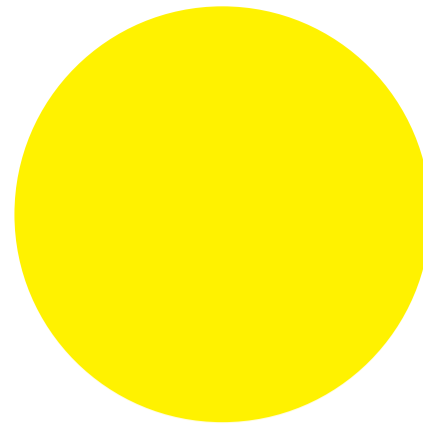




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Iran Daily



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EXCLUSIVE



American activists Blaine Coleman (L) and Mozghan Savabieasfahani talk to Iran Daily about pro-Palestinian student protests in the United States in Tehran, Iran, on May 12, 2024.
 ● ALI HASSANPOUR/IRAN DAILY

At least 8 dead, 12 missing in Mashhad floods

At least eight people have lost their lives in flash floods triggered by heavy rains on Wednesday in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad - the country's second most populous city. Chief of the Mashhad Municipality Fire Department Hamidreza Kafiniya said two people were killed after their car was submerged in the city's flooded Enqelab Square. Flooding also caused the collapse of a residential building in another neighborhood in the city, killing one woman and her four children, Kafiniya added. 7 >



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Parliament ratifies Iran-Indonesia preferential trade deal



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (L) and Indonesian President Joko Widodo wave to photographers during their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Bogor, Indonesia, May 23, 2023. **REUTERS**

The Iranian Parliament has ratified the country's preferential trade agreement (PTA) with Indonesia, announced Alireza Peyman-Pak, Iran's deputy agriculture minister. In an open session of the Parliament on Wednesday, the lawmakers passed a bill on PTA after discussing a report from the Parliament's Economic Commission in that regard. Payman-Pak said the PTA has been ratified by the Parliament following considerable efforts by the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran after President Ebrahim Raisi took office in August 2021.

The leaders of Indonesia and Iran on May 23, 2023 signed a PTA to expand economic relations during an official visit by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Indonesian President Joko Widodo, speaking after a signing ceremony that was streamed online by his cabinet secretariat, hoped the agreement "would increase trade between Indonesia and Iran". "Partnerships and relationships with neighboring countries and Islamic countries and countries with the same views are our priority," Raisi said addressing the ceremony.

Also, Indonesian Trade Ministry official Djatmiko Bris Witjaksono said the two countries had agreed on a "countertrade" scheme in which goods and services can be exchanged "without being constrained by scarcity or currency difficulties". Two-way trade between the nations currently amounts to around \$250 million, with the Southeast Asian country, according to the Indonesian Trade Ministry. Djatmiko told reporters Indonesia is keen to boost trade with the Middle East and the surrounding region. "Iran could be a gateway to the surrounding region, such as Central Asia ... or even to Turkey because we do not have any trade deal with Turkey yet," he said. Under the PTA agreement, Iran would give Indonesia greater access to products like processed food and pharmaceuticals, textile, palm oil, coffee and tea, while Indonesia will lower tariffs for Iran's oil and chemical products, metals and some dairy products.

Raisi inaugurates major projects in northern Iran

President Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated four major port development projects with a total investment of 5.1 million in Amirabad Port in the northern province of Mazandaran as well as hospital projects including the 300-bed building of Qaemshahr hospital.

A sum of 674 hospital beds were also inaugurated in other cities of the northern province by Raisi via videoconferencing on Friday, according to president.ir

Upon arrival to the province on Thursday, Raisi described Mazandaran as a region enjoying great potential to move towards more development.

He underlined agriculture, industry, tourism, forest, sea and especially efficient and sincere human resources as the special capacities of the northern province for economic progress, adding, "Universities and scientific centers, as well as the historical background and numerous personalities that excel not only in the province and the country but also in the World of Islam, along with the history and civilization and the religious identity of the people of Mazandaran, are significant capacities for the growth and development of this province."

Raisi stated that "During the first provincial visit to Mazandaran, we had good resolutions and that good measures have been taken to implement them."

"In this trip, we will monitor the quality of the implementation of these resolutions to see the impact of the steps taken



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (c) visits Nowshahr Port in northern Iranian province of Mazandaran on May 17, 2024. **president.ir**

to implement them to contribute to the growth and progress of the province", he added.

Raisi continued to point out that the government's actions in the field of building housing and creating employment in the

province, adding, "The government has also been able to revive more than 300 production units in the province that were unfortunately stagnant, which has created many job opportunities". He expressed his hope to make effective

decisions to meet some of the needs of the province that the governor general, the representative of the Leader in the province, the managers, lawmakers, armed forces, and all the managers in the province have reviewed before.

Tehran, Moscow working on single BRICS currency: *Envoy*

Iran and Russia are cooperating to create a single BRICS currency, Iran's Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali announced.

Iran is actively participating in the activities organized under Russia's chairmanship in BRICS, and the countries are working to create a single currency for the association, Jalali said in a press conference during "Russia - Islamic World: KazanForum".

The ambassador noted that Iran, as a new member state of the association, is conducting large-scale work in BRICS, TASS reported.

"The creation of a new single currency within the framework of the association is what Russia and Iran are working on," the diplomat stated.

Jalali said the United States uses dollar to create restrictions, and therefore the use of national currencies in mutual settlements is on the agenda.

"More than 60% of bilateral trade is in rubles and rials," he said, adding that the relations between Russia and Iran are now at the "golden stage."



The 15th International Economic Forum "Russia - Islamic World: KazanForum 2024" is being held on May 14-19 in Kazan. This year's keynote is "Trust and Cooperation." The main goal of the forum is to strengthen trade and economic, scientific and technical, social and cultural ties between Russian regions and the countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), as well as to promote the development of the Islamic financial system institutions in Russia.

Tehran, Beijing sign MoU to enhance cooperation in agriculture

Iran and China signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in the agricultural and horticultural fields, farming, fisheries, and



mechanization of agriculture.

The fifth session of the Iran-China Joint Cooperation Commission was held in China with the participation of Iran's Deputy Minister of Agriculture Kazem Khavazi, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China Ma Youxiang and Iran's Ambassador to China Mohsen Bakhtiar. During the meeting, the two sides emphasized the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, IRIB news reported.

The MoU signed in the meeting is focused on the cooperation of the two countries in the fields of agriculture, horticulture, stockbreeding, animal husbandry, fisheries, and mechanization of agriculture.

It also entails China's investment in Iran's agricultural development programs.

Iran keen on expanding electricity trade with Turkey

The CEO of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution and Transmission Company (TAVANIR) announced the country's determination to develop electricity trade with Turkey.

Speaking in a meeting held between a high-ranking delegation of Iran's power industry and CEOs and senior managers of the Turkish Energy Exchange Company (EPIAS), Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi stated that Iran is ready to welcome Turkish investors in the country's electricity industry, especially in renewable energies, reported Tasnim News Agency.

During the meeting, the CEO of the Turkish Energy Exchange stressed the need to bolster bilateral cooperation in the financial markets of electricity. Also, the manager of the strategy development of Turkish Energy Exchange Company expounded on the structure and method of electricity transactions at Turkey's Energy Exchange and introduced the upcoming programs in



the development of the electricity trade and diversification of the energy portfolio in 2035 Vision Plan with a focus on the renewable power plants.

The CEO of Iran's TAVANIR Company traveled to Turkey at the head of a delegation comprising the CEO of the Iran Energy Exchange, deputy head of TAVANIR for the market development affairs and also the director general of the foreign trade office of the electricity.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist





BDS activist couple:

US Campus protests disabled old levers of power

Iranians were anti-Israel before Revolution

By Amir Mollae Mozaffari & Mostafa Shirmohammadi
Staff writers

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

There's only so much one can discover about the cause, methods, and characteristics of a group of protesters across the world from pictures, videos, and news stories. The problem would be exacerbated if the regime the protesters are fighting against has a media hegemony committed to whitewashing its crimes and misrepresenting or even slandering its opponents. What arguably better breaks this access barrier is someone with close knowledge of both sides who has followed the struggle for years. Iran Daily has conducted an extensive exclusive with not just one but two such individuals, who are introduced in turn below.

Blaine Coleman is an American resident of Ann Arbor and an activist fighting for the human rights of Palestinians. He is a frequent commenter at public meetings, including those of the Ann Arbor City Council and the Central Student Government at the University of Michigan. His profession in the past 22 years has avowedly been protesting "against military aid for Israel" in the Ann Arbor city council "in the capacity of human beings and a regular citizen of Ann Arbor". He helped U of M students in organizing the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign and gathering a sizable audience during controversial deliberations.

Dr. Mozghan Savabieasfahani, a native of Iran and wife to Coleman, is an award-winning environmental toxicologist and an advocate for justice for Palestine. She has published extensively on the harmful effects of war-created pollution in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq post-2003, where birth defects, cancer, and other diseases have become epidemic. After many years of speaking out before the Ann Arbor City Council, Mozghan Savabieasfahani is eyeing a seat at the table to, among other things, pass a resolution against military aid to apartheid Israel.

IRAN DAILY: This recent wave of pro-Palestinian protests and campus encampments that swept across the United States was the latest in a series of political activism by students that American universities pushed back against. With years of political activism under your belts, you two rushed to join several such protests on the campus of the University of Michigan before coming to Iran to spread the message of the students. What did you glean from your first-hand observation?

BLAINE COLEMAN: This October of 2023 was the very first time that we have seen massive, unrelenting demonstrations by the students for divestment from Israel, for cutting off the military aid to Israel. This is a new thing. You'll notice that it's a very openly anti-imperialist movement. This also is something you have never seen on such a big scale in the United States. Now, I know you're thinking, "Well, there was the anti-Vietnam War movement." Yes, that was extremely important and big, but it was not mostly anti-imperialist. It was mostly a nationalist kind of thing.

I think this movement is unmatched because it's so big, so determined, so loud, so unrelenting, and so publicly anti-imperialist. The anti-Vietnam War movement was not led by Vietnamese students. In those days, there were very few Vietnamese students. This big anti-imperialist movement against Israel is led by Palestinian-American students. Of course, it has a very large participation of many Muslim students, many Jewish students, many Christian students, and other students.

Even ultra-orthodox Jewish students?

MOZHGAN SAVABIEASFHANI: On the campus of the University of Michigan, we haven't seen any, but they are everywhere else. There are other students who don't believe in God or they have no religious bone in them. Most of them are not religious, but there are all kinds of students. There are Hindus. There are Buddhists. There are all kinds of students.

For 20 years, Blaine and I have been pushing these students to get out there and make a demand. In 2001, there were a lot of students who were talking about boycotting Israel, but it was very mild. They were not this serious about calling for divestment, for stopping investment in companies that benefit Israel, and for totally cutting Israel



American activist Blaine Coleman (L) points to a slogan on his hoodie that reads "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," as he and his wife Mozghan Savabieasfahani talk to Iran Daily about pro-Palestinian student protests sweeping US universities, in Tehran, Iran, on May 12, 2024.

ALI HASSANPOUR/IRAN DAILY

off. This continued up until the past six or seven months. The students were never this determined and convinced that it must be done. I never thought they would actually come out forcefully and not quit.

Coleman: Now, to give you some background, the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel movement started on the US campuses in 2001 in Berkeley. The first big victory of this BDS movement was at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, on April 17, 2003. It was a resolution for total divestment against Israel.

Upon hearing the students' calls for divestment, many people assume that it must be impractical for universities to cut longstanding ties with Israel. Is it, though?

Coleman: When Russia attacked Ukraine in 2022, many institutions and universities including the University of Michigan instantly cut the Russians off completely. They just issued statements saying they're divesting from Russia. That was it.

Divestment is complicated, but it's also a political move that is not really a financial move. It's not really a complex financial transaction. It's really a political statement. When they said, "We're divesting from Russia", they were expressing outrage and demanding concrete action against Russia. Now, today, if they say they want to divest from

Israel, it would be the same thing. Who cares about the dollars and cents? In my opinion, it's a political statement.

Personally, I don't care about the method. It can be divestment, boycotting, or cutting off military aid. The important thing to me is that you express outrage against Israel because it's massacring people. So, if you feel comfortable with divestment, like the students feel, I'd say, "Go for it." If you feel comfortable with a boycott because the word boycott is well-understood, I say go for a boycott. We've done that.

Savabieasfahani: But why is it unrealistic to reject a monster that is trained to murder humanity and proudly say, "We want to kill all of you"? Anyone who thinks it's okay to continue to feed these kinds of monsters should stop and think about who they are. Israel is not just about killing Palestinians. Israel is about killing humanity, freedom, and dialogue. It's about oppressing every human being in the Arab world so they cannot speak one word.

Why do you think Arab governments are so reluctant to do anything about Israel? It's because they get support from Israel to oppress their own people and continue to milk their own people. So, Israel and the current governments of Arab nations are hand in glove to torture and kill Arabs. People who say that we cannot stop nurturing them should be ashamed of them-

selves. There is no time for nicety. The time is to expose these kinds of thoughts and tell them who they are. They are helping monsters and justifying terrible crimes.

The news just came out that Cornell University's president will step down from her position next month, making her the third Ivy League leader who announced their resignation. Do you count this as a win?

Savabieasfahani: Is she resigning because the Zionists are forcing her to resign, or is she resigning because she's objecting to the genocide in Palestine? That is the question.

Coleman: She is resigning because she caught heat from supporters of Israel. This is a part of the massive sound and fury around the issue of divesting from Israel that is reflected in this pressure coming from Congress to university presidents. Congress is pressuring university presidents to get rid of students who are demanding divestment and saying, for example, 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.' The university presidents have no way of fighting this. So, they're buckling and quitting.

Right now, they are dealing with it by throwing police at the students. It has a heavy cost for students, but once these students get released from jail a day later, they are out there demonstrating again and rebuilding their tents.

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We are all way too focused on university administrators, professors, members of Congress, and the police who are helping Israel. We are too focused on these levers of power because until now, these levers of power were powerful. That's all changed. There's a new normal now.



Ann Arbor City Council candidate Dr. Mozghan Savabieasfahani (C) leads a crowd down South University St in support of Palestine and in protest of Santa Ono's statement on the Israel-Palestine conflict on October 10, 2023.
● LILA TURNER/MICHIGAN DAILY



● ALI HASSANPOUR/IRAN DAILY

People expect university professors to speak out against injustices and not to be chained by ties to Israel. Many professors in the US have indeed joined the students in the recent wave of pro-Palestinian protests. Why have some other professors stood against the protests?

Savabieasfahani: I think you are assuming a lot of things that are not true about the United States. You're assuming that the professors there are all selfless people who think we should take the high road and make this a better world. That's not true. People like me will never get to be the head of a university. They will kick you out long before you're able to do any of these things. Human rights activists have all been kicked out of university a long time ago. For example, at a party, you may see a donor say to the head of the department in which an outspoken professor, such as Norman Finkelstein, is coming up for tenure, "By the way, this Finkelstein is not going to get the tenure, right? Right?"

Those pro-Israeli professors are not getting paid directly by the Zionists at all, but they have gone through a long process of elimination to get selected. By the time they arrive at their jobs, they are neutered. These are the kinds of people who will not stand up for human rights because if they do, they will be forced by these Zionists to step down.

Coleman: However, because of this upheaval, a change has begun. For all these 20 years that Mozghan and I have been active, these professors were almost entirely useless. And now, a whole bunch of these professors are joining with the students. This is a new thing.

I have to say that we are all way too focused on university administrators, professors, members of Congress, and the police who are helping Israel. We are too focused on these levers of power because until now, these levers of power were powerful.

That's all changed. There's a new normal now. The new normal is you have thousands and thousands of students marching all over the place and that these levers of power don't work anymore. I'm not focused on these people. I'm not focused on how Biden is so bad and Trump is so bad. I'm focused on the students because they're not stopping.

Savabieasfahani: Just a year ago, the general atmosphere at the universities was like, "Oh, no, no, we're not political. Politics is bad." That was a good thing to them. They would be proud that they are not political. Today, university students have been politicized, and they are demanding huge things. They do not stop at just Israel. They are against the whole shebang: imperialism. They talk about it very eloquently. They talk about colonialism, imperialism, and other things that really kill the American political establishment.

In America and Europe now, students know what Imperialism is, and they're against it. If you're against imperialism, you would be against capitalism and against colonialism. You would be very radical since you want a major change in the system of governance of the world. It's a very, very good news that it's waking up. The general public and the general student body in Iran, however, do not know what imperialism is. Iranian students are extremely confused. They have to get up and go find out what is imperialism and why are students in America against imperialism.

You observed that American students are better learned about imperialism. However, videos have been circulating of interviews with a few American students who didn't seem to know or recall what they were gathering for, aside from showing solidarity with arrested students across the country. Is that enough to write off all the protesters?

Savabieasfahani: Not at all. The students who come to these protests have different levels of understanding about the depth of the situation, but they know what's going on. If they come, they will come to support you. Or, if they're Zionists, they would

come to beat you up.

Coleman: They're very, very few Zionists who are able and willing to come and beat people. The one example you're thinking of is UCLA. In UCLA, a Zionist gang was somehow recruited to come and beat the students at the encampment, among whom were Iranians, by the way. They had a hard time getting a sizable number of Zionists in that mob, but they got them together and attacked the pro-Palestinian students for four hours. The police sat and did nothing, but the pro-Palestinian students ended up winning. The Zionists were unable to break into their camp, and they were unable to force them to leave. The next day, hundreds of police came and forced the students in the Palestine camp to leave by force.

However, this has not happened generally on US campuses for the reason that there aren't enough hardcore Zionist students who are willing and able to get out there and try to harm the pro-Palestinian students. There just aren't. And all these levers of power like the Zionist federations and the Zionist institutions don't have the power to mobilize people because there aren't enough people who would agree with them in this holocaust against Palestinians.

They're not dueling rallies, for the most part. You don't see dueling rallies on these campuses. Mostly, you just see hundreds, sometimes thousands of pro-Palestinian students marching. The other side has nothing but pure racism and pure fascism. That is not something that attracts students on the campus.

This is a very inspiring situation. It's like the civil rights movement of the 1960s. But it's more widespread and it's bigger, louder, more determined, and spread across more campuses. Thanks to the internet, it's everywhere very quickly. It's even bigger than the Black Lives Matter Movement. In that movement, you would have episodes of a rally here and there. This current Palestine movement is not episodic. It's massive, it's every day, and it doesn't stop. Now, the anti-Vietnam War movement was big, but, again, it was not clearly anti-imperialist. And it was not something that had the kind of big staying



power that this movement now for Palestine has.

You have participated in many pro-Palestinian protests in the US. Do you have anything to say to Iranian students who are not taking a stand against Israeli crimes in Gaza?

Coleman: I wish I could convince every Iranian student to get out there on the street and march for the cutting off of every kind of aid and trade from the US, Germany, etc. to Israel. If I could get at the students, I would tell them, "Guys, demonstrate against what Israel is doing in Gaza." You know that Israel's coming to kill you after they kill Gaza, right? So, it would not only be for idealistic reasons, not only for the reason that you're crying because of this holocaust but, additionally, for a very practical reason. If you don't stop Israel from committing a holocaust, they're going to keep coming.

Savabieasfahani: And they tell you they're coming. They proudly and loudly are saying, "We will do this to you." They're not hiding it. They're not saying, "We will first kill Palestinians." Then, we will come and kill you Iranians." How can you miss that?

When Iran hit Israel in a very thought-out and very effective way and took out three of their main installations, one of which was a highly protected military base, I was speaking to an Iranian documentary maker. The next day, he apparently went out into the streets and talked to people. He said the majority of people he talked to — which is, of course, a weak sample size — were very happy and proud. They were saying, "See, we can beat them."

Coleman: I would say if you want to emulate Americans, don't emulate Taylor Swift and Olivia Rodrigo. Emulate these thousands of American students who are marching against Israel. Be like these American students and give Israel hell. If these kids in Egypt, Morocco,



Blaine Coleman addresses the Ann Arbor City Council on July 21, 2014, calling for a boycott of all Israeli products, after the regime launched airstrikes and a ground invasion against Gaza. "The death of too many human beings in Gaza is partially on your hands," Coleman told members of the council. **MLIVE**

co, Tunisia, England, and America can do it, you can, too. I don't care if you have political differences inside the campus with some other kids. Put that aside and show the world that you really hate what Israel is doing.

Savabieasfahani: It's bad for Iran if its students are not yelling, "Stop this nonsense." It makes us Iranians look bad. I go to a lot of protests in America a lot, and I'm pretty much the only Iranian there. There are Iranian student associations on campus in Michigan. They don't come, except maybe a few. It's an embarrassment for Iranians to not be standing clearly against Israel right now.

Iranians have been supporting Pales-

tinians in words and in deeds for years, maybe even more than most countries.

Coleman: I know that well. Some Iranian students may think that being against Israel was something that was invented by Iran's late Leader in 1979. Wrong. Iranians have hated the violence that Israel has committed ever since March 18, 1950, when an editorial came out in the newspaper Bakhtar-e Emrooz by Dr. Hossein Fatemi.

Savabieasfahani: Yes, Fatemi was asking why there was a massive rush to recognize Israel. He had been to Lebanon, I think, and he had seen waves of Palestinian refugees coming from Palestine, hungry and barefoot and starved. They had been ethnically cleansed. So, they poured into Lebanon. He saw how poor and desperate they were, and he talked about it.

So, Iranian political minds have been thinking and siding with the people of Palestine since the beginning of the 1950s.

Fatemi cared for democracy, for human rights, and for freedom. If Shah had not killed him, Fatemi would be a giant. He was the foreign minister of Mossadeq, and he was the brain behind the nationalization of Iranian oil. He was the one who verbalized it, and Mossadeq admittedly picked it up.

Coleman: So, this is not a new thing. Iranian students should understand that they are standing with an old Iranian tradition here. They can emulate Fatemi.

A woman once said to me years ago, "Oh, we Iranians dream about America and we love America." I said, "There is a lot to love about Iran and Iranian history. Read about Dr. Fatemi." This guy was a major newspaper editor, he got a doctoral degree in France, and he came back and used all of his knowledge to build up this country. One of the things that England and America hated the most about Fatemi was that he knew all his facts. Mossaddeq was trying to be friendly and hide a little bit. He didn't want to be immediately killed. But Fatemi said, "I'll give you the facts. Right here. This is why we have to nationalize the oil. This is why the British have been

starving us. Now, pay up." So, this is why they killed Fatemi.

I want to talk about the labeling of these student protesters as anti-Semites. Mr. Coleman, you're clearly a big proponent of the slogan, 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.' By saying such slogans, are you and pro-Palestinian protesters in university campuses across the US implying that the historical land of Palestine should be near-empty of Jews?

Coleman: No, what we're saying is the same thing that they basically said with apartheid South Africa: we want everybody to be equal, we don't want some religion to be the boss, and we want there to be normal elections where everybody gets one vote. Now, this is what the students are saying in America. They're all saying this apartheid state of Israel has to go. When you say the apartheid state has to go, you're saying the state has to go; You're not saying any people have to go.

There were a lot of white supremacists in apartheid South Africa who probably ran away after the apartheid state was dead because they wanted to be boss. They didn't want to be your neighbor. They wanted to be your boss. It will probably be the same thing in Israel when the apartheid state has gone, which will be sooner than anybody thinks. There are going to be a lot of Israelis who want to be boss and they say, "We can't live here if we can't be boss," and they'll go straight to California.

Mozhgan and I are so old that we were part of the divestment from apartheid South Africa movement way into the 1980s. Nobody called us anti-White. That would have been stupid. But now they're trying the same kind of argument against the divestment movement.

The importance of the shirt is the Zionists hate the slogan 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,' and they have pretended that it is an anti-Semitic slogan. As I've said, these huge student demonstrations all over the United States have many Muslim, many Jewish, and many Christian students in them. It is crazy to call this thing anti-Semitic. It's their weapon to distract you from what's happening.

What's happening is a real holocaust against the Palestinian people. We're talking about 40,000 Dead Palestinians or even more. There's an Arab-American human rights activist, named Ralph Nader, who is saying that it might be 200,000 dead in Gaza. Since there's been so much destruction, it's possible that more people are buried below rubble who are currently declared missing.



City residents Blaine Coleman (L) and Mozhgan Savabieasfahani speak out at the Ann Arbor City Council meeting on December 16, 2019. **RYAN STANTON/ANN ARBOR NEWS**



Mozhgan Savabieasfahani (front) and Blaine Coleman hold up signs in support of divestment during a University of Michigan Student Government meeting on November 14, 2017.

HUNTER DYKE/ANN ARBOR NEWS



You cannot have parts of this land ruled by apartheid. It has to be clear of apartheid. It will be one system, where everybody has the right to vote and their vote has the same value. The whole system of apartheid, which is extremely violent in Israel and is doing all of this, has to be dismantled, and it is dismantling itself. We don't have to do much except boycott them and keep fighting back.

You don't seem to believe in the two-state solution.

Coleman: No, there is no way. There has never been a two-state solution. There has always been one state until now. It has been this basically white supremacist dictatorship, which we call Israel. That's the one state. Gaza has been surrounded by air, land, and sea by Israel.

So, what all the students are demanding in the United States and Palestine around the world is one state, in which is where apartheid is dead and gone and buried and never coming back. That's what happened in apartheid South Africa; for sure, that's what's going to happen in Israel. Again, they are talking about the apartheid state, not the people. All of this mass killing and holocaust that Israel is committing is only hastening the day that the apartheid state of Israel is gone. Moshgan and I remember that the apartheid state of South Africa, to the end, had tanks, atomic bombs, and jet bombers. How come they're gone? Because you can't eat your tanks. You can't eat your jet bombers. You can't eat your atomic bombs. So, politically and economically and diplomatically, apartheid South Africa was isolated. Now, that apartheid state is dead. The same thing is starting to happen in front of our eyes to Israel. All we have to do is march with those students and demand no more aid or trade to Israel until that apartheid state is totally gone.

You might not remember this, but the white supremacist in South Africa, said at the very end, "Okay, okay, but can we just have one little white state inside South Africa to preserve our cultural heritage?" And Mandela said, "No, there's not going to be a white state. It's going to be one state where everybody's equal." What if Mandela had said, "Okay, you can have a little white state"? They would have white jet bombers and white tanks and white atomic bombs. They would have continued bombing all over Africa. In Israel, if you have even one small apartheid state left, they will use it to bomb and kill the Arab world and Iran if they can. So, you can't have an apartheid state in this world. That's why there are no more apartheid states.

Savabieasfahani: You cannot have parts of this land ruled by apartheid. It has to be clear of apartheid. It will be one system, where everybody has the right to vote and their vote has the same value. The whole system of apartheid, which is extremely violent in Israel and is doing all of this, has to be dismantled, and it is dismantling itself. We don't have to do much except boycott them and keep fighting back. They're going to go. They're going.

Coleman: You keep thinking of this all-powerful Israel. That all-powerful Israel is dying right in front of your eyes. It's committing suicide right in front of your eyes.

Now, South Africa is leading the charge against Israel in international courts. Why was South Africa the first country to step forward and challenge Israel in courtrooms?

Coleman: You can find a whole series of articles by a journalist named Chris McGreal in The Guardian, where he documented the tight, close relationship between apartheid Israel and apartheid South Africa. Apartheid Israel was trying to give atomic bombs to apartheid



Mozhgan Savabieasfahani (2nd-R) and Blaine Coleman (2nd-L) chat with fellow pro-Palestinian activists in the hallway outside an Ann Arbor City Council meeting at city hall on April 15, 2024.

MLIVE

South Africa. That's how close they were. So, to lose apartheid South Africa was a huge blow for Israel. Now, Israel is the last apartheid state. And the people of South Africa are doing what they can to get rid of that last apartheid state.

Savabieasfahani: I do hope that Netanyahu, Ben-Gvir, and Smotrich get arrested by the ICC. I have to believe that humanity is better than to just let these guys go. I hope that they will be put away. Hang them if you can, but I don't think you can hang them.

We're hearing that some Latin American nations are cutting political ties with Israel. The most recent one was Columbia. In the early days of the war, we heard that some other Latin American nations suspended ties with Israel and withdrew their ambassadors from Israel. Meanwhile, you're hearing that major Muslim nations might be establishing ties with Israel. How can this be?

Coleman: Whenever I would hear someone refer to all the regional Arab countries as Arab regimes, I would jump to correct them. Some of them are dictatorships that were established through coups orchestrated by England or America. Those guys turned in their Arab cards a long time ago.

Savabieasfahani: They are oppressors of the people who live there. They have no empathy for any Arabs. So, what you said is nothing surprising to me because if you are installed by the US and England to oppress your people, then obviously you have no empathy for Arabs, even if you were a Muslim Arab.

Coleman: There's a book, titled 'The Israeli Connection: Whom Israel Arms and Why,' by an Israeli sociologist named Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi. In this 1987 book, you will see a whole history of Israel heavily arming Latin American dictatorships — especially Guatemala but also El Salvador and Nicaragua, all through Latin America, and all three large parts of the world. So, when you see Colombia going against Israel, or you see, let's say, people in Chile or Argentina going against Israel, you have to take into consideration that they remember when Israel had a major role in imposing dictatorships on them.

Savabieasfahani: People ask, "Why aren't Arab countries empathizing with Palestine and cutting off this and that? Why aren't they doing stuff to liberate Palestinians?" The answer is that the governments of those Arab countries that the world is thinking about are handpicked oppressors of their own people. Those governments don't represent the people of those countries. So, it's obvious that all of what's happening is activating the populations in those countries. Their government is not actually picked by the nation. They are either handpicked or have risen to power through coups and oppressing the nation. They're all puppets. They are hand in glove with Israel because they use the technology that Israel creates to oppress their own people.

Coleman: you've seen the demonstrations in Jordan against Israel. You've seen the demonstrations in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and all these places against Israel. These rulers that were imposed by the United States and Israel have nothing in common with the population.

In the wake of Iran's strike against Israel, the only Arab nation that voiced support for Iran was Algeria. Its president thanked Iran for the move.

Savabieasfahani: If the people have a little bit more say in a government, then their government will do that. But if people have nothing to do with their government, you will get

something akin to what's going on in Jordan. There are thousands of people coming out every night in front of the Israeli embassy, just screaming for change. Has anything along those lines happened in the government of Jordan? No, the governor of Jordan is an Israeli sympathizer. It's important to make sure your readers make that distinction.

Coleman: If you look at the history of Iran, this anti-imperialism goes back a long, long way — way before the current government. This is an Iranian tradition. When Mossaddeq and Fatemi visited Egypt in 1951 — before Nasser took over Egypt — there were massive demonstrations on the streets of Cairo, welcoming Mossaddeq and welcoming Fatemi. So, this tradition of anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism all through the region, including in Iran and Egypt, goes back at least to the beginning of the 1950s. There was no stupid sectarian talk about Arabs versus the Iranians then. They loved Mossaddeq. This is a poisonous thing to try and put Arabs and Iranians against each other.

Savabieasfahani: I think the US and Israel have done massive amounts of propaganda to do this, to muddy the solidarity between Arabs and Iranians. I say we should stand in solidarity with all Arab nations in the Middle East right now.

Coleman: It's a poisonous thing that some ask Iran to stop arming the Lebanese and the Palestinians in their fight against apartheid Israel and keep the money to itself because it turns Iranians against Arabs.

Savabieasfahani: Iranians, more than others, should support these liberation movements because they are fighting your fight because they are going to put their children and their young out to fight so that Israel does not reach you. Anyone who can't see that is not in tune with the political reality.

South Africa: Israel 'genocide' hit 'new and horrific stage'

International Desk

South Africa accused Israel at the top UN court of stepping up what it called a "genocide" in Gaza, urging the court to order a halt to Israel's assault on Rafah. "South Africa had hoped, when we last appeared before this court, to halt this genocidal process to preserve Palestine and its people," South Africa's Ambassador to the Netherlands Vusumuzi Madonsela told the International

Court of Justice. "Instead, Israel's genocide has continued apace and has just reached a new and horrific stage," he added. It was the third time the International Court of Justice (ICJ) held hearings on the conflict in Gaza since South Africa filed proceedings in December at the court, based in The Hague in the Netherlands, accusing Israel of genocide. Madonsela also urged the panel



A woman mourns over the body of a child who succumbed to his injuries caused by Israel's bombardment on a refugee camp in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip on May 11, 2024. ● AFP

of 15 international judges to order Israel to "totally and unconditionally withdraw" from the Gaza Strip. On Thursday, lawyers representing Pretoria presented judges a litany of allegations against Israel, including mass graves, torture and deliberate withholding of humanitarian aid. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday the ground assault on Rafah was a "critical" part of the army's mis-

sion to destroy Hamas and prevent a repetition of the October 7 attack. Netanyahu ordered the Rafah offensive in defiance of warnings from many countries across the world that more than a million civilians sheltering there could be caught in the crossfire. In a ruling that made headlines worldwide, the ICJ in January ordered Israel to do everything in its power to prevent genocidal acts and enable humanitarian

aid to Gaza. But the court stopped short of ordering a cease-fire and South Africa's argument is that the situation on the ground - notably the operation in the crowded city of Rafah - requires fresh ICJ action. At least 35,303 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed in the Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since the war broke out, according to data provided by the health ministry of Gaza.

Envoy: Iran arms for Yemen 'lies' by US



Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations unequivocally dismissed US allegations about the Islamic Republic's interference in Yemen, saying Washington aims to achieve its short-sighted political interests in the region through spreading lies and misinformation. Amir Saeid Iravani made the statement in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and rotating President of the UN Security Council Pedro Comissario Afonso in response to the recent US accusations against Iran at a Security Council meeting on the situation of Yemen, Press TV reported.

During the public UNSC meeting on May 13, US Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Robert Wood claimed that Iran was sending "advanced weapons, including ballistic and cruise missiles" for Yemen's military and Ansarullah resistance movement.

"It is regrettable that, once again, the US representative used the Security Council's platform to advance its short-sighted political interests and to justify and legitimize the US's ongoing illegal actions and military aggression against Yemen's sovereignty and territorial integrity by spreading lies and misinformation about the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the situation in Yemen," Iravani wrote in his letter. "The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally rejects these unfounded allegations."

Iravani also rejected the identical allegations made against Tehran by the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and France in another meeting on Yemen in April.

Yemen's armed forces have launched dozens of military operations against Israeli-linked shipping since October 2023, when the regime launched its war against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The US and Britain have since mid-January carried out air and missile aggression on Yemen, also providing Israel with untrammelled support, including in arms, finance and logistics.

At least 8 dead, 12 missing in Mashhad floods

National Desk

At least eight people have lost their lives in flash floods triggered by heavy rains on Wednesday in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad - the country's second most populous city. Chief of the Mashhad Municipality Fire Department Hamidreza Kafiniya said

two people were killed after their car was submerged in the city's flooded Enqelab Square. Flooding also caused the collapse of a residential building in another neighborhood in the city, killing one woman and her four children, Kafiniya added. Rescue workers also recovered the body of a 70-year-old man near the city's Hasanabad village. Mohsen Zakerian, the head of Khorasan Razavi Red Crescent Society, said 12 people are still missing. In Mashhad's tourist neighborhood of Torghabeh, the rivers burst their banks due to the showers. The floods also washed away many vehicles. At least 250 families have been sheltered in the city and nearby villages.

A car inundated with floodwater is seen in the northeastern city of Mashhad in Khorasan Razavi Province, Iran, on May 15, 2024. ● MOHSEN BAKHSHANDEH/IRNA



No medical aid has entered Gaza since May 6: WHO

Despite Israel's contention at the ICJ that it is facilitating the flow of aid into Gaza, the WHO said it has not been able to get any medical supplies into the Palestinian territory since Israeli troops moved towards Rafah. "The last medical supplies that we got in Gaza was before May 6," WHO spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic said at a UN press briefing today. "We don't have fuel. We have hospitals under evacuation order. We have a situation where we cannot move physically," he said. Palestinian health officials have warned that the few health facilities still operating are desperately depleted and at

growing risk of shutting down as Israel presses on with its Rafah offensive. Since Israel began its Rafah incursion on May 7, at least 630,000 Palestinians sheltering there have been forced out, according to the UN Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA).

A Palestinian woman receives medical care at the European hospital in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on May 17, 2024. ● AFP



Tender Notice No. Z/1403/03
Deadline Extension (modified documents)

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 modified documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 9:00 A.M. on 21. May.2024 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the mentioned address of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 9:00 A.M. on 21 May.2024 at Golgohar complex in sirjan.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Tender Notice No. Z/1403/04
Deadline Extension (modified documents)

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 Rajae Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender modified documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 9:00 A.M. on 21. May.2024 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the mentioned address 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 21 May.2024 at Golgohar complex in sirjan.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Tender Notice No. Z/1403/05
Deadline Extension (modified documents)

Hereby **Golgohar Mining & Industrial Co.** announces selling and export 70.000 metric tons of Pellet (%Fe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Shahid Rajae Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender modified documents at Golgohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 9:00 A.M. on 21. May.2024 to Golgohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the mentioned address of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 9:00 A.M. on 21 May.2024 at Golgohar complex in sirjan.

GOLGOHAR MINING & INDUSTRIAL CO.

Asian Taekwondo Championships: Kiani crashes out as Iran bags double bronzes

Sports Desk

Reigning world champion Nahid Kiani suffered an early exit from the 26th Asian Taekwondo Championships, but Iran still managed to grab a couple of consolation bronzes on Day 1 of the kyorugi contests in Da Nang, Vietnam. Representing the country in the women's -53kg event, Kiani was stunned by Chutikan Jongkolrattananawattana of Thailand in straight rounds in her first bout – a reality check ahead of the Paris Olympics in July for the Iranian, who also fell short against Thursday's opponent in last year's Asian Games.

Elsewhere, Saeideh Nasri, stepping into the women's -46kg contests fresh from a bronze-winning campaign in April's Galeb Belgrade Trophy in Serbia, also walked away with a bronze in her debut at the Asian Championships.

Nasri came out on top against Mongolian Badam Lkhagva in back-to-back rounds and then beat Ruka Okamoto of Japan with the same scoreline for a place in the semifinals, before a 2-1 defeat against China's Wang Shiyi saw the Iranian girl settle for a joint third-spot finish.

Matin Rezaei won his third bronze in a major event in 12 months – following last year's world event and the Asian Games – in the men's -63kg competitions.

Rezaei eased past Jin Tsuruoka of Japan and Saudi Zakariya Ghali without conceding a single round but Jang Jun – a bronze medalist in Tokyo Olympics and former world gold and silver winner – proved too tough to beat in the semifinals as the Iranian finished on the third podium after a 2-0 loss to the South Korean.

Contested by more than 570 athletes from 36 countries, the event will finish with the para taekwondo competitions on Sunday.



Iranian Hazfi Cup: Sepahan lands Golgohar in last four; Tractor stunned by Mes



Sports Desk

Farshad Ahmadzadeh headed home late in the first half as Sepahan edged out Malavan 1-0 in the Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium in the Iranian Hazfi Cup quarterfinals.

With the Isfahan-based club lagging behind Tehran archrivals Esteghlal and Persepolis in the Persian Gulf Pro League table with three games to spare, the domestic cup will give Sepahan the last opportunity to end the nine-year trophy drought.

Awaiting Sepahan and Portuguese head coach Jose Morais in the last four will be Golgohar Sirjan, which thrashed Masoud Shojaei's Havadar by five unanswered goals in Sirjan on Thursday to progress.

Ahmadreza Zenderouh's sublime header gave Golgohar an eighth-minute lead but the home supporters had to wait until the closing stages of the contest for their team to finish off the game.

Young striker Saeid Saharkhizan found the net in the 71st minute before substitute Masoud Zaer Kazemeini put the game to bed with a bouncing header three minutes later.

Kazemeini bagged his second of the afternoon in the fifth minute of added time and then set up Mahdi Mamizadeh, who rounded off his side's emphatic display with a curling effort from the edge of the box.

Elsewhere, Tractor's quest for a second cup title in four years came to an end after a 1-0 loss to Mes Rafsanjan in Tabriz.

It could have been a different outcome for the host in the Yadegar-e Imam Stadium, had Rahman Ja'fari not sent his effort from the spot wide with 13 minutes left on the clock.

Mohammad-Mahdi Mohebbi's low drive in the 91st minute sealed the victory for the visiting side as Mes continued its impressive run under Moharram Navidkia, who took over from

● Sepahan's Farshad Ahmadzadeh (10) heads home in the 1-0 victory over Malavan in the Iranian Hazfi Cup last eight in Isfahan, Iran, on May 16, 2024.
● RASOUL SHOJAEI/IRNA

Saket Elhami during the winter break. Standing between Mes and a place in the final showpiece is Iralco.

Iralco, which stepped into the last-eight round on the back of a memorable shootout win against Persepolis, made hard work of facing Chadormalu – the only non-top flight side in the semifinals – on Thursday as Majid Hosseini's side had Reza Jabireh to thank for scoring a 119th-minute winner in a 1-0 victory in Ardakan.

As if the four semifinalists need more reason to go all out for the cup glory, a place in the playoff round of next season's inaugural AFC Champions League Elite will be the on the line in the final, with the winner joining Esteghlal and Persepolis in the continent's revamped club competition.

FIFA delays decision on Palestinian request to ban Israel amid Gaza war

AL JAZEERA – Football's world governing body FIFA has said it will seek legal advice before convening in July to decide on a Palestinian proposal to suspend Israel from international matches.

On Friday, FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced the plan at the organisation's annual congress in Bangkok, Thailand, after the Palestine Football Association (PFA) presented arguments accusing the Israel Football Association (IFA) of violating FIFA statutes with its war on Gaza and its inclusion of teams located in Palestinian territory in its domestic league.

"I ask you to stand on the right side of history ... If not now, when?" said PFA President Jibril Rajoub, speaking before delegates from 211 member associations. "FIFA cannot afford to remain indifferent to these violations or the ongoing genocide in Palestine." Infantino said FIFA "will mandate as



● FIFA President Gianni Infantino makes a speech during the international football governing body's annual congress in Bangkok, Thailand, on May 17, 2024.
● FIFA

of now, independent legal expertise to analyse the three requests [from the

PFA] and ensure the statutes of FIFA are applied in the right way", with an

extraordinary council meeting scheduled to be held by July 25.

The PFA is calling for "appropriate sanctions, with immediate effect, against Israeli teams," according to FIFA documents released a month before the congress and council meetings in Bangkok.

The motion noted "international law violations committed by the Israeli occupation in Palestine, particularly in Gaza" and cited FIFA's statutory commitments on human rights and against discrimination.

The PFA wrote that "all the football infrastructure in Gaza has been either destroyed, or seriously damaged, including the historic stadium of al-Yarmouk" and said it had support for the motion from the federations of Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Syria and Yemen.

Rajoub said "the Palestinian people, including the Palestinian football family, are enduring an unprecedented hu-

manitarian catastrophe".

AFC backing

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) had given its backing to Palestine's proposal during the 34th AFC congress in Bangkok on Thursday.

AFC President Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa voiced his support for the Palestine Football Association's motion, saying: "The AFC is only as strong as its members and when one suffers, all its other members are affected."

"The AFC stands together with the Palestine FA, and we join them in seeking effective football-related solutions to the grievances raised by the Palestine FA in their proposal.

"It is our duty to support the Palestine FA for a swift and effective resolution in line with the rules, regulations and statutes of the AFC and FIFA."