

Time to boycott

Iran urges OIC states to cut ties, sanction Israel



Iran has presented six proposals to the Muslim countries in order to exert pressure on Israel to end its atrocities against Palestinians, especially those who are under the regime's relentless strikes in the besieged Gaza Strip. Addressing the 15th Heads of State and Government Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Gambia's capital Banjul on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian urged Muslim countries to cut all relations with the Israeli regime as means of pressuring Tel Aviv to end its ongoing genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. He also called for the establishment of an immediate and permanent cease-fire in all parts of Palestine, re-

moval of blockade of Gaza, exchange of prisoners, complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and imposing an arms and trade embargo against the regime. "Beyond doubt, this time period will also pass by, despite all its hardships and adversities for the Palestinian nation," he said. "However, the manner and quality of the role that is played by us, Muslim states, in the face of this crisis will go down in history," the top diplomat added. "Undoubtedly, severance of diplomatic and economic ties and [imposition of] practical arms and trade embargo [on Israel] serves as an important means of cessation of its genocide in Gaza and atrocities in the West Bank and the Noble al-Quds."

At least 34,654 people have been killed in Gaza since October 7, when the Israeli regime began the war in response to al-Aqsa Storm, a retaliatory operation by the coastal sliver's resistance groups. Despite the unabated campaign of bloodshed and destruction, the regime has so far fallen short of realizing its goals, including defeating Gaza's resistance, causing forced displacement of the territory's entire population to neighboring Egypt, and enabling the release of those who were taken captive during Al-Aqsa Storm. Amir-Abdollahian said Gaza's developments proved that elimination of the Palestinian resistance "was nothing but an illusion." "Because the Israeli regime

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian addresses a meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Gambia's capital, Banjul, on May 4, 2024. **IRNA**

is not a legitimate government. It is only an occupying apartheid power," he said, adding, "Passage of time is not going to lend legitimacy to an occupying power." The foreign minister asserted that realization of sustainable peace and security in the region was only possible through cessation of the regime's occupation of Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon, return of the Palestinian refugees to their homeland, and manifestation of Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Hamas chief accuses Israeli PM of truce talks sabotage

Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh on Sunday accused Israel's prime minister of sabotaging efforts by mediators involved in ongoing talks aimed at a truce in Gaza. Haniyeh said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wanted to "invent constant justifications for the continuation of aggression, expanding the circle of conflict, and sabotaging efforts made through various mediators and parties", according to AFP. Qatari, Egyptian and US mediators met a Hamas delegation in Cairo on Saturday and Sunday in the latest bid to halt the devastating almost seven-month-old war that has triggered worldwide protests. Negotiators seeking to halt the devastating war have proposed an initial 40-day pause in the fighting and an exchange of Israeli captives for Palestinian prisoners.

Haniyeh said Hamas had approached the talks with "seriousness and positivity" but questioned "the meaning of an agreement if a cease-fire is not its first result". Earlier Netanyahu had rejected Hamas's demand to end the strikes on the Gaza Strip, which have claimed the lives of more than 34,500 Palestinians there. Israel was "not ready to accept a situation in which the Hamas battalions come out of their bunkers, take control of Gaza again, rebuild their military infrastructure, and return to threaten the citizens of Israel", he said. Netanyahu said "surrendering" to this would amount to defeat. Egypt, Qatar and the United States have been trying to mediate an agreement between Israel and Hamas for months. The Qatar-based leader

of Hamas's political office said the United States had "provided cover for this occupation, should be the one to stop it instead of supplying it with weapons of destruction and extermination". Haniyeh added that Hamas "remains eager to reach a comprehensive and interconnected agreement in stages, ending the aggression, ensuring withdrawal, and achieving a serious prisoner exchange deal". Qatari, Egyptian and US mediators met a Hamas delegation in Cairo on Saturday before talks resumed Sunday. After "no developments" in the first round, a senior Hamas official insisted the group would "not agree under any circumstances" to a truce that did not explicitly include a complete end to the war, including Israel's withdrawal from Gaza.

Kurdistan region's president in Tehran for talks with officials

International Desk

President of Iraq's Kurdistan region arrived in Tehran on Sunday to hold talks with Iranian officials on various issues. Nechirvan Barzani is accompanied by a delegation of senior officials, including Interior Minister Reber Ahmed.

Barzani is scheduled to meet with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, President Ebrahim Raisi and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf. The trip marks Barzani's first visit to Iran since attending president Raisi's inauguration ceremony in 2021.



International Desk

More universities join global student protests against Israel

Protests in Iraq and Bangladesh were the latest in a wave of worldwide demonstrations in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, which have been inspired by the anti-Israel protests in the US universities since April 17. On Sunday, hundreds of Baghdad university students staged a demonstration in front of the university in solidarity with the Palestinian people and in support of the student movement at

American and European universities. The demonstrators called for an end to the Israel's war on Gaza and a boycott of companies that support Israel against the Palestinians. Meanwhile, students of Dhaka University in Bangladesh staged a demonstration to protest the Israel's aggression and

the US government's one-eyed behavior. Student protests against the Israeli military assault on Gaza have spread to many countries. Demonstrators have gathered on at least 40 US university campuses since April 17, often erecting tent camps to protest against the soaring death toll in the Gaza Strip.

Nearly 2,000 people have been detained, according to US media, in demonstrations reminiscent of protests against the Vietnam War. In recent days, police have forcibly dismantled several student sit-ins, including one at New York University at the request of its administrators.

Demonstrators barricaded inside Columbia University, the epicenter in New York of the student protests, complained of police brutality when officers cleared the faculty. At the University of California, Los Angeles, hundreds of police emptied a camp, tearing down barriers and detaining more than 200 protesters.

Dozens of police in riot gear used chemical sprays to break up a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Virginia, student paper The Cavalier Daily reported. Students also have staged protests in Iran, Lebanon, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Mexico and Switzerland. They aim to put exert pressure on the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to end its brutal strikes on the Gaza Strip, which have

killed more than 34,500 Palestinians since October. Netanyahu is also facing mounting pressure in the occupied territories to reach a cease-fire deal with Hamas resistance group and end the conflict in the Gaza Strip. Families of the captives being held by Hamas since October 7 in Gaza along with opponents of the ongoing war in the Palestinian territory, have been staging weekly protests against Netanyahu and its cabinet members in recent months.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Antisemitism, an outdated ...

Alejandro Baer, former director of the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center at Minnesota University and CSIC researcher, told the same newspaper that the Israeli Prime Minister uses antisemitism as a weapon to discredit political opponents. The newspaper referred to a gathering of 300 specialists in antisemitism, Judaism, and the Middle East from around the world in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) in 2019, which promoted the Jerusalem Declaration in 2019. According to the Jerusalem Declaration, "evidence-based criticism" is legitimate. It is

not antisemitic to oppose "its policies and practices [...] such as the conduct of Israel in the West Bank and Gaza." Nor is it antisemitic "to point out systematic racial discrimination." And "even if contentious, it is not antisemitic, in and of itself, to compare Israel with other historical cases, including settler colonialism or apartheid." Therefore, what is happening these days worldwide, including in American society and especially in its universities, is a direct criticism of the inhumane actions of the Israeli regime in Gaza and has no connection to antisemitism. Also, Bernie Sanders, the

progressive senator from Vermont - who is Jewish - has hit back fiercely at Netanyahu over his claim that US universities were being overrun by antisemitism on a scale comparable to the rise of Nazism in Germany. He accused Netanyahu of "insult[ing] the intelligence of the American people" by using antisemitism to distract attention from the policies of his "extremist and racist government" in the military offensive in Gaza. "No Mr. Netanyahu, it is not antisemitic or pro-Hamas to point out that, in a little over six months, your extremist government has killed over

34,000 Palestinians and wounded more than 78,000, 70% of whom are women and children," he said. In response to this wave of accusations, protesting students at Columbia University emphasized in their statement: "We firmly reject any form of hate or bigotry and stand vigilant against non-students attempting to disrupt the solidarity being forged among students," they continued. "Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, Jewish, Black and pro-Palestinian classmates and colleagues who represent the full diversity of our country," the statement said.