-

ist regime indirectly defends ISIS and its ideas is the endorsement of ISIS ideology by one of the extremist thinkers of Zionism, Mordechai Kedar. Kedar is an Israeli researcher specializing in the studies of the Islamic world and the Arab world, a professor at Bar Ilan University, and one of the editors and writers of the News-rael newsfeed.

Kedar is a Zionist and has served in the military intelligence department of the Israeli army for 25 years. He also specializes in the field of Islamic groups, political discourse in Arab countries, the Arab press and mass media, and the domestic arena of Syria.

In an interview published a while ago with Abdul Rahman al-Balushi, an apparently Muslim Arab journalist who supports and follows the deviant and takfiri Wahhabi thought, he clearly confirmed the Wahhabi thoughts of the interviewer. He validated the Wahhabi thought and echoed al-Wahhab's labeling of certain groups as polytheists. Since, as stated, Wahhabism and the teachings of al-Wahhab are the main theoretical and practical basis behind the ideology of ISIS, here Kedar is actually confirming ISIS by confirming these foundations. The abridged translation of this interview follows.

The interviewer told Kedar, "The Wahhabi da'wah was a reform movement to eliminate the manifestations of polytheism that spread in that historical period, and Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab was able to publish this da'wah by uniting with Muhammad bin Saud. In fact, Muhammad bin Abd al-Wahhab's dawa was along with Ibn Taymiyya's dawa, and Ibn Taymiyya's dawa was not outside of Ahmad ibn Hanbal's dawa. In contrast to the views of Ash'ari, Sufi, and similar movements, there were issues such as asking saints and righteous people, building graves, bowing and visiting graves, and asking for help and intercession from the dead, which in the Islamic heritage are called polytheism."

Mordechai Kedar, while confirming the above con-



Mordechai Kedar (R) is being interviewed by Abdul Rahman al-Balushi, a supporter of the thought of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab.



tent, responded, "In the Islamic view, the saints and the righteous are the teachers of the path and tariqa of Sufiyya. But if they are dead, this is Shirk [polytheism]. If someone prays for a dead person and asks him to intercede for people because of their sins and mistakes, this is Shirk in the Islamic view. This is the same as placing a dead person in a higher position than a living person and placing him as a mediator between God and mankind. Undoubtedly, this is Shirk."

#### Israel's financing of ISIS

It is natural that when a movement like ISIS serves the interests of the Zionists like this, the movement of Zionism supports it both indirectly and directly. One of its important and proven backings is the fact that Israel purchased oil from ISIS.

According to the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth, Aida Touma-Suleiman confirmed during a Knesset session that Israel bought oil from ISIS: "These links are well documented by the reports of the Israeli cabinet under Benjamin Netanyahu purchasing oil from the Islamic State." She added, "I am against cooperation with extremist and terrorist groups such as ISIS, which massacre people. I am not the only one who knows about Israel's collaboration with ISIS. The United Nations has documented the cooperation of the Israeli cabinet with ISIS."

#### In a nutshell

It can be concluded that the Zionist regime, directly and indirectly, supports ISIS just as ISIS serves the Zionist regime with the purpose of disuniting the Islamic world and furthering Israeli strategic interests in the region. To this aim, the thinkers and leaders of both are also trying to strengthen and spread the ideology of Wahhabism with all their power and propaganda resources.

Any external observer who mulls over the comments and facts raised in this article with an open mind will confirm that there is a close relationship between ISIS and the Zionist regime and that this terrorist group moves entirely to serve the interests of the Zionist regime.





## Yazdani heading to Budapest in pursuit of Paris ticket

UWW

### Sports Desk

Iranian wrestling sensation Hassan Yazdani will participate in the Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial tournament – starting June

6 in Budapest – to have his fitness assessed for the Paris Olympics, the country's Wrestling Federation announced. The Ranking Series event will come nine months af-

ter the Iranian made his last international appearance at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, where he cruised to the freestyle 86kg gold. Having won the Olympic

quota thanks to a silver medal in last year's World Championships, Yazdani had to undergo a surgery on his injured shoulder right after the Asian Games and only made his

long-awaited return to the mat last week. A winner of a national-high nine world and Olympic medals, Yazdani posted a video on his Instagram account on Thursday, show-

ing him in action with his sparring partner. Yazdani will be the sole Iranian 86kg wrestler in Budapest, the federation said, adding: "If his health and fitness levels are approved

of by the national team coaching staff, he will be a part of the freestyle squad at the Paris Olympics."

The Iranian wrestling body still said a domestic trial remains on the cards, should Yazdani fail to be fully fit for the Budapest event – which will begin 50 days before the opening ceremony of the Games in the French capital – meaning two-time world 92kg champion Kamran Qasempour could still fancy his chances for the 86kg place in Paris.

Qasempour, who had to deal with his own injury woes – which ruled him out of the world title defense in Belgrade last September – moved up to the Olympic 97kg weight class for the start of the new year.

However, his below-par results in January's Zagreb Open, including a comprehensive defeat against American great Kyle Snyder, saw Iranian prodigy Amir-Ali Azarpira – gold medalist in the Croatian capital – emerge as the frontrunner for the Iranian 97kg slot in the Olympics.

Yazdani will be eager to seek a third successive Olympic medal in August after his familiar foe David Taylor, who enjoys a 5-1 head-to-head record against the Iranian, was stunned by fellow-American Aaron Brooks in the U.S. Olympic trials earlier in April.

A second Olympic gold will see Yazdani overtake Iranian taekwondo legend Hadi Saei as the country's most-decorated athlete in the history of the Games.

## Masoud Oskouei, veteran Iranian sportscaster, dies at 85



### Sports Desk

Masoud Oskouei passed away at the age of 85 in Tehran on Wednesday.

Oskouei, who had been hospitalized with a broken hip and leg since early April while also suffering from cancer, will be laid to rest in the Iranian capital's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery today.

Best remembered for his unique voice, Oskouei joined the National Television of Iran in 1966 and made his commentating debut in a friendly football game featuring Persepolis and Kuwait national team five years later, though he went on to serve as a volleyball, equestrian, and motorsport pundit and commentator over the best part of his six-decade career. In recent years, Oskouei was the host of several radio programs for the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

## Ancelotti unhappy with Real's attitude in draw at Bayern

**REUTERS** – Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti was disappointed with his players' attitude, calling them "soft" for defending too deep in their 2-2 draw at Bayern Munich in the Champions League semi-final, first leg on Tuesday.

Ancelotti was critical of his team's commitment after Vinicius Jr's first-half goal gave them the lead as Bayern struck twice in four minutes early in the second half to turn the game around before Vinicius equalised from the penalty spot.

"The result is good but on a level of play we could have done better. Bayern showed their best version and we didn't. We have to improve for next week," an introspective Ancelotti told Movistar Plus+.

"In the first half we defended but with little intensity, in the second half when they took the lead we started to press a bit more, but not enough.

"The feeling was that we were comfortable, but we lacked intensity. We gave them too many chances to take control of the game. We didn't want to play in a low block and we went on doing that. We were soft."

Ancelotti defended his decision to substitute midfielder Toni Kroos, who set up Vinicius' opener with a brilliant pass and was arguably Real's best player.

The Italian said that he made four substitutions in an effort to shake his team up and was relieved that they ended up scoring the equaliser that he believes "left the tie open" for the return leg in Madrid next week.

"Jude Bellingham had a cramp, Toni Kroos played a spectacular game but the plan was to try to recover the control of the game by putting fresh legs in," Ancelotti told a press conference.

"As always, at this point in the season we have a great opportunity to play in another final. It's an even tie against a great team. It will be another 90 minutes of suffering but in an atmosphere

that we know quite well. The fans are going to help us."

Meanwhile, Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said his team were victims of Real's lethal efficiency but the Germans are ready to beat them in next week's return leg.

"The result is what it is and it's not worth spending any time thinking about it," Tuchel, who will leave Bayern at the end of the season after a disappointing domestic campaign, told a press conference.

"Real have done it before, to score twice with two chances."

We are not the first team to suffer that. They have the finish, they have the quality to do that. "We had a strong start then we lost a bit our rhythm. We should have scored a third but we were not efficient enough, not cold enough to add a third. Then we gifted them a penalty.

"The situation is now very clear," Tuchel added. "We go to Madrid and the winner takes it all. We are ready to fight. It is important to believe that.

"It is still possible. It is 50-50. It is one of the toughest places to win but that is also what makes this challenge exciting."

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti reacts during his side's 2-2 draw against Bayern Munich in the Champions League semi-final, first leg in Allianz Arena, Munich, Germany, on April 30, 2024.

GETTY IMAGES





## Minister: Free healthcare for children under 7, investment in future



### Social Desk

Iranian Health Minister, Bahram Einollahi, announced a significant investment in the nation's future health by making medical services free for children up to the age of seven in state-run healthcare centers. Speaking during a weekly government meeting, Einollahi emphasized the importance of addressing health needs at various stages of life, highlighting that many human illnesses originate during the first seven years of life. He stressed that preventive measures taken during childhood could lessen the burden of diseases in adulthood. "The developmental growth of the human body occurs during the first decade of life. Therefore, any incident, especially within the first seven years of a child's life, can have lasting

effects," Einollahi said. The decision to provide free medical services for children up to the age of seven in government medical centers was approved by the Parliament. Einollahi described the initiative as a point of pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite facing challenges and sanctions, the country has committed to offering free healthcare to children up to seven years old in state facilities. Einollahi framed the initiative as an investment in the country's future, acknowledging that while its impacts may not be immediately visible, its benefits will become apparent in 10 to 20 years, ultimately ensuring the nation's health security. Responding to concerns about drug shortages for thalassemia patients, Einollahi outlined plans to strength-

en domestic pharmaceutical companies to meet the country's medication needs. He noted an increase in the production of thalassemia drugs domestically but acknowledged a preference for foreign medications, leaving the decision to prescribe them to physicians. Highlighting the significance of producing bandages for Epidermolysis bullosa (EB) patients, Einollahi underscored government support for startups, noting an increase in the number of knowledge-based companies from 700 to 1,400 as of August 2021. He cited the development of these companies, particularly in producing specialized bandages, as a significant achievement, albeit still in the research phase, with hopes for commercialization in the future.



## Iran fosters cultural diversity: Minister

### Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister emphasized Iran's role in accepting cultural diversity during the 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku. In his speech at the forum, the minister highlighted Iran's historical commitment to acknowledging cultural, ethnic, and religious differences, IRNA wrote. "Religious and ethnic minorities in Iran enjoy equal rights and freedoms alongside all citizens," he said. The minister stressed the importance of sincere dialogue and tolerance among societies, advocating for peaceful coexistence and convergence among religions and cultures globally. He outlined Iran's priorities, including developing cultural relations,

particularly with neighboring countries, establishing balanced connections across Asia, Africa, and other regions, and enhancing collaboration through international organizations. He underscored the significant impact of international organizations in promoting peace and resolving conflicts. Addressing current global issues, the minister criticized what he described as hypocritical behaviors by Western institutions, particularly regarding the situation in Palestine. He also criticized what he saw as the fake nature of Western concepts like freedom of expression, suggesting that Western universities demonstrate insincerity by limiting free speech on issues such as human rights. Furthermore, the minister emphasized Iran's long-standing tradition

of respecting cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity, asserting that Islamic teachings emphasize respect for human dignity and individual and social rights, which should guide interactions with cultural diversity. He called for appropriate policies, programs, and multilateral intercultural projects to foster sustainable cultural development and promote acceptance of cultural and religious differences. He stressed the need for extensive research, increased education, and universal attention to facilitate intercultural dialogue and peace-making efforts. Baku will host various cultural figures, political leaders, and dignitaries from around the world from May 1 to 3 for the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue.

## Iranian animations to compete in Russian festival

The Voronezh International Animation Festival in Russia has announced its lineup, including 10 Iranian works. According to reports, the Iranian entries include 'Feather' directed by Sadeq Javadi, 'Figured Out What to Do' by Reyhaneh Kavosh, 'Presentation' by Fariba Abdolkhani, 'Above the Light' by Somayeh Nili,

'Melody' directed by Ahmad Arabani, 'A Passenger from Ganora' by Seyyed Ahmad Alamdar, 'Inverted' by Fahimeh Qaedi, 'Swollen' directed by Zahra Khorshidi, 'Retirement' by Sara Hanif, and 'The Journey' directed by Nahid Elhami. The festival in Russia is scheduled to take place from May 30 to April 2 of this year.



## Iranian composer Hosseinpour wins at LA Sun Film Festival



Ramin Hosseinpour, the writer, director, and composer of the video art 'Sculpture,' was honored with the Best Composer Award at the 26th edition of the LA Sun Film Festival in April 2024. The festival aims to provide an international platform for independent filmmakers and support their work, ISNA wrote. The video is listed among the top 50 selected documentaries on IMDb in 2023-2024, showcasing its international acclaim. Media outlets globally have recognized Hosseinpour as a

multi-talented artist with numerous talents. 'Sculpture,' has also won awards for Best Animated Animation at a festival in Russia, Best Short Documentary and Experimental Film at a festival in New Jersey, Best Documentary Screenplay at a festival in Tottenham, and the Best Directorial Award in London. Furthermore, it was recognized as the Best Mixed Media Video at the Berlin Art Festival. 'Sculpture' was produced in 2021 with the permission of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's

Music Office. Hosseinpour was responsible for the composition, arrangement, vocals, and electric guitar performance. Hosseinpour, educated in architecture, music, and cinema, has left his mark as a designer, educator, writer, poet, composer, arranger, and performer in the fields of architecture and music. His contributions to cinema, as a writer, director, producer, and conceptual artist, have been acknowledged in the international Euro Art House Cinema Day magazine in Germany.