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8,000 British soldiers are due to be sent to eastern Europe to combat Russian aggression



Britain revealed it will send about 8,000 British soldiers to Eastern Europe, to participate in military exercises to confront the Russian aggression.

Sky News said, on Friday 29 April, that the deployment - which is one of the largest to take place since the Cold War - will see troops placed in countries from Finland to North Macedonia.

Britain got involved in the Russian-

Ukrainian war and provided great support to Kyiv. As well, it recently spoke of the need to raise the level of support for Ukraine as it agreed to provide it with military vehicles.

A British official said that Britain supports Ukraine's launching of attacks on Russia, the thing that angered the Kremlin. UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said, on Thursday 28 April, that Ukrainian victory over

Russia is «a strategic imperative» for Britain.

According to the British plan of deploying forces, dozens of tanks and more than 100 armoured fighting vehicles will be sent to eastern European locations in the summer. The plan to deploy and empower British forces in Eastern Europe has been updated with the outbreak of war in Ukraine on February 24.

President Biden asked the Congress to support Ukraine with \$33 billion

President Joe Biden asked on Thursday 28 April the Congress to pass a proposed \$33 billion Ukraine aid package, including more than \$20 billion in military aid and other security assistance. The aid includes 7,000 battle rifles, 50 million bullets, various ammunition, 45,000 flak jackets, helmets, laser-guided missiles and Puma drones, counter-battery radars, counter-drone technologies, light machine gun cars and secure communication systems.

The aid also includes the M777 howitzer, the latest generation of artillery piece used by the US military, AN/TPQ36 anti-artillery firefinder radar and Sentinel AN/MHQ64 anti-aircraft radars.

The USA has provided more than \$3 billion arms to Ukraine since the Russian invasion has started on February 24.

According to a list recently published by the White House, the USA has supplied or promised to supply Ukraine with 1,400 Stinger anti-aircraft defence systems, 5,000 Javelin anti-tank weapons, 7,000 anti-armour weapons and hundreds of the suicide Switchblade drones.

There has been little to no change in the Syrian chemical-weapons file

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu assured the Security Council, on Friday 29 April, that the OPCW continues to document

instances of the use of such weapons in Syria.

“These reports are a wake-up call to the international community about the continuing threat posed

by these inhumane weapons,” she urged, expressing regret that there has been little to no change in the past month on issues related to the Syrian chemical-weapons file.

Foreign fighters in Ukraine - who are they and is there one background for these groups,?



Jassim Mohamad

Ukraine has attracted many foreign fighters, some of whom fight on the side of Ukraine and others on the side of Russia, but the question is, who are these foreign fighters and do they have one background for these groups?

Press reports from the Ukraine battlefields have shown that Russian mercenaries fighting in Ukraine, including the Kremlin-backed Wagner Group, are linked to far-right extremism, including an organization designated as terrorist by the United States.

Reports from the German DW have shown links between pro-Russian forces and violent right-wing extremism, including those directly linked to Wagner. Some posts on Telegram, dated March 15, 2022, showed the flag of the Russian Imperial Movement (RIM), a white-superior paramilitary organization designated as a terrorist by the United States.

Intelligence services to be more worried, German authorities has made efforts to adopt a plan of action against right-wing extremism. The war in Ukraine is pushing the intelligence services to be more worried. «It shouldn't be overstated,» says Thomas Haldenwang, head of the domestic intelligence agency, the Federal Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV). He added, young men took to social media channels pledging to join the fight in Ukraine, but Haldenwang described them as simply engaging in «bragging», meaning that they are not linked to right-wing organizations, but are motivated by enthusiasm to fight in Ukraine.

Intelligence agency has identified right-wing

The local intelligence agency in

Germany has identified right-wing extremists planning to take up arms in Ukraine and authorities are trying to prevent them from leaving the country by canceling their passports. Haldenwang says that no more than a few cases have been confirmed of German far-right activists who have actually left for Ukraine and «in these specific cases, we do not assume that they actually took part in any hostilities.» Far-right groups in Ukraine - a force of attraction Far-right groups have gained significant power in Ukraine.

Ukraine attracting far-right

Since 2014, Ukraine already has a precedent in attracting far-right groups and individuals from other countries, who have sought to use the current political instability to gain combat experience. In this context, Kakbir Rekawik, a fellow at the Center for Research on Extremism at the University of Oslo who has studied foreign fighters in Ukraine since 2014, believes that not all extremists who have traveled aim to fight, adding: «All the people who go say the same thing: «I'm here for humanitarian reasons.» ...unlike in 2014, they do not appear to be

motivated, as a group, by a particular set of ideological metaphors.»

According to report entitled «Who are the foreign fighters traveling to Ukraine? What we know and what we don't know» published by peoplesdispatch.org, Ukraine - a mixture of foreign fighters likes «Azov fighters», and European neo-Nazis, it can be said that what exists can be described as a mixture of fighters, and this raises the concern about the return of foreign fighters to their homelands who have become far-right extremists and have combat experience.

However, with some weeks into the war, the issue of foreign fighters raises many other questions that cannot be answered yet. Although the phenomenon of foreign fighters is not new, recent developments in Syria and Iraq have put this issue back on the EU's security agenda.

ISIS or Al-Nusra in Syria and Iraq

Here, the Western Balkans cannot be excluded from this trend. Here, we should not look at violent extremism in the region in general through the lens of «jihadist» Islamists and foreign fighters who joined ISIS or Al-Nusra

in Syria and Iraq but rather look at other forms of extremism, such as far-right and ethnic groups, and this is a secondary concern.

The fighters is an illegal act National legislation recognizes that fighting foreign groups is an illegal act, so returnees from the Middle East could face security response in their home countries, while those returning from Ukraine usually remain exempt from prosecution and severe penalties.

This highlights the issue of the handling of the «issue» of foreign fighters by Western Balkan governments, especially after an alleged coup attempt was thwarted during the Montenegrin general elections in late 2016. National legislation recognizes that fighting foreign groups is an illegal act, so returnees from the Middle East face a robust security response in their home countries, while those returning from Ukraine usually remain exempt from prosecution and severe penalties.

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China supports Russia as long as it does not harm its economy

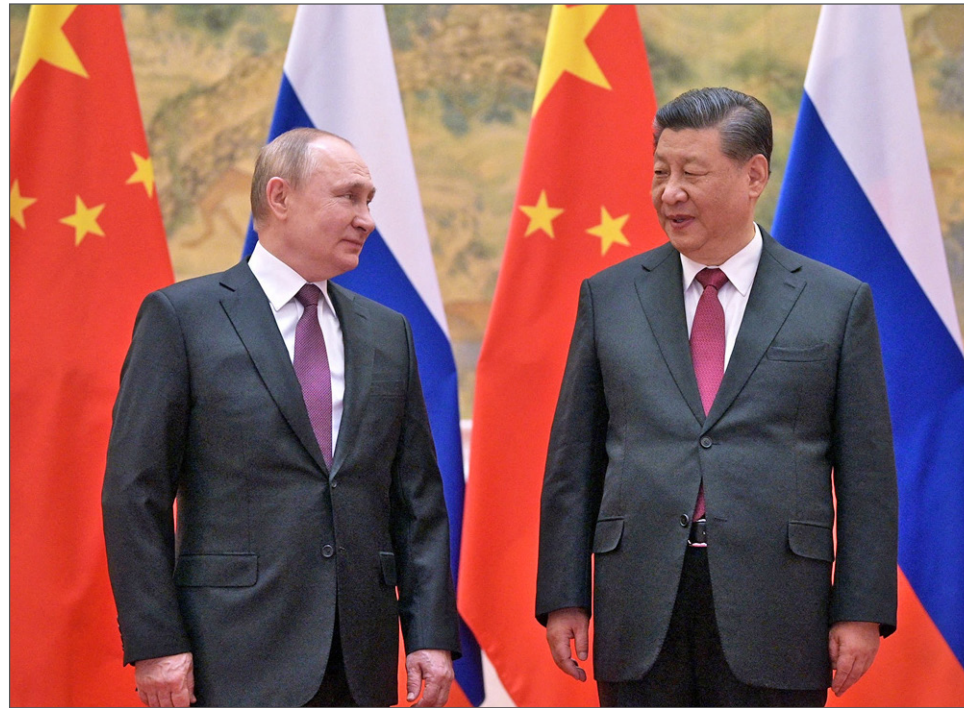
Since the Russian invasion started on February 24, all Western efforts have focused on how to deal a strong blow to Moscow to push it to stop its military operation in Ukraine. However, there is a faint possibility of these efforts to succeed after more than two months of the invasion, especially since China is closely allied with Russia despite all the Western pressures and temptations.

The US avoids confronting China

Washington chose, in the beginning, to be soft with Beijing by saying that China was not necessarily involved with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. «We see no indication that China's going to get involved in Ukraine,» said Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby on Jan 30 about three weeks before the Russian invasion.

However, things changed later as Washington warned Beijing of helping Russia. «China may take advantage of the Ukrainian crisis and do something "provocative" in Asia to see how the international community reacts,» said General Kenneth Wilsbach, the head of US Pacific Air Forces. «China had aligned itself with Russia in the crisis, raising questions about its own intentions in Asia,» he noted. China had a clear position on the Russian operation in Ukraine as it said it believed this operation is justified claiming security risks were threatening Russia. The spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zhao Lijian commented on the war on Twitter saying that the US should ask itself who's the one that started all these. The tweet was posted along with a caricature depicting Uncle Sam trying to put out burning Ukraine with gasoline while urging China to make an effort to extinguish the fire.

«It is important to abandon the Cold War mentality, attach importance to and respect the reasonable



Chinese President Xi Jinping meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin Alamy

security concerns of all countries, and form a balanced, effective and sustainable European security mechanism through negotiations,» Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a telephone call with Russian President Putin.

The US had to respond to this. On February 28, the US newspaper The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) said that Washington decided to impose sanctions on China if it engaged in any activities with Russia. «The U.S. wants to pry China away from its tight partnership with Russia. One step, U.S. officials said, is making Beijing feel pain over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russia's full-scale assault on Ukraine is an opportunity to force China to choose between siding with Russia and maintaining valuable economic ties to Europe, the U.S. and other parts of the world,» the WSJ explained.

Europe wants China's help to achieve ceasefire in Ukraine

The Europeans were also cautious about the Chinese position. High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell stated on March 7 that he had asked the

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to help achieve a ceasefire in Ukraine. «We discussed the current situation, its causes and how it might continue. I asked China to play a possible role and be a part of the diplomatic efforts aimed at holding an immediate ceasefire and conducting negotiations. It is clear that China can play a role,» explained Borrell. That was said after the Chinese foreign minister has signalled its willingness to play a mediator role in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and continue playing a constructive role in achieving reconciliation and negotiations.

China's economic support to Russia

Despite calls for dialogue and a diplomatic solution, this did not prevent China from supporting Russia, if not militarily, then at least economically, which is perhaps the most important factor of Russia's economic steadfastness despite thousands of sanctions that affected the state, its businessmen and regular people and institutions.

This drove the Americans, in mid-March, to warn China of supporting

Russia. «We are watching closely to see to what extent Beijing provided economic or material support to Russia, and would impose consequences if that occurred,» Sullivan said to CNN. «We will not allow that to go forward and allow there to be a lifeline to Russia from these economic sanctions from any country, anywhere in the world.» The spokesperson of the White House Jen Psaki warned, on March 19, of consequences, if Beijing gave material support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine «Sanctions are certainly one tool in the toolbox,» Psaki told.

China .. My economy first

Although China will probably not change its position, Beijing still try to ensure that its economy will not be affected by the Russian invasion. Perhaps this is what prompted China, on April 2, to say that it is not a party to the Ukrainian conflict, and to stress that its economic relations with other countries, including Russia, should not be affected.

Director-general of the Department of European Affairs of China's Foreign Ministry Wang Lutong said that Beijing supports the negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, called not to exaggerate the role China can play in this conflict and claimed the conflict will not end only because Beijing asked for it. He also explained that military operations are a decision taken by sovereign countries and this was an independent Russian decision and it is useless to go to the Russians and say: «This war must stop and they will stop it.

Accordingly, it seems that China wants to stay allied with Moscow and support it secretly to avoid sanctions especially since the Chinese economy is by far ahead of the Russian economy, therefore, any sanctions similar to the sanctions against Russia may ruin China's efforts to be the world's first economy which is the US's rank.



Muslim Brotherhood & Israel

Khairat El-Shater's leaks reveal new developments

Thirty seconds reveal the deception of the Muslim Brotherhood .. What is the history of its relationship with Israel like?

A new leak shown by the Egyptian series *Elekhtiar* (The Choice) season 3, which provides dramatic documentation of political events, revealed new information about the cooperation and coordination between the MB (Muslim Brotherhood), which is designated as a terrorist group in Egypt and the State of Israel. The new revelations expose a great contradiction between MB's slogans, on which it relies to achieve its interests and recruit more members, and the truth that it has been hiding and denying for over nine decades.

«If a revolution broke out because of deteriorating living standard, that would threaten MB's interests and Israel's agenda. When the people said they wanted to go to the Israeli borders, we all stood up and told them no! We called Khaled Mashal and asked him to issue a statement declaring that the Palestinians do not want the Egyptians to go,» said Khairat El-Shater in a leaked video. «Today, we neither want devastation nor chaos. We do not even want to threaten Israel's interests. We are not at war with anyone,» he added.

Ideological contradiction and deception

The Egyptian researcher and Political Islam expert, Emad Abdel Hafez, who defected from the MB believes that despite the extensive literature on the MB, which tackles the group's ideology, motives and flaws, many people are still influenced by their propaganda that plays on religious sentiments and adapts a grievance and victimhood narrative to gain support and sympathy. It is quite striking that MB leaders have admitted the series exposed several hidden flaws.

«The most important insight is what was shown in the 12th episode, namely, Khairat El-Shater's leak which revealed his concern for Israel's security and his vision of the nature of MB-Israel relations», Abdel Hafez said. «He clearly stated that the group was not at war with Israel and that he opposed the calls made by some Egyptians in 2011 to go to the Israeli borders,» Abdel Hafez added. «Before the January revolution, the MB was always asking the former President Hosni Mubarak's regime to open the borders with Israel, accusing him of preventing jihad. The series revealed other slogans the MB used only to attract supporters, embarrass the Egyptian regime and

make it look like it was protecting Israel's interests, in contrast with the MB that 'defends Islam against its enemies'» he continued.

Unprincipled organisation

«This leak exposes the MB's mere pragmatism that is driven by their own interest only, and how willing they are to trade any principle or value that they claim to uphold if it clashes with their interests» said Abdel Hafez.

«The uncovered truths about the MB will, undoubtedly, deepen its crisis which has begun since it assumed power. It is likely to threaten the future and viability of the group making it impossible to repair the damage and restore the previous state of affairs no matter what it does or how much funding it receives» he said.

Is resistance a genuine principle?

«The perception held by Islamist groups in general, and the MB in particular, on how to tackle the Palestinian cause and Israel needs to be reconsidered,» said expert in political Islam and terrorism Mustafa Zahran. «Post-2011 era revealed

pivotal changes in the way political Islam deals with the Palestinian cause. They used to promote resistance slogans but they changed their position as their interests dictated « he pointed out.

«The position of Political Islam on Israel shifted from being revolutionary to reconciliatory after the group assumed power in several Arab countries including the Maghreb where the MB leadership made initiatives to normalise relations with Israel, despite their opposition in the past. Sudan also witnessed a split among the Islamist leaders over normalization with Israel,» he said. «The idea that political Islam groups must confront Israel needs to be reconsidered and re-evaluated; new scenarios based on the current developments in the Arab political scene need to be constructed,» he emphasizes.

«The leaks of Khairat El-Shater's contacts with Khaled Mashal confirm that the group did not believe in the state system and that Khairat El-Shater was the actual ruler while the former President Morsi was just a powerless puppet in comparison to El-Shater's influence in the MB,» tweeted the Egyptian Minister of Awqaf Mohamed Mokhtar Gomaa.

US State Department outlines human rights violations in Algeria in its 2021 report

Algerian authorities continue to circumvent their human rights obligations and suppress freedom of speech

The current US administration has frequently proclaimed that it seeks to protect human rights in the world. Arab countries have been under US scrutiny, especially those with the worst human rights record. Algeria, being one of them, was included in the US State Department 2021 report, which detailed grievous violations by the Algerian authorities throughout the country.

Significant human rights issues included credible reports of: torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by members of the security forces; arbitrary arrest and detention; political prisoners; serious problems with the independence of the judiciary and impartiality; unlawful interference with privacy; serious restrictions on free expression and media, including criminal defamation laws, unjustified arrests of journalists, government censorship and blocking of websites; substantial interference with freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, including squelching a resumption of the Hirk and overly restrictive laws on the organization, funding, or operation of nongovernmental and civil society organizations; restrictions of religious freedom; refoulement of refugees to a country where they would face a threat to their life or freedom; serious government corruption; lack of investigation of and accountability for gender-based violence against women; trafficking in persons; criminalization of consensual same-sex sexual conduct; significant restrictions on workers' freedom of association; and the worst forms of child labor.

The government took steps to investigate, prosecute, or punish public officials who committed human rights abuses, especially corruption. The General Directorate of National Security conducted

investigations into allegations of mistreatment and took administrative actions against officers it deemed to have committed abuses. The Ministry of Justice reported no prosecutions or convictions of civil, security, or military officials for torture or other abusive treatment. Impunity for police and security officials remained a problem.

The law prohibits torture and prescribes prison sentences of between 10 and 20 years for government agents found guilty of torture. Human rights activists reported police occasionally used excessive force against suspects, including protesters exercising their right to free speech, that could amount to torture or degrading treatment.

On January 26, authorities transferred political activist and prominent Hirk detainee Rachid Nekkaz from Kolea prison in Tipaza (30 miles from Algiers) to Labiod Sidi Cheikh prison (450 miles from Algiers) and placed him in solitary confinement despite Nekkaz's suffering from prostate cancer and liver complications. On February 19, authorities released Nekkaz and other Hirk detainees ahead of the Hirk movement's two-year anniversary. Authorities prevented Nekkaz from leaving Algeria on March 27 and arrested him twice in May for travelling within the country.

On May 24, authorities sentenced Hirk activist Slimane Hamitouche and a codefendant in the high-profile prosecution of Reporters Without Borders journalist Khaled Drareni, to one year in prison on "illegal assembly and incitement to illegal assembly" charges. Khaled who is now a symbol of the struggle for freedom of the press said in an interview with TV5 monde he has vowed to keep up the fight for the «sacred, untouchable» freedom of the press.

Denial of Fair Public Trial

The judiciary was not always

independent or impartial in civil matters and lacked independence according to some human rights observers. Some alleged family connections and status of those involved influenced decisions. While the constitution provides for the separation of powers between the executive and judicial branches of government, the executive branch's broad statutory authorities limited judicial independence.

The constitution grants the president authority to appoint all prosecutors and judges. These presidential appointments are not subject to legislative oversight but are reviewed by the High Judicial Council, which consists of the president, minister of justice, chief prosecutor of the Supreme Court, 10 judges, and six individuals outside the judiciary who the president chooses.

In September, President Tebboune appointed Tahar Mamouni as Supreme Court first president, replacing Abderrachid Tabi after his appointment as minister of justice. Tebboune also appointed 15 new appeal courts presidents, 20 attorneys general, and 20 administrative courts presidents. Tebboune did not indicate if the High Judicial Council reviewed his decision.

Algerian human rights organization welcome the US report

Human rights organization Shoaaplauded the US State Department's 2021 report on human rights in Algeria. It confirmed all the detailed violations of human rights listed in the report relating to the way the authorities deal with Hirk activists and political prisoners, including journalists and politicians, and restrict the work of civil society organizations and trade unions. The US State Department's 2021 report is different from its previous one as it was based on "detailed cases", citing four cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading



President Tebboune

treatment or punishment,» the organization added. «The Algerian regime is committing systematic violations, based on the anti-terrorism law, to restrict freedom of speech, assembly and establishing associations. It targets human rights activists and restricts basic freedoms. «The US administration must compel the Algerian authorities to protect and promote human rights. In addition, US policymakers and members of the administration have to work with international allies to ensure that the Algerian authorities are held accountable for violations,» Shoa demanded in its statement. Country reports on human rights practices are prepared by reviewing the information available from a wide range of sources, including US and foreign government officials, victims of alleged human rights abuses, academic and congressional studies, reports from the press, human rights international and non-governmental organizations.

Hezbollah uses cyberterrorism to extend Iran's influence in the Middle East

Tehran is seeking to extend its regional influence over the Middle East by reinforcing the cyberattack capabilities of the groups it backs, including its main militia in the region the Lebanese Hezbollah.

A new analysis recently published by the National Interest cited a report by the Carnegie Endowment for Peace which claims that the Iranian government has provided cyber training and technology to Hezbollah operatives and recently helped the Lebanese-based Shia terrorist group build its own counterintelligence cyber unit.

Under the direction of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Hezbollah's new cyber unit is, primarily, tasked with gathering intelligence on Lebanese state institutions and bolstering the cyber defences of Iran's security apparatus. The Iranian-backed unit also conducts cyberattacks on strategic financial targets, such as gas and oil companies, in the Gulf States. Reports indicate that the unit is probably based in Dahieh, the Shia suburb located south of Beirut, and has computer equipment that is similar to that found in Tehran's Sharif University.

Previous attacks

Hezbollah pioneered the use of cyberattacks as a tool of coercion over a decade ago; it continues to use the internet as a weapon, with the help of Iran.

As a result, Iran has gained a stalwart ally in the Arabic-speaking Middle East and a channel for subversive tactics that Tehran can plausibly deny. Through its significant resource base, Hezbollah has produced an advanced technical capability that allows the group to use the Internet to accomplish significant strategic objectives. In 2006, during the 34-day Israel-Hezbollah War, Hezbollah launched sophisticated cyberattacks against websites in multiple countries that supported Israel,



including targets in the United States. These attacks focused on spreading Hezbollah's propaganda, but also compromised legitimate websites to give Hezbollah supporters a means of providing financial donations to the group.

More recently, in 2015, Hezbollah infiltrated both private and public entities in Israel's defense sector in an attack known as "Volatile Cedar." In fact, Hezbollah has benefited in cyberspace from its ties to Iran, an advantage not available to most other terrorist groups.

After Iran suffered a blow to its nuclear test facilities by the Stuxnet virus in 2010, it greatly increased research and development efforts for its own cyber abilities.

A report by the British Technology firm Small Media indicates that in 2015, Tehran had increased its spending on cybersecurity by 1,200 percent in a mere two-year period,[xiv] and allowed Tehran to ascend to the top-tier of cyber threats against the United States in 2018.

Last year, a report by Israeli firm ClearSky Cyber Security revealed that Hezbollah's cyber agents have come back after years of inactivity. In January 2021, a Hezbollah cyber unit called Lebanese Cedar APT was discovered. The report lists a

number of companies that the group has attacked. The target companies are scattered over various countries, including The United States, the United Kingdom, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and the UAE.

Lebanese Cedar cyber agents hacked into the internal networks of companies, such as the U.S.-based firm Frontier Communications, to collect sensitive data.

Iran funds Hezbollah and expands its cyberterrorism

Hezbollah has already received tools and training from Iran. Iran will likely continue to use its Lebanese cyber-warriors for everything from espionage, as "Volatile Cedar" might indicate, to offensive operations like large-scale Distributed Denial of Service attacks against financial institutions in countries like Israel and Saudi Arabia. It provides Iran with a measure of plausible deniability in regional meddling.

Hezbollah's capabilities could indicate a broader shift in cyberterrorism. The group has often been at the forefront of using new tactics and methods as tools of terrorism. After it pioneered the use of suicide tactics, its cyber capabilities grow stronger and more successes are noted.

Hezbollah's cyber capabilities demonstrate that non-state actors can undertake Internet operations commensurate to their nation-state counterparts.

The group has a proven track record of developing tactics ahead of its time. Cyberterrorism now poses a greater threat to the West than ever before, and Hezbollah could be the harbinger of a new wave of Internet terrorists.

Many of Hezbollah's cyber trainees come from Iraq and support the country's pro-Iranian terrorist group, Kata'ib Hezbollah. Hezbollah is using its cyber forces to expand Iran's regional influence by disseminating Tehran's strategic messaging in unstable countries, such as Iraq. Iran wants to expand its power, extend its regional influence and avoid limitations on its conventional military capabilities. A report issued in 2019 by the International Institute for Strategic Studies said international sanctions and restrictions on arms imports have made it difficult for Iran to develop or purchase weapons that keep pace with military and technical developments. Therefore, Tehran turned to cyber warfare as an important tactic to increase its power, strengthen its position and exercise its influence regionally and internationally.

Saleh al-Harbi to Levant News: "Saudi Arabia is open in its international relations and refuses to use oil in any geopolitical tensions"

The Saudi strategic and military expert, Major General Dr Muhammad bin Saleh Al-Harbi told Levant News that the Yemeni crisis is strategically related to Iran which uses it to serve its interests and negotiate with the West. Therefore, Iran is well aware of its tools and militias in the region, especially the Houthi militias in Yemen, which it uses to pressurise the West to make the greatest gains at the negotiating table.

«Since 1979, Iran's policy was aimed at destabilizing the region. After 2011, Iran has moved to several hot spots in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Lebanon, through its militias to threaten peace and security in those countries,» he explained. «With an objective analysis of the events over the past years, we will only find destruction and threats in all regions that witnessed blatant interventions by the Iranian regime. Accordingly, the KSA is moving with all its history and vision of its foreign policies, interim goals and future visions to achieve its political and development goals and ensure regional security and stability,» he added.

«The Arab countries have to outline a comprehensive vision to control the ME regional security especially since we are witnessing many sharp changes in international politics and the formation of blocs and alliances that will absolutely lead to the emergence of international powers in the future,» he pointed out. Here is the script of the other questions in the interview

• **The UN Special Envoy to Yemen Hans Grundberg announced on April 2 that a two-month truce in Yemen came into force. Saudi Arabia and Iran welcomed the truce that was secured by the UN mediation. The truce can be renewed once the two months are up, provided the sides agree. What do you think are the most likely scenarios to come as**

a result of this truce?

This pioneering initiative supports and completes the previous GCC initiatives 2011, Geneva 2015, Kuwait 2016, Riyadh 2019, Oman 2020. Everyone wants the March-2021 Saudi initiative for ending the Yemeni crisis and reaching a comprehensive political solution to be based on a strategic concept, not on a tactic and temporary one. This truce serves as a starting point and a roadmap not only to stop the war and military operations in most of Yemen but also to provide the Yemenis with a new way of life.

We can say all scenarios are open according to where global events will go and what repercussions they will have on the region especially the conflict between America and Russia and its tactical repercussions on Iran's policies and choices for levels of movement with Moscow and Washington as well as the fate of its nuclear deal with the West.

• **The Houthi militia is acting as an agent for Tehran in a critical geopolitical region. Do you think the Houthis will violate the truce and what are the consequences of that in case it happened?**

What I can say in this regard is that you cannot trust the Houthi militias will abide by any agreement whether politically or militarily because they are backed by Iran to fulfil its international & regional aims, therefore, all scenarios are open whether a commitment that respects the humanitarian and moral dimension might happen, especially at this stage, or a new breach of the truce that makes the Yemeni citizens' lives harder might do.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that any possible breach of the truce will make developments on the ground and political ones in the Vienna talks and will be used by



Tehran as pressure on the US.

The KSA stresses it respects international law and the Yemeni people's right to have peace and stability, bearing in mind the KSA's right to preserve its sovereignty and security.

• **The Russian-Ukrainian war drives everybody to talk about new forces to confront the USA, which will be positioned where the USA left a power vacuum. How much do you think this happens on the ground?**

Everyone knows and understands the US strategic vision is moving away from the ME (Middle East) towards the South China Sea because of strategic competition and indicators of the threat posed by Russia and China, the thing that has resulted in a political vacuum in several hot spots which were exploited later in a way or another by Russia to harass the US politically and increase its strategic power in front of the US one.

In light of this, you can notice well the US administration's moves against Russia in the Ukrainian war and how it watches and pressurises to control China's pace towards these moves. This guarantees the balance of its strategic goals within the framework of its alliances against the Russian and Chinese threats.

Therefore, we can say the geopolitical tensions are multiple and complex in more than one issue, which leads

to very complex situations that push everyone to watch the world standing on its tiptoes.

• **How does the KSA view these developments, especially regarding its relations with the USA, Russia and China?**

It is important to say that the KSA looks strategically at all the political global changes, the sharp shifts in the international and regional relations and the new alliances emerging as a logical result and a clear reflection of those changes in international relations.

Therefore, the KSA has a broad and open horizon for its international relations and alliances whether with the USA, Russia or China. Accordingly, Riyadh adopts a major principle based on not using oil, the world's first strategic commodity, in any geopolitical tensions since oil is a well-established and inherent value in the KSA's foreign policy.

Therefore, according to the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Highness the Crown Prince, Saudi foreign policy works to reduce the tensions through communication with all concerned parties.

• **President Biden's administration wants to complete the nuclear deal with Tehran and there are indications that the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) will be removed from the list of terrorism. Do you think this is possible?**

I think the USA wants to finish the Middle East issues, including Iran and its nuclear deal.

At this point, we should point out that the concessions, made by the US administration to Iran, specifically on removing the IRGC from the terrorist list, it will not go like that and it will cost the US policy very much internally and externally, especially with the KSA & the UAE.

Nato's expanding future



Ian Black

Vladimir Putin's plan to invade Ukraine included the assumption that Russia's neighbour would be no longer be able to join Nato, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization created at the start of the Cold War in 1949, three years before the future KGB officer and Kremlin leader was born in St Petersburg, then known as Leningrad.

Putin's "special military operation" was launched on February 24 and has now entered its third month. No end is in sight. It has already changed the world and has had a transformative effect on geopolitics, the global economy as well as Russia's international reputation.

Nato has responded impressively to Moscow's unprovoked aggression against Kyiv. It hasn't agreed to Volodymyr Zelensky's insistence on imposing a no-fly-zone over Ukraine, out of fear of uncontrolled escalation, but it has supplied a great deal of advanced weapons and ammunition to help defend the country.

Some members of Nato have been more supportive than others: the US and Britain have done fairly well. Their response so far, particularly that of Washington, has been remarkable. A steady flow of weapons, especially portable anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, made a huge difference in the defence of Kyiv. Last week America, Britain and Canada announced they would provide Ukraine with heavy artillery.

Former USSR allies and satellites such as Poland, Estonia and Slovenia have also performed well. President Joe Biden used his trip at the end of March to praise Warsaw's response to the war, a turnabout from his words in 2021, when he rightly said it was becoming less democratic. The EU has also been critical of Poland, fining the government for its treatment of media and courts. But Poland has defined Russia as public enemy number one and has staunchly supported Ukraine, taking in 2.6m



refugees.

Hungary has not, given Prime Minister Victor Orban's sympathy for Putin combined with his recent fourth election victory. He has condemned Russia's invasion, but has attempted to take the middle ground, as a neutral figure — even a peacemaker — between Ukraine and Russia.

Orban has repeatedly stated that the country will not support Ukraine with military equipment, unlike many of Hungary's EU and Nato allies, and has also refused to back an embargo on Russian oil and gas imports. Around 85% of Hungarians use natural gas as their primary energy source, most of it supplied on favorable terms from Russia.

Further west, Germany's new chancellor Olaf Scholz, despite his willingness to spend more on defence and lessen his country's dependence on Russian energy, has been unwilling to send heavy weaponry to Ukraine. He has been criticized, including by his own coalition allies, as far too reticent.

And with Russian forces now focusing on the eastern Donbas region, closer to its own border than Kyiv, Finland and Sweden are both looking increasingly likely to abandon their long-standing neutrality and

join Nato.

Last week, the Finnish parliament began debating the possibility of submitting a membership bid to Nato. Recent polls have shown a dramatic U-turn in public opinion, with the majority now favouring joining Nato. "Russia's behaviour is more unpredictable, and it is ready to take higher risks than earlier. If we look at Georgia in 2008 or Crimea in 2014 we could say that in those cases, Russia took calculated risks," Pekka Haavisto, Finland's foreign minister said.

Haavisto told the Guardian he was also deeply troubled by reports that Russia could use nuclear weapons in Ukraine as its military continues to struggle. "For Russia's neighbours, the country's loose talk on the use of unconventional weapons, including tactical nuclear weapons and chemicals, is very uncomfortable. This is a really concerning issue for us. This has triggered talk in Finland about our own security position in Europe."

Russia, which has previously denied planning a military operation against Ukraine, has stated its commitment to avoiding nuclear war. But last week Moscow test-launched Sarmat, an intercontinental ballistic missile, a new addition to its nuclear arsenal,

which Putin said would give Moscow's enemies "something to think about".

The Russian foreign ministry also issued a fresh warning to both Helsinki and Stockholm that both capitals have been informed "what it will lead to" if they abandon decades-long neutrality agreements and join Nato. The warning came after a new poll in Sweden showed support for joining the alliance has risen to 57 per cent, up from 51 per cent in March, after Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said the time was right to debate the merits of membership.

Finland has for decades been bound to neutrality that began as a pact with the Soviets, but has been forced into a re-think after Putin invaded Ukraine. Sweden has a long-standing tradition of neutrality, but sees its national security as inseparably tied to that of its Nordic neighbour. The term "Finlandisation" has long been criticised as inappropriate for Ukraine.

French President Emmanuel Macron famously said in 2019 that Nato was in a state of "brain death". But the alliance has formed a united front since Russia invaded Ukraine. It is ironic that the Atlantic alliance looks likely to expand in response to Putin's unprovoked aggression.

Jupiter's Second Coming



James Denselow

Emmanuel Macron has won a second term as French President. The man who had acquired the nickname of 'Jupiter' for being seen as a remote, dignified figure, like the Roman god of gods, is back in power for another five years. Yet in a way winning the election, especially against such a divisive figure as Marine Le Pen, was the easiest part and far harder challenges lie ahead for Mr Macron. First things first, the Parliamentary elections in June where polls and pundits alike predict that Macron's party, En Marche, will struggle to retain control meaning a very real prospect of a divided Government with a head of state disconnected from being able to pursue a domestic agenda. Not so argue Macron's team who have been quick out of the blocks following the weekend election to promise to deliver for all of France and try and stitch back together the divisions that have been on display in the polls.

Yet saying you want to unify the nations is of course easier than doing it. The war in Ukraine and the worsening cost of living crisis

partially linked to it are issues of substantive difficulty. Interestingly Russia's President Putin was quick to congratulate Macron on his victory, stating that "I sincerely wish you success in your state activities, as well as good health and well-being". Macron invested heavily in attempts to stop the war in Ukraine in the first place, but images of his failure to do so whilst seated at a very long table opposite Putin proved a hinderance to his election campaign.

Macron's first visit of his second term will be to Germany and the Paris-Berlin axis will remain a central component of the EU's ability to assert itself on the global stage as Macron has alluded to in the past – to avoid being energy dependent on Russia and militarily dependent on the United States. Relative newcomer German chancellor Olaf Scholz is struggling to grip his country's response to the Ukraine crisis and working closely with Macron will be an important relationship for Berlin to chart current turbulent waters.

Of course, if Macron loses control and influence within the French Parliament, then his priorities may suddenly and dramatically crystallise in the foreign policy space and suddenly we may see a globetrotting President in constant meetings with

his fellow world leaders far above the clouds from the domestic scene. In a sense his 'Jupiter' like tendencies will be exacerbated by a loss in the elections in June focusing his mind on macro-EU leadership issues and those of global war and peace.

Macron's re-election was historic in the sense that no other French president has won a second term whilst being in charge of his own government. In many senses he defies political gravity allowed for by the actual divisions in France that he now hopes to heal. His pragmatic dominance of the centre ground has allowed parties at the further end of the political spectrum, both left and right, to flourish meaning that as the alternative he's the only choice for those in the middle.

Meanwhile looking at the nature of the vote, there are clear splits across geography (urban/rural) age and wealth that make it seem difficult to see a clear sense of where policy can stitch people back together. Despite losing, again, Le Pen's camp has been celebrating getting such a large share of the vote and their message is that they are focusing on a long-term strategy. This is one in which the French narrative, not too dissimilar from that which surrounded the UK 'Brexit' vote, is a choice between



Marine Le Pen

Macron's globalists and Le Pen's nationalists.

Perhaps in the absence of policy change that can do the job of unifying France, a change to the political system itself should be explored. The two-round system of selecting who the president actually is, is a clear example of hard division being baked into the process itself. In the absence of two major and seemingly permanent political parties, such as those in America, the French system promotes voting that may entirely be based around who a population doesn't want almost guaranteeing lower levels of support and approval for whoever wins.

So much of what Macron's second term will look like will be determined in June, until then the campaigning will begin in earnest as to these different visions of France.



Iran's clandestine financial infrastructure facilitates Iran's empire of terror.



Irina Tsukerman

As the prospects of a new nuclear deal with Iran hover over the United States and its partners in Vienna, the Middle East is experiencing a spike in terrorist attacks by various Iranian proxies – some, reportedly, with direct participation from Iran itself. Since the beginning of 2022, Iran-backed Houthis have launched numerous attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities and civilian airports, including the latest attack in the city hosting the F1 races, featuring, for the first time, women drivers. This attack was so devastating, even with the Arab Coalition taking out ten Houthi drones – that reportedly, all of the airspace over the Kingdom had to be closed. The Houthis have also attacked the UAE multiple times.

All these attacks resulted in death and injuries of civilians, prompting KSA and UAE to ask the Biden administration to return the Houthis to the Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) list. Other Iran proxies, using Iran-made missiles have launched a recent attack reportedly targeting the US consulate in Erbil, and possibly other sites. Two drones were taken down targeting Israel. Since Biden's permissive attitude to the proxies emerged in the light of an all-consuming focus on the new nuclear deal, Iran's targeting of Israel has become increasingly open, brazen, and aggressive. The rise and intensity of these attacks over the past year has been significant. Although the US has returned to recharging KSA's Patriot missile defense system in recent weeks, the Houthis have upped the ante in the sophistication of the attacks, which now frequently included multiple booby-trapped drones, sometimes up to a dozen or more, and overwhelm the Saudi defense systems with the

sheer number of missiles and drones. These attacks have been made possible by the failure of the Biden administration to enforce sanctions on Iran's financial infrastructure.

As the recent WSJ article by Ian Talley reveals, Iran has managed to build up a formidable clandestine financing infrastructure, which included hundreds of shell companies, over the past several years, with the specific purpose of circumventing sanctions, particularly those imposed by the Trump administration following the US withdrawal from the JCPOA. According to Marshall S. Billingslea, the Former Presidential Envoy & Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing, the Trump administration had imposed sanctions on over 960 individuals. Failure to enforce sanctions has not allowed all these terrorism supporters to continue fundraising and traveling to the US and other Western countries, but has allowed the sanctions-busting mechanisms to mushroom with impunity.

As a result, Iran has been able to benefit from oil sales to China, from trade with Russia, from access to ballistic missiles technology, and has returned to fundraise sufficiently for an uptick to donations to Hezbollah and other terrorist proxies. The recently uncovered documents referenced by Talley in WSJ show that the Iran government is directly responsible for the creation of this illicit funding infrastructure which operates through various branches and entities in many of the top global trade hubs. The documents do not reveal whether the local partners are aware of the true identity of these shell corporations, but that regardless of the intent, there is a clear network of trade between Iran and various international trade hotspots. The growth of this infrastructure also complicates matters for the Financial Action Task Force, which includes US and its Gulf partners, dedicated to combating Iran's illegal financing. During his tenure, Billingslea has



Marshall S. Billingslea

been tasked with traveling to the Gulf countries and Turkey and facilitating local law enforcement measures to identify financial institutions and ensure compliance.

Now these countries have been abandoned by the Biden administration; Iran is taking advantage of US absence to ensnare banks and other structures into deals with its shady operatives. The result is that Iran can successfully make money through more business ventures than previously, in essence not only undoing the effects of the sanctions but creating more work for potential future enforcers. Billingslea admitted that the effective enforcement of sanctions takes resources and dedication and may sometimes feel like playing whack-a-mole.

However, there is nothing particularly new about Iran's utilization of its Central Bank and the proliferation of various illicit funding entities around it; fundamentally, it is the continuation of Iran's "money-laundering" mindset. This means that the Biden administration is not required to reinvent the wheel to combat the ensuing corruption; they have to be willing to go after the identified bad actors and to disrupt the networks that help Iran's exportation of terrorism around the world, and also empower Russia and China. As a result of these revelations, some have raised questions whether sanctions

in general are of any use, given that the Iran regime, Russia's President Putin, and China's CCP on various occasions dismissed sanctions and proceeded with their deadly activity. Sanctions, however, are not a zero-sum game; they are neither a panacea from all illegal activity, nor are a mere archaic device from a bygone era which affects mostly civilians. According to Billingslea, "we took a country [Iran] that was running a \$6.1 billion dollar trade surplus in 2019. And by 2020 they were running a \$3.5 billion dollar deficit." Effective imposition of creative and targeted sanctions, known as the maximum economic pressure policy, has significantly reduced the amount of funding that was going to finance Hezbollah and other Iran proxy operations in the region, forcing these proxies to rely on various desperate fundraising efforts, to scrape by. This, in turn, led a reduction in attacks. But Billingslea, and Ian Talley himself, speaking in the WSJ podcast covering his article, admit that sanctions cannot operate in isolation, and are most effective when supplemented by other methods of pressure, such as cyber operations, and the credible threat of the use of military force, such as the targeted strike which took out Qassem Soleimani.

To dismantle this newly developed infrastructure, the Biden administration would need to engage in an aggressive pursuit of intelligence, and designate a strategy to weaken Iran and its proxies overall, preventing further attacks on US allies and American targets.

Alas, the strategy of appeasement and promises to lift sanctions on terrorist functionaries such as the IRGC, and their lead funders, far from helping with unraveling the clandestine financing empire Iran has built up, only encourages terrorist attacks, and helps integrate Iran's proxies and partners around the globe into a more effective, more cohesive, machinery with interchangeable parts and greater grip on shared finances.



The Winners and Losers of the Russia-Ukraine War



Jwan Dibo

Two months have passed since the outbreak of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the major question in the world media is about the winners and losers in this war. What makes answering this question very difficult is the foggy state of the war and the misleading media war from Russia, Ukraine, and the West. Each side claims that it is the victor so far in this dirty war, like all wars.

Former British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, "In war, whichever side may call itself victorious, there are no winners, but all losers." The content of this saying also applies to the Russian war against Ukraine.

However, both warring sides, Russia, and Ukraine, claim that they are victors in this war. Russia asserts that the war is going according to the plan laid down in advance. But it has not yet been able to achieve all the goals for which it has fought this war.

Moscow has failed to annex Ukraine or overthrow President Zelensky

and designate a pro-Moscow government. But at the same time, it has achieved military victories in eastern and southern Ukraine by adopting a scorched-earth policy, which was accompanied by a massive destruction of infrastructure and a horrific displacement of civilians. It seems that Moscow is heading to divide Ukraine and annex its east and south to Russia, after it has so far been unable to control the capital, Kyiv. On the other hand, Ukraine cannot defeat Russia through conventional warfare. But it appears that resisting the Russian advance and thwarting its efforts to seize Kyiv is considered a victory according to the official point of view in Kyiv. However, the millions of internally and externally displaced personnel and the massive destruction inflicted on the infrastructure, economic and military in Ukraine is not deemed a loss according to the vision of the Ukrainian leadership.

The United States is regarded one of the winning players in the Ukrainian war, as the American leadership believes that Ukraine will gradually turn into a quagmire to drain Russia. This in itself is considered a triumph from the American point of view, regardless of the affliction

inflicted on the Ukrainian people. Therefore, Washington is making all its efforts to provide arms to the Ukrainian army to prolong the war and undermine any diplomatic efforts undertaken by Germany and France to end the war peacefully. The Ukrainian crisis has emerged as a historic opportunity for Washington to improve its military image and strengthen its leadership position in NATO. Especially after several setbacks suffered by Washington militarily and diplomatically in several countries in which it intervened militarily, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and Libya.

The bitter truth is that no matter how leaders attempt to convince their people that they are waging wars for them, the only losers from the war are the people, not the leaders. Especially

for the great powers that do not get tired of expansion and domination. We are all considered losers in this absurd war because it shows that we live in a world where the law of the jungle prevails, that is, the strong eat the weak or "The weak are meat, and the strong do eat" as David Mitchell says.

All international laws and human rights laws are nothing but ink on paper that the powerful do not abide by, and no one can force the great powers to abide by those laws.

The perpetual global peace between the powerful states that Kant talked about is a great illusion, and the permanent wars and the resulting grievances and calamities are, unfortunately, the bitter and orphan fact.



President Zelensky

Violence in Jerusalem Puts Arab-Israel Peace to Test



Dalia Ziada

Since the beginning of Ramadan, acts of violence and political tensions have been on the rise in and around the holy sites of Jerusalem. The spirituality of the Muslim holy month, and its rare concurrence with Jewish and Christian celebrations of Pesach and Easter, respectively, did not prevent extremists from hijacking the holiday season to fuel religion-based hatred that perfectly serves and enhances their political agendas. Among the many terrible consequences expected out of the current security turmoil in Jerusalem is putting the newly found Arab-Israel peace trend under a tough test of durability.

A few days before the violence erupts in Jerusalem, Israeli and some Arab foreign ministers posed for a photo, wherein they appeared holding hands in a way that shows solidarity and affinity. The photo was taken at the conclusion of a historic two-day summit, that was held in Negev on March 27-28, to discuss regional action to deter the growing threats of Iran and its militia on the countries of the region, especially Israel and Arab Gulf countries. The summit, which was held a few kilometers away from the grave of David Ben Gurion, the founding father of Israel, brought together the foreign ministers of Israel, the United States (U.S.), Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), for the first time ever.

As the U.S. Secretary Blinken noted later, that was a photo that no one would have thought possible a few months before. Indeed! It showed that the Middle East is going through a phase of political maturity, wherein the leaders of the region can effectively cooperate on realistic and pragmatic terms. However, the recent events in Jerusalem are clearly threatening the resilience and sustainability of this most-needed cooperation.

Immediately after the summit, a number of stabbing and shooting



attacks against civilians in Tel Aviv were committed by terrorists, who later claimed their affiliation to the Islamic State (ISIS) terrorists. Then, in the following week, deadly clashes between the Israeli military and Palestinians took place in the West Bank, when the Israeli army was leading a security sweeping in search for suspects. A few days after that, huge protests at Temple Mount (Al-Aqsa Compound) in Jerusalem erupted, leading to deadly clashes between protesters and Israeli soldiers. Up till the moment of writing this article, in the last week of Ramadan, the violence has not stopped.

The current security chaos, especially in Jerusalem, is putting the Israeli government in an unenviable position, either before the Israeli citizens or before Israel's regional and international allies. If nothing else, it renews the unpleasant controversy about the authenticity and sustainability of the emerging trend of peace between leading Arab countries and Israel. That is despite the sincere efforts of the Israeli coalition government to include all factions in the political process and fix worn ties with its neighbors in the Middle East region.

On the domestic level, Bennett-Lapid government is faced with criticism from the far-right political groups for not taking a strict action against the groups that initiated these protests. The government is careful not to encourage the eruption of a new war similar to the one that took place in Ramadan/May of 2021 and led to

the killing of hundreds within only eleven days.

In an interview with CNN, Bennett explained the situation of his government as follows: "My responsibility as Prime Minister of Israel is to provide freedom of prayer to everyone in Jerusalem, including Muslims, which is why I had to send in policemen to remove the rioters. And it worked. Indeed, 80,000 Muslims went on later to pray peacefully. So, you know, when faced with violence, you have to act tough."

Simultaneously, the United Arab List (Raam Party), which represents Arab Israelis in the coalition government, are clearly taking the side of the Palestinians. Last week, Raam decided to suspend its participation in the coalition government, to protest the injury of 150 Palestinians at the Temple Mount. Raam Party is also threatening to completely withdraw from the government if the turmoil continues, which will threaten the coherence of the Bennett-Lapid government as a whole.

On the regional level, the violence at the Temple Mount stirred a heated reaction from several Arab leaders, including signatories of the Abraham Accords like the UAE, as well as Israel's closest neighbors and allies – Egypt and Jordan. The UAE airlines withdrew from participation in the show scheduled to celebrate Israel's Independence Day, last week. Meanwhile, UAE and Jordan, separately summoned the Israeli ambassadors to each of their countries to declare their denunciation of the violence in Al-

Aqsa Compound.

A few days ago, UAE's Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, Jordan's King Abdullah II, and Egypt's President El-Sisi held an urgent meeting in Cairo to discuss the violence in Jerusalem. The three leaders concluded the meeting with a statement condemning violence in Al-Aqsa Mosque and "stressing the need to stop any practices that violate the sanctity of the holy mosque and change the status quo there in addition to avoiding escalation and calming the situation."

Most importantly, though, is that the statement clearly noted that the success of regional normalization between Arab countries and Israel is conditional to calming the Israel-Palestinian conflict and realizing domestic peace in Israel first. "The region is in need for peace, stability and cooperation in order to promote peace and development and ultimately achieve the aspirations of the peoples of the region for progress and prosperity."

Nevertheless, the important lesson to learn from the current security turmoil in Jerusalem and the Sheikh Jarrah events of last year is that, the euphoria created by human love replacing decades of political animosity should not blind us from the fact that the core of the disagreement that kept Arabs and Israelis in conflict for decades is still open. That is the Israel-Palestinian conflict. As long as this conflict continues to exist, any efforts for long-term peace between Arabs and Israelis will remain fragile.

Johnson's plan for refugees in the UK: Rwanda to become the «dreamland»



Zara Saleh

Boris Johnson's government plan for people who cross the Channel and illegally enter the UK and seek refugee will be «granted» one-way ticket to Rwanda's land, even despite the human rights issues in the country. Added to that, Rwanda authorities have the right to only accept people who have no criminal record with unlimited number of refugees who will be relocated to Rwanda. A new deal has been signed recently in Rwanda's capital Kigali between the Home Office Priti Patel and the Rwandan government during her last visit. The agreement will take place this year and include other asylum seekers' cases from 2021 as well for adults who are crossing the English Channel and entering the UK by boats, train, and plane. The scheme plan for those who will be relocated to Rwanda and, then,

seeking refugees there will not be expected to return back to the UK. Furthermore, once those people are leaving the UK territories, their cases as asylum seekers will be the Rwandan government's responsibility without any right to return to the UK. Of course, in Rwanda, those people can apply for refugee status in Rwanda. During their stay or «resettlement» in Rwanda, while claiming asylum seekers there will be offered accommodation in hostels and refugees will be under the Rwandan immigration rules. In other words, their fate will be in the hand of the Rwandan government regarding the immigration law. For instance, people who seeking refugees there could be deported if the Rwandan authorities found a criminal record, and eventually, they can be sent to the country of origin.

At a glance at the agreement that has been signed by the Home Office with the Rwandan authorities, the Johnsons scheme program will cost Britain around £120 million

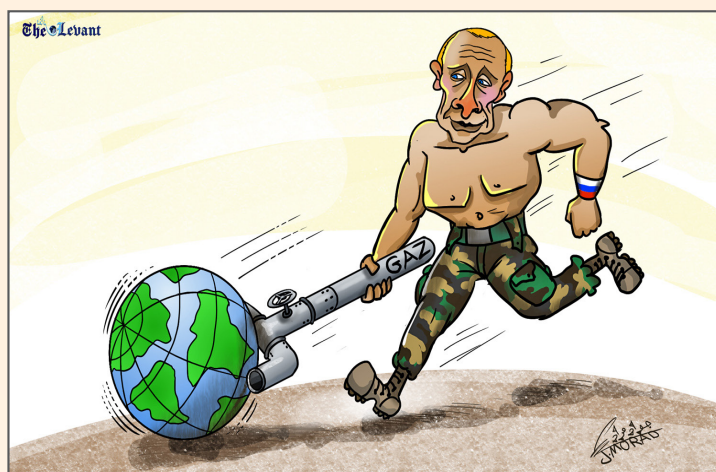
as an integration fund and support to implement the plan and would «save countless lives» as the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said. Moreover, in 2021, more than 28,000 people have crossed the English Channel and the figure per daily crossing the Channel could reach around one thousand this year, according to UK officials. However, the Prime Minister's plan has been criticised by refugee organisations in the UK, human rights organisations regarding the deal with the Rwandan government, and the concerns about Rwanda's human rights issues as well. Johnson's plan was under critics from the UK opposition as well, as the Labour leader Keir Starmer criticised Tory's plan as «unworkable and extortionate». Whereas, some other politicians described Johnson's scheme as «evil and inhumane» and also it has been criticised even by some conservative's leaders. Consequently, such a plan to send people to Rwanda, could not be the right plan and decision to solve



Boris Johnson

the ongoing refugee crisis and the government should search to address the roots of the refugee problems instead of sending those people to the poorest developing countries such as Rwanda who already are suffering human right issues and discrimination.

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