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Russia is number one threat to Britain

The Defence Secretary has said that Russia's submarines are 'circling Britain's entire coastline' and warned that Putin's force remain our 'number one adversary threat'. 'We're regularly visited by nosy Russian ships, and we are regularly visited now by a number of Russian warships,' he said to Telegraph newspaper, 'we have tried de-escalation, we have tried methods but at the moment until Russia changes its attitude, it's quite hard to see where we're going to go,' he added, 'A Russian kilo-class submarine was spotted in the Irish Sea for the first time in a 'very, very long time' at the end of last year,' he noted.



Ben Wallace, right, on the deck of the HMS Queen Elizabeth to mark her departure for a seven-month operation in the Far East

Canadian court rules Iran's 2020 downing of Ukrainian flight 'act of terrorism'

A court in the Canadian province of Ontario ruled that Iran owes damages to families who sued after Iran's Revolutionary Guards shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane in January 2020, soon after it took off from Tehran. Ontario's Superior Court of Justice found that "on a balance of probabilities" the missile attack was an intentional act of terrorism, based mainly on written evidence provided by lawyers representing families of some of the victims.

The judge did not rule on damages, which will be dealt with at a future hearing. When it was first filed, the lawsuit sought at least C\$1.5 billion (\$1.2 billion) in compensation. Iran did not defend itself

in court. As many as 138 of the 176 people killed on the flight had ties to Canada. The Iranian government has said the jet's downing in January 2020, was a "disastrous mistake" by forces who were on high alert during a confrontation with the United States after the commander of the Quds Force Qasem Soleimani was assassinated.



Wreckage from downed Ukraine Int. Airlines Flight 752

Erdogan says Biden has 'bloody hands' for backing Israel

The Turkish President is trading upon the Palestinian cause again. After the Gaza-Israel conflict has provoked again, Erdogan is taking advantage of it to rise his popularity which declined due to his expansionism projects in northern Syria, Libya, Armenia, Eastern Mediterranean and other regions.

Erdogan attacked Biden saying that Biden has bloody hands for backing Israel. Ironically, Erdogan is like those who see

the mote in peoples' eyes and does not see the beam in their own, he is adopting the same Israeli policy against the Syrian regions controlled by Turkey and its mercenaries of the Syrian National Army.

Turkey displaced about a million Syrians of different ethnicities and most of them are Kurds from Afrin, Ras al-Ayn, and Tell Abyad. It settles instead the relatives of the Muslim Brotherhood militants who support its apartheid policy.

Turkish Discrimination and Using Water as a Weapon in East Syria



Ahmad Qatma

Turkey did not cut the water off Syria when ISIS took control of large areas of East Syria and Iraq. However, it has done it so, many times, since the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) was formed because it adopts a Kurdish project. The SDF rejects the Turkish-backed Muslim Brotherhood opposition and the Syrian regime, which implements discriminatory policies against ethnic and religious minorities in Syria since the Ba'ath party and the al-Assad family took control of the country more than five decades ago.

The Euphrates is Dying up

Local media outlets in the Autonomous Administration in North and East Syria confirmed on January 27 that Turkey had lowered the discharge of the Euphrates River from 500 m³ to 200 m³ per second. The implications were not instant, but they became clear three months later. In early April, the media started to report on the drought of Euphrates which was man-made, rather than a natural disaster. Most cities and towns in North and East Syria are suffering now from electricity shortages and cuts for long hours, compared with the same period last year, as a result of the lowered water level of the Euphrates River.

Deputy President of the Executive Council in North and East Syria, Joseph Lahdo, pointed out on 15 April that Turkey was waging a water



The Euphrates and Tigris River Basin

war against the Syrian and Iraqi people. Lahdo noted that agriculture is the most affected sector because most people in the region work in farming and raising cattle. Turkey is waging "a water war on the existence and livelihood of the Syrian people, in general, and the communities in North and East Syria, in particular" he added. He noted that there were international agreements in place governing transboundary rivers and water distribution, but Turkey does not comply with the trilateral water agreement on the Euphrates.

Electricity or Drinking Water

Muhammad Tarboush, the dam director in East and North Syria said last April: "We are harvesting the dam water for 16 hours to supply electricity for 8 hours per day. The Dams can no longer stand the decreased level, therefore, we will have to suspend the dams and cut off electricity if this continues for a few more weeks because using water for drinking and

farming is more essential than generating electricity." He added: "The water level has never risen since it started dropping, so we suspended Tishrin dam "the Rojava dam", and we used the harvested water to supply the region with drinking water and irrigate the agricultural lands, but this will not last for more than two days, and the dam will be out of service if Turkey continued to block the water. "We are currently relying on the Euphrates dam "the Tabqa dam" because it has a large reservoir containing 14 billion m³, but we already drained more than 8 billion m³ of it, while more than 6 billion m³ remained, which will be used in the next few days as drinking water because we cannot use all water left to generate electricity."

The International Community Inaction Gives Turkey a Green Light In 2019 Turkey launched the Peace Spring operation under the pretext of creating a safe zone for the Syrians who live in Turkey. The operation, supported by thousands of Syrian mercenaries who live

in Turkey and call themselves "the Syrian National Army", helped seize Ras al-Ayn and Tell Abiad. Turkey later signed two agreements, one with Russia and one with the USA, which ended the operation and pushed SDF 35 km away from the borders

From East Euphrates to Afrin

On 10 May, Levantnews published a report covering recent activities by the so-called TFSA (Turkish-backed Syrian National Army) who have been diverting a large part of the Maydanki dam water, the only water source for Afrin center and parts of its rural areas, to Azaz, even though Afrin river does not flow through Azaz. The neighbourhoods of Afrin city have been supplied with water only once a week. Besides raising taxes, the TFSA is forcing only the Kurds (the natives of Afrin) to pay charges while the settlers who were brought in from outside Afrin were exempt, as part of Turkey's plan to change the demography of some Syrian

inland areas. The excuse was that Afrin's people are native inhabitants while those who are brought in from outside were displaced.

Aykan Erdemir, senior director of the Turkey Programme at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and a former member of the Turkish parliament, said Turkey has weaponized water multiple times over the past year by interrupting water supply to areas under SDF control in northeast Syria.

He added: "The Turkish government calculates that leveraging water would be particularly effective at a time when the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated public health risks in the region." It seems that the Turkish apartheid is the reason behind what is going on in East Euphrates. What Turkey and its militias care about now is not to overthrow Bashar al-Assad, who destroyed seven metropolises in Syria and displaced half of its population and killed hundreds of thousands, but to carry out the Turkish apartheid and expansionism project.

Turkey accuses the Kurds of terrorism and separatism because it wants to prevent them from gaining their constitutional rights in the country. However, the whole world knows the identity of the real terrorists who fight as mercenaries in Syria, Libya, to Azerbaijan, and the separatists who are proud of serving Neo-Ottomanism and raising its flags over its administrative and military buildings like the Grey Wolves flag which was raised over the schools of Al-Bab city.

Who benefits from the Gaza conflict?!

Cyrus Yaqubi

While the people of Gaza are under bombardment and so far, several hundred of them have been killed and injured, and almost all countries of the world are concerned about the situation there, who is welcoming this situation and its continuation? Who benefits from this conflict?

If we pay attention to Iranian regime's statements and actions in these conflicts, we realize that the only government that does not want a stop to this crisis and war is the Iranian regime. Mullahs, while shedding crocodile tears for the Palestinian people, instead of trying to stop the conflict, are doing their best to ignite and even expand it. Shortly after the start of the recent conflict in Gaza, Javad Zarif, foreign minister of the regime traveled to Damascus to meet with Hamas leaders and announce Iran's support for them. Of course, this was his public stance, but nothing was said about how Iran provides this support. But shortly afterwards, Abu Hamza, spokesman for the Quds Battalion of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for arming them with the Badr-3 missiles. In another instant, Qaani, the commander of the Quds Force, first telephoned Ziad al-Nakhala, the secretary general of Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement, and then Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the Hamas political bureau, to support them and encourage them to continue their attacks.

Also, Iran's state media have been busy broadcasting rocket attacks on Israel by Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, to make believe that they are destroying Israeli. But they do not say anything of the misery and catastrophic situation of Palestinian people, especially in Gaza, and if Palestinian people agree with these rockets attack which resulted in Israeli air strike and shelling that killed so many people!? Of course, the pain of Palestinian does not



The bombing Aftermath in Gaza

matter to Iranian regime that is why they do not cover it.

One may ask why the Iranian regime welcomes such a situation and why it has always sought to create chaos and instability in the region?! These actions of the regime can be clearly seen in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan, and Yemen, and in other countries in the region like Bahrain, we have seen signs of mullahs' meddling that fortunately for various reasons the situation has not deteriorated.

Export of the crisis has always been one of the mullahs' strategies since the establishment of their regime under Khomeini, with the aim of intervening and exerting influence in these countries, which began with the eight-year war with Iraq and then followed in other countries in the region. The Mullahs' regime in Tehran intends to implement its influence and dominance among the region's countries by creating instability, chaos and fear in these countries.

Even though more than 80% of the Iranian people live below the poverty line and the Iranian economy has collapsed, it does not hesitate to invest vast portion of Iranians'

wealth to advance its agenda in support of its proxy groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis of Yemen, various groups in Iraq and Afghanistan and Syria. According to Iranian regime's top officials, by 2020, Iran has spent more than 30 billion dollars only in support of Bashar al-Assad in Syria, and this is in addition to the large military expenditures of its own forces in Syria. According to Mohammad Reza Naqdi, one of the IRGC's commanders, Iran has already spent \$ 17 billion to support his proxy groups in the region.

That is why, the Iranian people have been chanting slogans such as "Neither Gaza nor Lebanon, I sacrifice my life for Iran" or "Leave Syria and think about us" in their continuous demonstrations against the regime's policies. But the regime, which is unable to fulfil the ordinary demands of its own people due to colossal corruption, unimaginable mismanagement, and growing incompetence, instead of paying attention to the needs of Iranians the regime has employed all its resources to create instability and conflicts in the neighbouring countries to impose this false impression that Iran is one of the

only countries of the region that is not facing similar kind of violence and if this regime is changed, Iran, like those countries, will suffer from chaos and unrest, which will harm not only Iranian people but also the strategic position of Iran will affect the whole region.

By this strategy, Iran is trying to convince the world that the regime should be accepted and be dealt with properly by the international community. However, due to the revelation of the regime's interventions in the countries of the region and also the opposition of the Iranian people to this regime, so much that now the absolute majority of Iranians want to overthrow and change the regime of the mullahs in Iran, this policy has failed and all regime's investments over the years on its proxy groups, like Hezbollah and Hamas and Islamic Jihad, will not be able to save this regime from the situation in which it is drowning from. Signs of this change can be seen in the widespread boycott of the sham presidential election to be held in Iran on June 18, which, even according to government officials, will have the lowest turnout in the past 42 years.

Germany: Challenges to combat “Jihadist” threats



Jassim Mohamad

It is really difficult for the German security services to maintain an overview on “Jihadist”, since Islamist terrorism could work with potential radicalized people, can be tapped through propaganda, or may be through direct attacks.

The German Internal Intelligence Agency for the Protection of the Constitution – BfV announced on 5th-May-2021 the banning of the Islamist “Ansar International” organization and its associated branches. The ban was coming because of rising fund and give logistic support to some “Jihadist” organization in the region: “Al-Nusra Front” in Syria, the Palestinian Hamas movement, The German interior intelligent report said that the numbers of “Ansar International” organization is about 800 inside Germany and 2,500 abroad. There are about 130,000 followers.” to the organization’s Facebook page. Though “Ansar” organization is legally registered in Germany, and even gets subsidies from the German government, and

this raises speculation about German intelligence to combat extremist. Germany’s intelligence BfV On 3rd-March-2021 placed “Ansar International” under surveillance for suspicions of promoting extremism. A German court halted the surveillance program two days later, stating that German authorities must allow the BfV to conclude its legal challenge before initiating surveillance.

How it comes such a group manage its works from inside Germany far from security since 2012? More, it organized trips for children from Germany to its branches abroad, including Syria, for field education “Salafist jihadist” courses, this is one of the issues that have aroused concern in German society.

Growing numbers of “Salafist jihadist”

There is a growing number of “Salafist jihadist” in Germany, and the German local intelligence said , there are (13,000) “radical Islamists”, among them about 700 dangerous ”Jihadist”, i.e. it is possible to carry out terrorist operations, according to the statistics of the German Interior Ministry for the year 2021.

The reason of “Salafist jihadist” growth, specifically in Germany because of travel restrictions on person or groups suspected to travel to conflict areas. The ISIS had asked”Jihadist” to stay in Germany and Europe to carry out terrorist operations inside Germany and European countries.

This also leads to the reasons for the growing risks of terrorism domestically in European countries, including Germany, the internal German intelligence, revealed that there are 485 dangerous “Jihadist” in Germany who do not have German citizenship, and this means that they are in Germany and have residency.

German intelligence always warns about the dangers of “jihadist” networks, and confirms that despite ISIS lost its strongholds in Syria and Iraq in 2017, but they are still operate and active in Germany and Europe. Some “Jihadist” has not been associated with the ISIS; they may carry out terrorist operations as lone wolves.

The German public prosecutor had previously announced on 10th-Feb-2021, the opening of more than 381 investigations case against radical

Islamist. Here it good to say, that German intelligence still suffers bureaucracy of the German judiciary. Spreading Salafist ideology in Germany had a great impact on the local Islamic societies. The mechanisms of this spread may be through: Internet, personal social networks, translated books, to promote Salafist interpretations of Radicalization concepts. Germany still live high threat level and German Intelligent used to launch or conducted security raids often in different states to combat growing “Jihadist” danger.

There is no doubt, that, Germany works seriously to review organizations registration and profile to ban any organization giving financial and logistic support to terrorist in the region.

The German intelligence decision to ban the “Ansar International” can be considered part of BfV effort to combat terror. It is expected that Germany will take more tough measures, policies and laws to confront “jihadist.”

Germany has long endured violence from “Jihadist” that s posed growing threat to Germany, and marked a series threats.



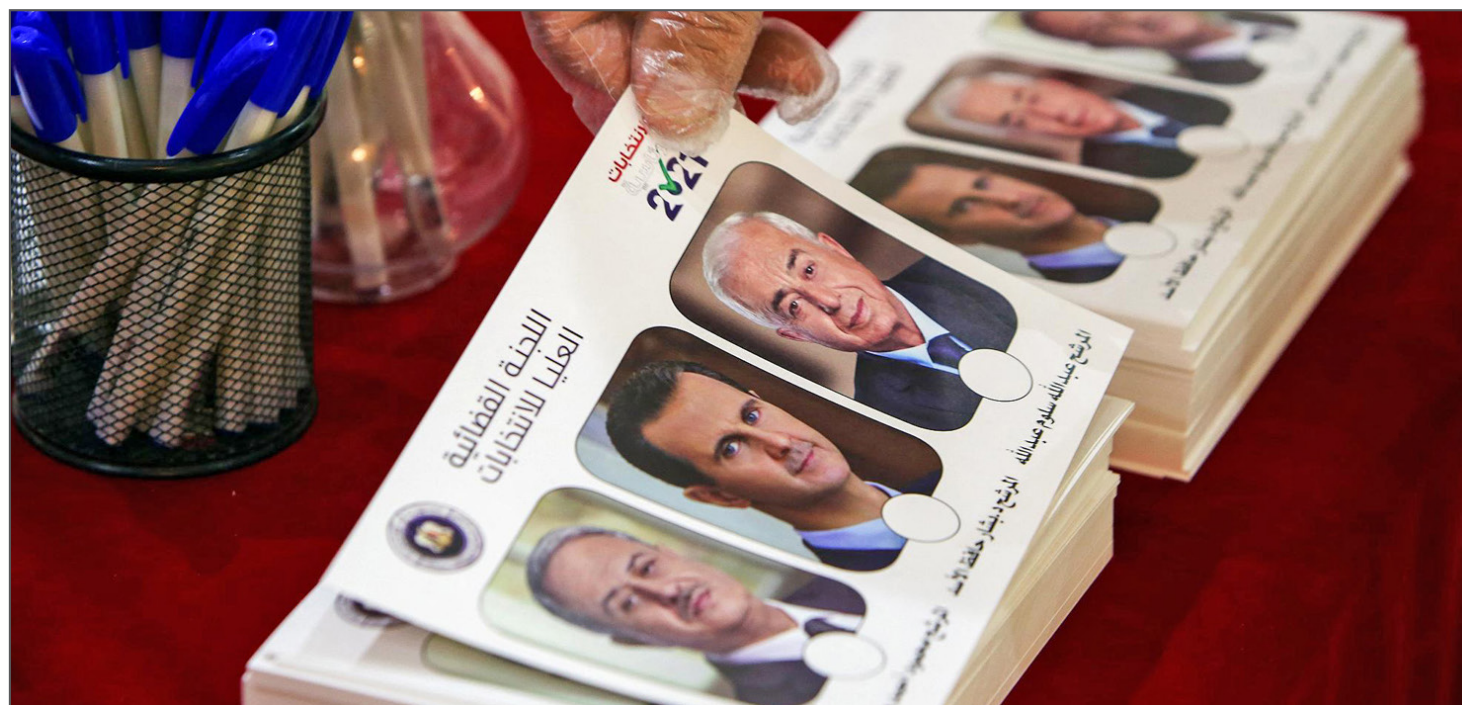
German security forces

Political forces in East Syria to Levantnews: We Reject the Syrian Presidential Elections

The presidential elections, planned by the Syrian regime, are still provoking strong reactions inside and outside Syria. Most of the regional and international powers reject them; they believe that the only solution to the Syrian crisis is the departure of Bashar al-Assad, since he is the main reason behind the displacements of millions of Syrians who cannot come back home while he is still in power. Levantnews interviewed several political figures in Eastern Syria, which is under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces where elections will not be held, except for two security squares* in Hasakah and Qamishli that are still controlled by the Syrian regime.

Gabriel Moushe Gawrieh, the head of the political branch of the Assyrian Democratic Organization, said that: "The presidential elections are a desperate attempt by the regime to mislead the international community and its supporters among Syrian people into believing that it still has some legitimacy. However, the whole world knows that these elections are not legitimate; not only because they are contrary to UNSC resolution 2254 but also because they are a repeated episode of all the previous farcical elections that have been held during the rule of al-Assad family. Therefore, the results are obvious even before the elections take place."

He added: "This episode is the worst of all elections the country has witnessed because Syria is currently occupied by multiple powers, more than half the population are either refugees or internally displaced and the economy is crumbling rapidly. Holding elections in such troubled times will prolong and worsen the crisis Syria. Internationally, we do not believe that the results of these elections will be recognized, except for the countries supporting the regime i.e. Russia and Iran. Furthermore, we think that the regime will be more isolated and face greater pressure through sanctions and reopening various cases such as the alleged war crimes committed by



Syrian Presidential Elections voting cards

the regime."

Îlham Ehmed, the co-president of the Syrian Democratic Council and its political speaker, asserted that "the current circumstances are not appropriate for holding elections in Syria. Most Syrians are not able to participate because they are displaced or living in exile as refugees".

The elections are not democratic and do not meet the legal requirements, in terms of transparency. Moreover, there is no doubt that they will not produce the ultimate political solution to the Syrian crisis; instead they will aggravate the current situation in Syria further," she added. Regarding the relations with the regime in Damascus and the Autonomous Administration's refusal to take part in the elections, Îlham stated: "The elections will not necessarily affect the situation in the area; most of Syrians in East and North Syria did not participate in the previous elections."

Joseph Lahdo, member of the central committee of the Syriac Union Party and a member of the executive council in East and North Syria said that: "Since the foundation of the Autonomous Administration, its position on any elections held by the regime -whether parliamentary, presidential or local- has not changed;

it has not allowed them. Holding such elections was subject to any potential understanding or dialogue between the regime and the Autonomous Administration, which did not happen."

As a result of the regime's inflexibility, all forms of dialogue with the regime have failed. The situation has turned from bad to worse including and elections were not permitted in the areas controlled by the Autonomous Administration " he continued.

Bakr al-Hussaini, member of the Democratic Arab Socialist Party in Syria, said: "After Hafez Assad initiated The Corrective Movement in 1970 and seized power, he established the National Front, which we had been demanding. We had shared power and participated in drafting the National Front Charter. A committee was formed to draft a permanent constitution which included an article stating that "the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party is the leader of the state and the society", which we rejected and subsequently withdrew from the National Front and the government in 1973."

He added: "One of the Ba'ath party leaders mentioned that Hafez Assad had insisted on including that article because he knew that Dr Jamal Atassi would reject it. Therefore, we do

not recognise any form of elections in Syria, whether presidential, parliamentary or local because they are sham elections that serve the regime's agenda. We clearly and openly reject them."

Talal Muhammad, president of The Kurdistan Democratic Party of Syria, said: "In the absence of a political solution for the Syrian crisis, any form of elections is held in the country are not legitimate because they are not part of a political process, let alone the processes endorsed by the UNSC resolution 2254."

For fair and transparent elections to be possible, "a common vision for ending the ongoing conflict has to be reached first through dialogue and negotiations", he added.

Hasan Saleh, member of Yekiti Kurdistan Party, points out that the current Syrian regime had seized power by a military coup and tightened its grip over the country by brutal force. Therefore, "the elections are a travesty and an insult to the sacrifice of the Syrians who were killed during the peaceful revolution for liberty and dignity", he added. Saleh concluded by saying that "it would be a disgrace for the international community to allow this criminal tyrant to have a new reign of power."

Vienna Talks .. Exhausting and Provoking the Enemies



Delegation members from the parties to the Iran nuclear deal

When Joe Biden assumed office on 20 January, everyone thought he would soon return to the Iran nuclear deal, from which Trump withdrew. However, than 4 months have passed, with the negotiations on returning to the JCPOA getting nowhere, which indicates that way is not paved to return to the deal anytime soon as both sides seek to achieve more gains.

Draining Negotiations

In mid-April, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran Abbas Araghchi described the negotiations of the joint commission of the JCPOA as tough and serious. He noted that the Iranian position on lifting the sanctions did not change. "The path will not be an easy path, there are some serious differences, but we are optimistic" he added.

The speaker of the Iranian parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf tweeted: "I am proud to announce that at 00:40 last night, and on the night of the pilgrimage of Sayyid al-Shuhada, young and pious Iranian scientists were able to obtain a product of 60% enriched uranium." He added: "Congratulations to the brave people of Islamic Iran on this success. the will of the Iranian nation is a miracle-maker and it will defuse any conspiracy." This reveals the mentality of the Iranian leaders who

see any country outside Iran as an enemy.

Mutual US-Iranian Conditions

On 18 April, the National Security Advisor of the United States, Jake Sullivan, reiterated in an interview with Fox News, that Washington would not lift sanctions against Tehran unless it (US) is satisfied that Iran has returned to full compliance with its commitments, as stated in the nuclear agreement, in addition to several US demands.

However, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs claimed that Vienna negotiations were on the right track, and that Iran proposed an agreement draft and asked the other side to swiftly move to discussing the major issues and the common terms. "We are on the right track and some progress has been made, but this does not mean that Vienna talks have reached the final stage," Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

Extra Time

Following the Iranian comments, various statements were issued by different sides regarding the nuclear deal. However, they were mostly aimed at scoring points, while the negotiations stalled and failed to achieve a tangible outcome. In other words, they neither succeeded in forcing Iran to backtrack on uranium

enrichment, or in leading to easing the sanctions which the Iranian people have been waiting for desperately. However, the Iranian regime does not seem to be concerned by them. President Rouhani stated on 20 April that Iran was in no hurry to conclude the Vienna negotiations, deal and that Tehran "maintains its position and will use every opportunity to secure lifting the sanctions."

"High-level talks in Vienna have already resolved 60-70 % of the key issues," he noted, "if the Americans act honestly, we will reach a conclusion in little time," he added. Rouhani's affected optimism was exposed by the pessimism of the deputy foreign minister Abbas Araghchi who said: "The Iranian delegation will stop the talks whenever the process of negotiations leads to unreasonable demands, waste of time and irrational bargaining." This statement reveals that the negotiations are not for Iran's benefit, because they will put a limit to Iran's attempts to control the region.

Mutual US and Iranian Mutual Steps toward Compliance

A source in Vienna said that the USA was trying to force Iran to settle for a gradual lifting of the sanctions. The well informed source disclosed to the Iranian state-owned news network Press TV that the meetings that took

place during the third week of April, were supposed to be the last round of talks but the American delegation put pressure on the P4+1 to form a third working group to consider measures on how the United States and Iran could sequence simultaneous steps toward compliance with the agreement. The source added that the purpose of such steps is to drive Iran to accept that the sanctions will be lifted gradually and temporarily. The United States is trying to extract concessions out of Iran gradually." The source explained. The establishment of this working group aims at allowing the US to decide "which sanctions are to be lifted, how and when". In return this working group will decide "the steps, phases and mechanism for Iran to reduce its nuclear activities," the source added.

On 22 April, a senior US official said that "significant differences" still exist between the United States and Iran on how the two sides can resume compliance with the nuclear agreement. The senior official in the US State Department said in a telephone press conference, "The negotiations will probably take several rounds and are still far from producing a result and the results are uncertain." This indicates that there is still a long way to reach a final consensus, and its outcomes will most likely not be as Tehran wants them to be.

Feleknas Uca to Levantnews

"Erdogan's Support for Political Islam Leads the Country to Downfall and Causes Instability in the Middle East"



Ramy Shafiek

Feleknas Uca, the foreign affairs spokesperson of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), said that the attacks on HDP, carried out by the extreme and ultranationalist alliance between the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) led by the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) led by Devlet Bahçeli, are a part of the change plans which started in 2018 with transforming Turkey from a parliamentary regime into a presidential one and enforcing the new constitution in order to eliminate the political and legal existence of the parties and the civil society and undermine the democratic institution and values.

Here is the script of the interview with Uca:

■ **Supported by opposition parties, the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) defeated the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in the last elections .. How much does the HDP pay the price now?**

Our key position and initiative allow us to change the balance of powers in Turkey. The AKP-MHP alliance see our strategic position as a great threat. HDP's participation in the 2015 General Elections was a risk because it was the first participation, the party was newly established and the electoral threshold was 10%, the highest electoral threshold in the world. The HDP joined the elections with the independent candidates and it polled at 13,1% AKP could not the majority party in the Parliament. The 7th June 2015 Election was a milestone for Turkey. AKP terminated the peace process in March 2013. During the peace process and the pre-negotiation dialogue, the PKK Leader Mr Abdullah Öcalan in İmralı Prison and the Turkish State got very close to

the democratic solution. AKP leader Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has formed a war alliance with the ultranationalist party (MHP) after November 2013. The AKP-MHP alliance adopted the "Total Annihilation Plan" which is to destroy the Kurdish People's political and economic abilities in Turkey. This plan and its shocking results are a crime against humanity. Many Kurdish cities and districts like Sur, Cizre, Şırnak, Nusaybin, Yüksekova were burned and partially or completely collapsed. Hundreds of thousands of Kurdish people in those cities became displaced. Thousands of people have died, tens of thousands of Kurds have been jailed. HDP's co-leaders Mr Selahattin Demirtaş, Ms & Figen Yüksekdağ, and hundreds of elected MPs and mayors were unseated and jailed. The politically motivated judicial system puts our elected politicians in jails despite the ECHR's (European Court of Human Rights) verdicts give them immediate release.

Although the HDP has faced the AKP-MHP alliance's violence perpetrated by police forces, the prosecutors with unfair trials and media boycott (%95 of media including TV, radio, and newspapers are under full control of AKP-MHP coalition in Turkey), our party leadership and HDP supporters have never stepped back. The 2019 local elections were one of the important examples as the AKP-MHP alliance lost the major cities due to the HDP's strategic position. Therefore, the AKP-MHP alliance trying to keep the HDP away from the next general elections in 2023 or earlier in case of snap elections.

■ **The Turkish government increasingly calls for the HDP to be banned. Many sides are behind these calls especially the Turkish National Movement Party (MHP) and its leader Devlet Bahçeli, Erdogan's ally. Will this pressure pay off?**

Actually, only Devlet Bahçeli insists on banning the HDP and force Erdoğan to speed up the lawsuits in the courts and Erdoğan

absolutely wants to ban the HDP. However, the banned parties always return with stronger versions. The banning procedure is politically motivated and the accusations made by the prosecutor failed and the constitutional court returned them because they were baseless but the prosecutor keeps working on fabricating new accusations. We will prepare ourselves against any illegitimate and anti-democratic future attempts made by the AKP-MHP Coalition.

■ **Some say that the AKP targets the HDP to dissolve the opposition to pave the way for Erdoğan and the Justice and Development Party to rule for decades to come ... Do you agree with this?**

The political parties have to make alliances to run for elections according to the new presidential electoral system. The AKP allied with MHP and together they formed the "People's Alliance". The main opposition represented by the secularist Kemalist party the Republican People's Party (CHP), the nationalist party the Good Party (iyi), and the Islamist party the Felicity Party (SP) has formed the "Nation Alliance". However, under the condition of forming electoral alliances, both political blocs need the HDP's support to reach %50+1 vote rate to win the presidential elections. The AKP-MHP alliance works on dissolving the Nation Alliance and preventing the HDP to give support to the Nation Alliance, just like what happened in the local elections. HDP is the third way of an alternative power that promotes democracy, human rights, labour rights, and freedoms. If elections held without

HDP, the current ruling parties AKP-MHP will rule Turkey for many years to come.

■ **What do you think when they say that the continuing attempts of the AKP and MHP to close the "HDP" are nothing but to keep it away from the elections?**

As I said earlier, if the HDP could not run for the next elections, the AKP-MHP alliance will remain in power for many years to come. However, HDP's 6 million supporters and the increasing support from the young generation will have a joint stance. The HDP is not a building or a banner, it is the peoples' will, thus, we will not leave our supporters without options in the next general elections.

■ **The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan wants to change the constitution for domestic and foreign policy. It makes sense that drafting a new constitution means the HDP will be treated differently. How do you prepare for this?**

President Erdoğan and its ally Devlet Bahçeli have already changed the constitution through the 2017 constitutional referendum but the new presidential system creates new administrative problems. Only one person (Erdoğan) can exceed the legislative and executive powers to redesign the state. The new constitution is not a real problem and aims only to distract people. The main problems are economy, corruption, regional instability which is caused by rising tension around the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, and the military operations which restricts diplomacy.



Feleknas Uca

Is the Hamas claim of “victory” justified?



Ian Black

Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) leader in the Gaza Strip, was quick to declare victory after the ceasefire with Israel came into effect on May 21 with the help of Egypt and the belated encouragement of the US. Haniyeh declared that the fight against Israel will continue until the Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem is liberated. “Israel’s defeat in the Gaza war will have major consequences for its future,” he explained.

It was a revealing claim that said more about Hamas’ own ambitions than acknowledging the reality of the most intractable and asymmetrical conflict in the Middle East or perhaps the world. Even as Haniyeh made his statement last Friday clashes were continuing between Israeli police and Palestinian worshippers around Al-Aqsa.

It was Hamas’ decision, on May 10, to fire missiles into Israel as a reaction to escalating confrontations in Jerusalem that led to this latest round of fighting, which has captured unusual global attention and underlined the urgency of dealing with this ongoing crisis and not simply reverting to the status quo. Hamas alone, of course, does not bear full responsibility. Israel’s unilateral annexation of East Jerusalem, which was controversially recognized by President Donald Trump in 2018, was enormously damaging, along with the illegal settlements it has relentlessly built there and across the West Bank since its victory in 1967.

But the Islamist movement that took over Gaza in 2007 and has ruled it for the last 13 years has not served its two million people well. Nearly 250 dead in 11 days – including 66 children – are a stark reminder of that, as is the damage inflicted by Israel on housing, the ability to deal with the covid pandemic, infrastructure and electricity supplies.

And of course the latest round has done nothing to ease the blockade of the Gaza Strip – maintained by both



Destruction in Gaza

Israel and Egypt since Hamas’ rule began. Palestinian teenagers living in the enclave have almost certainly never left it. And their parents’ generation have to struggle with 47% unemployment.

Not that the Palestinian Authority, under Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, is also without blame. Just before this flare-up began Abbas postponed legislative assembly and presidential elections. He used the excuse of Israel not allowing East Jerusalem Palestinian residents (40% of the city’s population) to vote, but in reality he feared rivals and especially Hamas performing better than his Fatah movement.

Abbas is widely seen by Palestinians as corrupt, self-serving and collaborating with Israel by security coordination with it in the framework of the Oslo Accords of

1993, which should have been an interim agreement but have become a permanent feature. Still, the PLO continues to recognize Israel whereas Hamas refuses to do that.

The Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, remains keen to exploit and perpetuate the bitter divisions between Ramallah and Gaza. He has been criticized by his own security officials who argue that it was a grave mistake to allow Qatar to finance Hamas – ostensibly to help Gaza’s civilian population.

And “Bibi” may also have benefited personally and politically from this savage episode. Facing corruption charges, he failed to form a government after the last (fourth round in two years) inconclusive elections in March but the other potential prime minister, Yair Lapid, has not succeeded either – because

he had counted on a Palestinian party to take part in his coalition and that is no longer likely because of the rise in Arab-Jewish tensions.

So Netanyahu is likely to remain interim prime minister for now – with the possibility of a fifth election in the coming months. That means that Israel’s domestic rivalries and competing agendas are likely to complicate intensifying international efforts to intervene.

As for President Joe Biden – always keen to differentiate his style and policies from Trump – he needs to take into account the shifting views amongst the Democratic Party, which are less tolerant towards Israel and view it increasingly as an apartheid state deserving of boycott, sanctions and mounting American and international pressure. Attitudes amongst American Jews are changing too, largely thanks to the Black Lives Matter movement, reaching the conclusion the Palestinian lives matter too.

Arab countries are also responsible for what has just happened. Egypt exploited its role by highlighting on state propaganda the achievement of President Abdel-Fatah al-Sisi and his “present” of \$500 million to the people of Gaza – who also suffer from his blockade. Jordan, which also has a long-standing peace treaty with Israel, faced angry protests from its Palestinian population.

The Abraham Accords of last year, signed by the UAE and Bahrain, and followed by “normalization” agreements with Israel from Sudan and Morocco, look increasingly irrelevant to dealing with the core of the conflict. This Gaza episode makes it far less likely that other Arab and Muslim countries will follow suit, thus avoiding validating Netanyahu’s argument of “peace for peace” instead of “land for peace.”

Neither side will be able to claim a resounding victory until this conflict is permanently resolved with self-determination and justice – for both Palestinians and Israelis, doomed by history to somehow share the same land between the river and the sea.

When Defeat Turns into Victory!



A woman walking among the rubble in Gaza



Jwan Dibo

Every single defeat that the Arab countries faced with Israel in the distant and near past was converted into an illusory victory.

Transforming defeats into imaginary victories, was done by populist and ultra-nationalist leaders who were and still are the main reason behind the suffering of their people and the backwardness of their countries. These leaders were and still consider the mere survival or existence after every devastating loss as a triumph that should be proud of.

Following the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, the Syrian Ba'ath, announced the defeat of Israel simply because the "wise" Baathist leadership remained in power, knowing that it was – and still is – usurping power through a military coup. The defeat of June 1967 turned into a simple and fleeting

"setback" despite Israel's occupation of Sinai in Egypt, Golan Heights in Syria and what was left of Palestine. The "Mother of all Defeats" that led to the humiliating escape of the Iraqi army from Kuwait in 1991 was described by Saddam Hussein as "the Mother of all Battles". The July 2006 war, which led to the destruction of much of the capital, Beirut, and the withdrawal of Hezbollah fighters to the lines of contact, was, according to "the axis of resistance" which is practically "the axis of trading and auctions", a divine victory. The October 1973 war, which led to the Israeli occupation of more Syrian and Egyptian lands, was considered a historic victory by the Arabs.

The last round of Israel-Hamas war that stopped a few days ago after 11 days of mutual bombardment was portrayed by Hamas and Jihad as a divine triumph. The war led to the killing of more than 240 Palestinians in Gaza compared to only 12 people in Israel. In addition to destroying

dozens of residential towers in Gaza and damaging of the city's infrastructure. The reason behind Hamas and Jihad's account of the war as a heavenly victory is because that the leaders of the two movements, who were hiding in the basements like rats, eventually survived or just because the city of Gaza, which Hamas has dominated with force and intimidation, has not been completely wiped out.

Peoples and leaders who convert their current defeats into victories, inevitably, their reading and comprehension of distant and near history suffers from many drawbacks and fallacies. Consequently, nations and leaders who do not read and understand their history well cannot read and grasp their present well, even if they are a part of it and live in it.

On this basis, desired and hoped-for change in discourse, reason, and collective action becomes a form of fantasy and an aspiration that is

very difficult to turn into a tangible reality.

Thousands of Gazans gathered in the streets and squares following the cease-fire to express their happiness. They did not do so, influenced by the lie of steadfastness propagated by Hamas leaders, but because they were and still love life and peace.

Perhaps most of them know that they have lost the last war as they had lost the previous wars. However, they have no choice but to be optimistic until they get rid of Hamas's rule and its policies that serve the agendas of Iran, Turkey and Qatar, the axis of evil and organised sabotage in the Middle East and North Africa.

The only case in which defeat can be turned into victory is when the correct and useful lessons are drawn from it. Also, when realism and rationality prevail in politics instead of recklessness and empty flashy slogans which increase the tragedy of peoples and double their poverty and deprivation.

What if Iran prefers to live peacefully?



Khalid Aljasir

What if Iran prefers to live peacefully? Our 20th article is an ode to all peace-loving people who have extended their hand to the Iranian Regime, most recently Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Needless to say, Iran has grown accustomed to sneaking through the back door and hijacking Arab issues through its agents by spreading chaos and violence, stirring sectarian wars, and supporting armed militias against those nations' governments. Iran attacked Arab justice with the Palestinian issue in its use of false and disgraced slogans that aimed at playing with the hearts of Arabs and Muslims.

Not to mention, its terrorist militias that have invaded our Arab world in Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq, and the occupation of the Ahvaz, Khorramshahr, and the Islands of United Arab Emirates. Hence, demonstrating Iran's ethnocentrism, which is even directed at its crumbling country and people. Iran's behavior illustrates a desire to transform its regional influence from a medium regional power to an influential player in the region. This behavior consequently, raised legitimate concerns from the United States of America and other regional powers. What if Iran prefers to live peacefully? The ethnocentrism of the Iranian Regime, which is working hard to marginalize the Palestinian issue, made Iran no different from the racist state occupying Palestine. Instead, it is on a path of rivalry to dominate the lands and resources of a nation in a state of weakness. The so-called 'Arabic spring' uprisings have yielded the Palestinian people into further despair, which made the Palestinian issue into a bargaining chip used for the Persian ambitions against Arab countries and nations. Although its agents, like some leaders of Palestinian factions, such as Hamas, Jihad, and

the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, see Iran as their advocate, they are mistaken as Iran is responsible for the killing and displacement of Muslim Sunnis in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.

What if Iran prefers to live peacefully? The dilemma of its regional behavior is becoming most violent without an international deterrent or any possible fallout from Biden's sleeping diplomacy. The Supreme Leader of Iran, Khamenei confirming "Tehran's commitment to supporting its allies in the Middle East," and that its regional presence is a necessity that must be and will continue, is a farce as Iran still refuses to abandon its missile program and has not abided to the nuclear agreement since 2018. The Iranian regime boasted that its program "forced Iran's enemies to think twice," showcasing another example of the contradictory positions of Iran's terrorist behavior. Every nation in our world has made Iran's behavior not only a concern but also their utmost priority. At the forefront of those nations and global powers are the United States as Iran's possession of nuclear weapons leads to a global imbalance and an ill-advised nuclear race in the region.

What if Iran prefers to live peacefully? Iran's massive deficit crisis is ravaging its budget. The lack of transparency of its financial operations at the Central Bank of Iran resulted in its blacklisting by the FATF (Financial Action Task Force). This, consequently, encouraged the Central Bank of Iran and the Iranian Government to pursue more illegal methods of operating financial and commercial markets in order to cause further destruction through the armament of its agents against our nations. Iran seems to be unmindful of the many Palestinian revolutionary groups, who claimed to serve the Palestinian issue using terrorist groups and parties in several countries. These groups then vanished. Thus, exposing the reality of those regimes. When Teheran accomplishes its objectives, the same will happen.

The Iranian regime is taking advantage of Palestinian issue

Some experts have called Khomeini one of the most prominent politicians of the twentieth century, who with his counter-progressive and opportunistic intuition used every opportunity to consolidate and strengthen his position and that of his regime in Iran and the region. For example, at a time when his regime was under pressure both in Iran and internationally, he exploited the feelings of Muslims, issued a fatwa for assassination of Salman Rushdie on charge of blasphemy to prophet Mohammad, and tried to divert attentions elsewhere to free his regime from pressure.

Another case was the designation of the last Friday of Ramadan as Quds Day, calling on Muslims around the world to demonstrate in support of the Palestinian people. This seemed to be a legitimate move in solidarity with the Palestinian people among the Muslims, and that is why, at first, when Khomeini's identity was not known either in Iran or among the Muslims of the world, he was welcomed, and the masses responded by holding big demonstration in this day.

But in fact, Khomeini's goal was to exercise his hegemony in the Muslim countries of the region and establish himself as someone who defends the Palestinian people, but over the time it became clear that Khomeini does not care for the Palestinian people and not even for the Iranian people. What he wanted was to expand his influence. As a result, these demonstrations became more and more sluggish every year, both in Iran and in other Muslim countries.

It is now clear to the Palestinian people and most Muslims around the world that the policies of Khomeini and his successor Khamenei have done the most damage to the Palestinian people. Khomeini, first sought to expand his influence by force and going to war,

he insisted to continue an eight-year war with the Muslim country of Iraq that killed more than 2 million people in the two countries and caused hundreds of billions of dollars in damage to both.

When he failed to achieve his goal, he pursued his goal by supporting his proxy forces in region's countries, and in opposition to Yasser Arafat, who refused to accept his hegemony he supported Hamas and by doing that, he caused division among the Palestinian people that practically led to the division of Palestine into two parts, further weakening the Palestinian state.

The Iranian regime continues to support Hamas as the arm of the Quds Force in Palestine to advance Khamenei's agenda, even though the majority of Iranians live below the poverty line and the regime itself is financially strapped by US sanctions. According to Mahmoud al-Zahar, a senior member of Hamas, in an interview with Al-Alam, the Iranian state television Arabic language channel, Qassem Soleimani, on one occasion, handed him \$ 22 million in cash in four suitcases at the airport.

Now, 40 years later, the Iranian regime is still trying to portray itself as a supporter of Palestinian cause, but their claim has no buyer among the Iranian people, the Palestinian people, and the Muslims in the region, and this has become more of day rhetoric against Israel for regime's leaders, clerics, Friday prayers and IRGC commanders. Nonsense that is repeated every year, while the Iranian regime in the region, especially the Persian Gulf is more isolated than ever and many countries in the region due to the regime's terrorist interventions in their countries have cut off their diplomatic relations with Iran. These developments clearly indicate the regime's nonsense about Palestine.

Biden Returns to the Middle East



Dalia Ziada

Since the victory of Joseph Biden with the American Presidential Elections, in November 2020, the Middle East has fallen into an endless cycle of uncertainties about the future of US foreign policy in the Middle East. That is not only because the Democrat Biden is the complete opposite of the Republican Trump. But, also, because the Middle East has drastically changed, especially on the inter-state relations and the geopolitical level, since the era of Obama Administration, which coincided with the Arab Spring that brought the entire region upside down.

In fact, most regimes in the Middle East, including non-Arab countries like Israel and Turkey, had been praying that Donald Trump could have remained in power for another term. The pragmatic approach of the Trump Administration, which relied on 'personal diplomacy' was the perfect political language to interact with and influence the decisions of Middle East leaders. This proximate, non-institutional, communication between Trump and the leaders of the region, created a better off situation for all Middle East countries, while

cornered Iran, the biggest enemy of the region, in a tough spot.

The Middle East uncertainties towards Biden Administration were magnified by the fact that during his electoral campaign, Biden was largely vague about his prospected foreign policy in the Middle East. When asked about the Middle East, he only repeated some nostalgic phrases from the Obama era about adopting a new approach towards the Islamic world. He was mainly pre-occupied by China and the economic threat it represents to the long-term position of the United States as the most politically, economically, and militarily powerful country in the world.

It was clear to all observers that the Middle East is not the top priority for the new US Administration of President Biden, unlike the case with almost all his predecessors. On his first few months in office, President Biden divorced himself from the headaches and troubles of the Middle East. Even, he decided to review all the decisions President Trump has made in favor of some Arab Gulf countries, including the crucial arms sales deals to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Then, everyone got surprised by the decisions paving the way for US withdrawal from the Middle East. That was particularly highlighted by Biden Administration's decision to withdraw US troops from Iraq and

Afghanistan.

On the positive side of the issue, this indifference shown by the Biden Administration towards the Middle East, in the first few months of his term, played an obvious role in accelerating the process of reshuffling the regional coalitions and alliances. Conflicts among Arab Gulf countries turned into an Arab Gulf reconciliation, and the severe rift between Egypt and Turkey is now being fixed. However, on the negative side, the Biden's uncaring approach towards the Middle East was about to bring the region back into hell, after the eruption of the violent conflict between Hamas and Israel, in early May.

The Biden Administration received a lot of criticism from observers, worldwide, for showing a lethargic response to the recent episode of war between Tel Aviv and Hamas. Rather than appropriately intervening to control the fight, the US intervened, not only for once but for three times, to block an Israel-binding ceasefire resolution by the United Nations Security Council. Only after Egypt successfully mediated a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, after eleven days of missile attacks and the death of hundreds of innocent civilians, the Biden Administration decided to intervene.

In the past week, President Biden

contacted the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi twice. The first call between the two presidents took place immediately after the successful ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, on May 21st. Biden applauded Egypt's efforts on brokering the ceasefire and the two leaders agreed to remain in close contact on co-managing strategic regional issues, in the future. The second call between El-Sisi and Biden took place, three days later, and was immediately followed by a very important Middle East tour for the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who visited Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, and Jordan.

It is clear that the Biden Administration has, finally, realized that it did a mistake by putting the Middle East as a second priority on its foreign policy agenda. In other words, the decision to suddenly withdraw from the Middle East, after decades of heavy political and military involvement, or even the decision to shrink the US role in managing and mediating in the many plights of the Middle East, have been proved to be impractical and non-applicable decisions. Yet, the Biden Administration needs to redesign its new foreign policy in the Middle East based on the new realities and the new alliances that are currently governing the region.





Assad Elections and the Future of Syria



James Denselow

After nearly twenty-one years in power, a decade of which has been spent presiding over the worst conflict in the young country's history, President Bashar al-Assad faces the electorate this Wednesday for what is widely ridiculed around the world as the sham of sham elections. Back in 2000 the young leader was confirmed with 97.29% of the vote, a 2007 referendum on his leadership saw his popularity rise slightly to 97.6% of the vote although again he was running unopposed. In 2014 Assad's share of the vote plummeted to 92.20% and it is an open question as to whether the leadership in Damascus would want this year's result to be back up in the high 90s or perhaps show a more humble, contrite President by seeing results

dip into the 80s.

Regardless of the exact size of his mandate the elections are of course a formality rather than a genuine crossroads for the country. They are important to a regime that values the illusions of normal institutions despite knowing full well that real power is vested elsewhere. Observers and analysts have described the process as a 'pledge of loyalty' and there have already been scenes of Syrians voting in Lebanon being attacked for their troubles.

Whereas upon ascending the throne Bashar was seen as a reformer and his early years saw a brief 'Damascus Spring' characterised by less restrictions to free speech and debate, today he rules over only parts of the country and is reliant on foreign powers for his place in the Presidential palace. Whilst the civil war is no longer lapping onto his doors in Damascus the attempt to shift a focus to reconstruction and normalisation has largely

failed and the country is now wrapped in a triple crisis of Covid, conflict and economic crisis.

The economic crisis is the most insidious and when combined with the rampant corruption that is endemic in the country it is the recipe for future troubles unforeseen. Schoolteachers complain (anonymously) that the cost of a shawarma is half their monthly salary, queues for petrol snake for miles and the majority (80%) of the country's population is now mired in poverty.

Such conditions would normally be the backdrop for a political revolution and the emergence of a new leadership that could offer a hopeful vision for the future. Yet looking at the individual faces of those pro-Regime supporters at the organised rallies you can't help but wonder what future they feel Assad can deliver. Regardless of how much power he has now ceded to his Russian and Iranian allies

much of the world cannot seemingly countenance any engagement with Syria under his rule.

The country has of course endured periods of isolation before but never in the aftermath of so many combined crises. In addition to conflict, covid and the economy is the rapid decline of the country's environment. Agricultural production, in particular strategic crops, has been affected by the severe drought resulting from rainfall levels that barely reached 60 percent of the annual average, and the increase in temperatures of six to seven degrees above the average.

Syria was struggling to sustain its population despite the fact that millions have already fled the country over the last ten years and the climate crisis just makes this even worse. Yet in the spirit of the election food baskets and extra subsidies, not to mention presidential pardons and prisoner

releases, will paint a picture of unity and resistance from the perspective of the Assad regime. However, the fact that the elections are proceeding along the current lines is another body blow to the UN led peace efforts. These were once envisaged to deliver a major roadmap to a transitional government or something more politically radical, but now can barely impact on a focused constitutional agenda.

What the elections will do, if nothing else, is remind Syrians, the region and the world of the different routes the country could have gone down rather than the current one that has seen the ill-fated stewardship of the Assad dynasty for over half a century. Confirming another seven years of Bashar al-Assad will tie the country's fate to a leader who has brought Syrians neither prosperity nor greater freedoms and it will anchor its ability to forge a brighter and more hopeful future ahead.

Afrin: Demographic change and ethnic cleansing



Zara Saleh

When Turkish President Erdogan in 2018 launched a military operation with the so-called Syrian National Army in the Kurdish region of Afrin, he said at that time: “We will return Afrin to its rightful owners.” In contrast to the Turkish president's speech, the occupation of Afrin was a political deal between Turkey and Russia in order to occupy the Kurdish areas. Furthermore, more than half of Afrin's residents were exiled from their homelands, and instead, Arab and Turkmen from different areas were settled there following Erdogan's plan of demographic change.

In purpose to change the population balance in Kurdish areas which predominantly was with more than 95% Kurdish majority, Erdogan has orchestrated a systematic

demographic shift by settling non-Kurdish people in Afrin northwest Syria as a project of ethnic cleansing as well. Erdogan's occupation strategy in the Kurdish areas such as Afrin, Serekaniye, and Till Abyad was due to its 'Phobia' that the Syrian Kurds will use the Syrian conflict to fulfil their ambitions to establish a Kurdish state or autonomous in the south border of Turkey. As a result, the percentage of the Kurdish population in Afrin has decreased dramatically due to Turkey's policy of demographic change comparing to the situation before Erdogan's occupation. According to human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch and the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights more than 300,000 Kurds were forced to leave Afrin and now only 25% of the region are Kurds in comparison to 75% of newly settled from Arab, Turkmen and even Palestinian people.

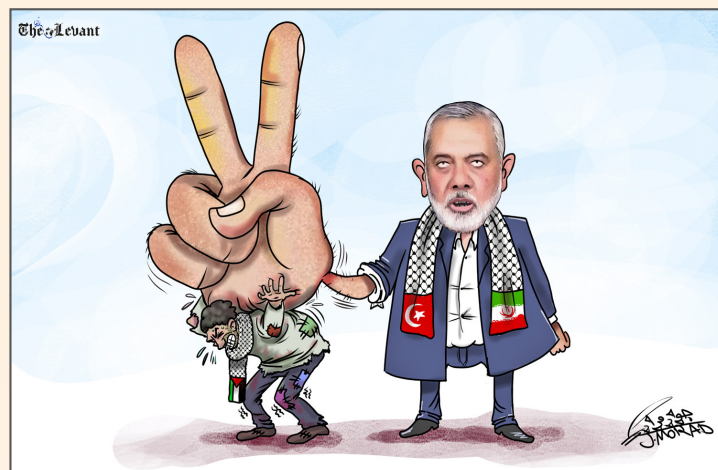
Recently, Turkey has used different humanitarian and charity

organizations as sources for funding its demographic project in occupied areas. For example, the Kuwaiti-backed charity organization called 'Sham Al-Khair Charity' has begun to run a permanent housing association called "Kuwait Al-Rahma" in Shirawa district in Afrin. The new housing association will include building more than 300 houses, a dispensary, a mosque, a school, and a Koranic institute for non-Kurdish residents from other Syrian areas. At the same time, Ankara and its jihadists mercenaries from the Syrian National Coalition continue their systematic plan to preventing the indigenous Kurds to become unable to return back to Afrin. Added to that, these jihadist militias always threatening the residents Kurds of Afrin by murder, kidnapping, harassment, rapes and theft.

Such as policies of demographic changes in Kurdish areas has been conducted by the Baath party with the Assad's regime ruled for

decades. The project of Arabization of Kurdish areas continued with the project of 'Arab belt' that had conducted between 1974 and 1975. The Arabisation of Jazira began when 4000 Arab families were settled in 41 model villages along the border with Turkey, northeast Syria 280 km from Sarekaniye to the Iraqi border in the east and the territories were wide between 10-15 km. That is why the Syrian regime did not respond or react to Turkey's plan in Kurdish areas as such as demographic change plan will meet its agendas as well in the future. Even in the future, when Turkey will withdraw from the Syrian territories, the Kurdish region will be a mixed population with no more Kurdish majority as it was before. Unfortunately, all these projects now are conducting under the international community and the international coalition that should protect its main trust worthy's ally of Kurds and the Syrian Democratic Forces.

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