

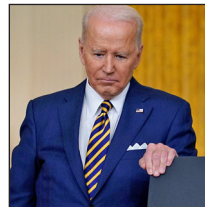
Abu Dhabi Airport attack.. Why now?

Page: 3



The protests in Kazakhstan ...

Page: 4



Biden's difficult year and uncertain future

Page: 8



ISIS Resurgent?

Page: 9

The Ukrainian President calls the West not to create panic in Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called his Western allies and the media to stop creating panic over allegations of a "Russian invasion on his country. In an interview with representatives of foreign media in late January, Zelensky confirmed that in the last two calls with his American counterpart Joe Biden and the French one Emmanuel Macron, "the threat from the Kremlin is still imminent and constant," stressing at the same time that Ukraine has "learned how to live with it since 2014."

Today we do not see a greater escalation than it was before. Yes, the number of [Russian forces at the border of Ukraine has actually increased, but I already mentioned that in early 2021, when I talked about the Russian drill.



A Ukrainian soldier walks through a trench on the frontline with Russia-backed separatists

More than 100 executions by the Taliban and ISIS

"More than 100 extrajudicial executions of former civil servants have been recorded since the Taliban seized power last August," according to accusations considered credible by the United Nations. An internal report by UN Secretary-General António Guterres to the UN Security Council said that more than two-thirds of the killings were reported to have been committed by the de facto authorities or their affiliates.

"ISIS members are suspected of committing more than 50 extrajudicial executions. The accusations were adopted by the

UN and considered them credible. The accusations were received by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in mid-August. They are related to the former



government officials, members of the security forces and military personnel," the report said. The report added that several human rights activists and journalists were also subjected to "assault, intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest, ill-treatment and killing during the past months. Guterres said that the dangerous social and economic situation in Afghanistan can be overcome if the Taliban is not isolated internationally and that establishing a constructive dialogue with the de facto rulers of the country is very important.

The Iranian regime makes cyberattacks on the opposition

In late January, the exiled Iranian opposition group Khalq announced that "it had resisted a series of cyberattacks launched by the Iranian intelligence and the IRGC on its website."

"The fourth and most violent attack was on January 28, with a force of 2.2 million attacks per second. The purpose was to stop and remove the site's server. However, by the time this news was published, all the attacks had failed, and they had been repelled and aborted by IT engineers and experts of the Iranian resistance. The MEK website did not encounter any problems during these attacks and is under control," it added.

The statement of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood.. Between claiming to face Iran and supporting it

The statement of the MB (Muslim Brotherhood) in Syria made on Tuesday, December 28, entitled "Entity addicted to aggression... and gang addicted to killing and intimidation," sparked outrage on social media. Syrian activists called it the statement of shame. The MB condemned the Israeli attack on the Iranian container shipyard in the seaport of Latakia where there are weapons and explosive materials charged from Tehran so that the Syrian regime, its militias and the Lebanese Hezbollah can bomb areas controlled by opponents of Bashar al-Assad's rule.

The official statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood: "This morning, the city of Latakia and for the second time this month lived another day in fear and terror when Zionist warplanes coming from the Mediterranean Sea bombed targets in the vital port of Latakia the first lung of Syria."

What brings shame is that the port of Latakia is a few miles away from the Russian Hmeimim base and from the S-200 and S-300 missile bases which have never been launched against the repeated Zionist attacks. What brings even more shame is what al-Assad's Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad said that they are responding to the Zionist aggression by bombing what he called "the terrorists" from the free rebels of Syria and their children and women.

The Muslim Brotherhood's Statement

Free & honourable Syrian diaspora and Syrians at home!

We the Muslim Brotherhood will always stick to the sanctity of our people, land, sea and air against all forms of Zionist, Russian and Iranian aggression and violation. Whether the Zionist aggressions were made up to show the fake slogan of resistance or were the result of the thieves' struggle over the victim, we will never get bored of condemning

every aggression carried out by the Zionist enemy against our homeland and people.

We will also never get bored of condemning the inactive sellers of the Golan who have failed to face aggression and have still reserved for half a century the right to reply to the Zionist attacks day and night. Free and honourable Syrians! Our unity, solidarity and understanding of the dimensions of the great conspiracy against our home are the best ways to rescue and liberate our home from the abomination of the occupiers.

We the Muslim Brotherhood have always promised you to be loyal to this country's causes, sovereignty, honour and dignity.

Syrians' comments

Before the MB restricted the comments on the Facebook and Twitter posts, most of them rejected and condemned the statement. "You want to trade upon the cause and become among the resistance axis which has monopolised all the resistance market for a long time? You want to sell coals to Newcastle?" Commented the lawyer and human rights activist Abdo Abdul Ghafour. "This statement is to strengthen the resistant regime's position?" He asked.

"The statement of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood is like if you feel no shame, make statements of shame at will. Those who do not fear God, expect anything from them!" Commented in a tweet the former MP and political detainee Muhammad Mamoun al-Homsi. "Since 2018, the port of Latakia has been an Iranian military base and everything that has

come into it is under the supervision of Hezbollah and what was targeted were Konkurs missiles and anti-armour missiles that would kill the Syrians," commented the activist and journalist Firas Allawi. "This statement and those who defended it do not seem to live in this world. What economic lung are you talking about and the Syrians are besieged by Iran, Hezbollah and their allies?" He added.

The Syrian opposition politician Thaer Alhajji considered that the Muslim Brotherhood organisation is one of the Iranian militia in the region and both of them have killed and destroyed our country and stressed that removing it is a moral, religious and humanitarian duty. "In its last statement it is negotiating with al-Assad to obtain some useless ministries," he said.

Frequent attacks

The pro-Syrian regime media said that for the second time in a month, the Israeli warplanes bombed the container yard in the Mediterranean port of Latakia.

"Today, at around 3:21 a.m. the Israeli enemy carried out an air attack from the Mediterranean Sea across the west of Latakia city targeting the container yard of the commercial seaport in Latakia, the thing that made fires break out and caused great material damage. Firemen are still working to put out fire and experts are evaluating the losses the aggression made," a military source told the official news agency SANA.

The question is why does Iran store explosive materials in vital facilities in the countries where it is expanding whether in Syria, Lebanon or Yemen?

Lebanon was the only Arab country to condemn the Israeli attack on the port of Latakia as returning the favour of the Syrian regime's condemnations of the Israeli attacks on Hezbollah which is trying to violate the ceasefire agreement in southern Lebanon.

Reports said that firefighting teams were working until late on Tuesday to put out the fire caused by the attack. Experts believe that the containers held explosive materials. The explosion was relatively similar to the 2020 Beirut explosion.

The proponents of the Syrian regime are angry

The proponents of the Syrian regime are clearly angry about its allies' silence and inaction. "The Russians sit carelessly and have fun watching the Israeli attack on our land, so do the Iranians. We do not want any foreign in our country neither an American, nor a Turkish, nor anyone at all," said the proponent comedian and actor Kassem Malho on Facebook.



Abu Dhabi Airport attack .. New crime committed by Iranian-backed militias .. Why now?



The terrorist Iranian-backed Houthi militia carried out this morning, Monday, a drone attack on Abu Dhabi Airport. The attack killed 3 people and wounded 6 others, as stated by the Emirates News Agency (WAM).

WAM said that the fires have been extinguished and air traffic has not been disrupted. A Houthi military spokesman told Reuters that militias launched an attack on the UAE.

Observers told Levantnews the new Houthi crime of targeting Abu Dhabi airport reflects how angry the Iranian militia is because of its repeated losses in Yemen and its political and military defeat in several Arab countries.

The Egyptian researcher on regional security issues Mohammed Fawzi said that the Houthi organization's adoption of the attacks on the UAE and the seizure of the Rawabi ship confirms the danger posed by the Houthi militia. This escalation and these miscalculations prevent the Houthis from being integrated into an expected peace process in Yemen.

The reasons behind the terrorist attack

Fawzi said he believes that this attack

is motivated by several reasons. It reflects the Houthis adopts revenge policy because its military situation in Yemen changed for the benefit of the coalition and Yemeni forces. For the first time since operation Golden Arrow to liberate Aden in 2015, large fronts of the Houthi militia such as the Shabwa Front have been restored and other areas are on the way.

Fawzi stressed that the attack was related to the Iranian calculations in the last phase. Iran seems not to like the UAE's purchase of Rafale aircraft from France. Iran said that the militarisation of our region is unacceptable and the weapons they sell in the region are the source of turmoil.

"The attack also coincides with an Emirati-Arab escalation at the international level against the Houthis. The UAE sent a message to the UN Security Council regarding the hijacking of Rawabi ship as well as the statement of the Arab Coalition to Support Legitimacy in this regard as well as the operational escalation by the coalition."

Does the Anniversary of Qasem Soleimani's assassination have something to do with the attack? Fawzi explained that these

Houthi operations coincide with the anniversary of Soleimani's assassination and Vienna talks. Iran uses these moves as pressure to negotiate. It wants to say that Iranian militias can reach strategic depths and carry out qualitative operations that enhance instability in the region.

A mere Iranian attack

Yemeni political analyst Majed al-Daare confirmed that the attack against the UAE on Monday was carried out by Iranian hands in terms of planning, arming and goals as well and of course carried out by the Houthi militia. He also pointed to the targeting of Saudi Arabia and the UAE simultaneously.

Al-Daare told Levantnews that the Iranian experiences clearly appear in the operations the Houthi militia adopted in its war with the coalition. These attacks are a response to the tragic losses that the Houthi militia suffered after the coalition forces managed to expel it from Shabwa and liberate it completely in the last few months.

Al-Daare stressed that the capabilities of the terrorist Houthi militia do not go beyond the Saudi depth pointing

out that reaching the UAE was impossible through the capabilities of the regular militias.

Concerning its impact, al-Daare said that the Houthis will pay the price stressing that the coalition will respond to it more violently and will attack all the remaining sites of the terrorist militia. He also stressed that the great powers being now a part of the war greatly supports the information and military movements of the Arab coalition. Al-Daare expected that the UAE will respond violently to the incident in the next few hours.

The first regional reaction to the incident, the Arab Parliament strongly condemned the terrorist Houthi militia's launch of several booby-trapped drones from Sanaa Airport towards the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

The Arab Parliament affirmed that what happened is a cowardly terrorist attack and a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and all international laws. It is a blatant attack on the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates. It also proves the insistence of these terrorist Houthi militias to continue their cowardly criminal attacks.

The protests in Kazakhstan ...

The Syrian version in Central Asia

Massive protests took place in Kazakhstan particularly in Almaty city over the soaring prices of fuel and liquefied petroleum gas. The demonstrations turned violent after the government security attempted to suppress protests and accused the government's opponents of being "foreign agents".

On January 7, the Kazakh Interior Ministry reported that a total of 18 law enforcement officers were killed and over 700 injured.

The government took precautionary measures by suspending all flights from the capital city airport and halting all banking operations and telecommunications.

International responses

Most of the international community supports restoring stability. However, a Russian official said that the events in Kazakhstan were orchestrated by foreign countries that aim to destabilize Kazakhstan.

The Russian official highlighted Moscow's commitment to the obligations of the allies and stated that it would take urgent measures to stop the violence in Kazakhstan.

The Russian Defense Ministry reported the arrival of its first troop contingent (as a part of a peacekeeping force) in Kazakhstan. Washington called for a peaceful solution to the crisis and asserted its full support for Kazakhstan's constitutional institutions. The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan expressed solidarity with Kazakhstan calling for ending the tension as soon as possible.

The European Union condemned the violent protests in Kazakhstan and called for a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Chinese government said that what is happening in Kazakhstan is an internal affair and hoped for order to be restored soon. Some Arab countries asked their citizens either to leave the country or stick to the curfew

instructions imposed by the Kazakh authorities and not to get close to the demonstrations. Similarly, the Hebrew channel Kan reported that Israel decided to prevent its citizens from travelling to Kazakhstan following the recent protests.

The intervention of the Collective Security Organisation

Basel Haj Jasem, a researcher in Central Asia and the Caucasus and author of the book "Kazakhstan and the Syrian Astana", spoke to Levantnews saying: "The events in Kazakhstan went through two phases. The first ones saw protests which were sparked by the rise in fuel prices and other cumulative social, economic, and political reasons.

The protests continued despite the Kazakh President's conciliatory tone, and freezing the decision to raise fuel prices and dismissed the government holding it responsible for the deteriorating situation. The second stage began with the arrival of the Collective Security Organization forces at the request of the Kazakh president after the protests expanded and took a different approach when an angry mob attacked and seized airports.

He pointed out that the absence of the traditional scene (opposition - government) further aggravates

the crisis and that the absence of strong opposition in the country to capitalise the protests is a card to be played by the great powers. However, the nature of Kazakhstan's foreign relations and its success in establishing balanced relations with great powers like Beijing, Moscow, and Washington make its stability everyone's concern.

Ghassan Ibrahim, a political analyst of Turkic affairs, says that the crisis in Kazakhstan is to be viewed from several perspectives; internally, Kazakhstan is a dictatorship and it suffers social, economic and political problems. Externally, Kazakhstan is a Turkic nation, thus, Turkey has tried to establish a foothold in Kazakhstan as it did in Azerbaijan by establishing military bases.

"Russia sees Turkey now in a different light, which prompted it to move before Turkey makes any move to establish new military bases in the region to protect Moscow's strategic influence ...," he added.

"Russia takes advantage of the Kazakh crisis because the West is now too busy to worry about foreign affairs and it is no longer anxious about democracy, following the Syrian experience that saw Russia standing by the Syrian regime as its last ally in the Mediterranean. The West deals with the Russian Federation based on a step-by-step strategy; every step

Moscow makes against the West in Ukraine, the latter will respond in Kazakhstan," he noted.

The West took the Syrian crisis as an example to learn from in Kazakhstan, which prompted the Turks to change their tune in regards to the Russians and the Kazakhs alike. However, the Russians are facing the problem of dictatorships in the countries of the former Soviet Union, such as Belarus and Kazakhstan and that may spread to other countries and create a bigger problem for Moscow.

Kazakhstan in brief

Kazakhstan became independent in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union and Nureddin Nazarbayev (after whom the capital city was named) assumed power until he stepped down in 2019 following mass demonstrations against his government. After Nazarbayev's resignation, Kasim Jomart Tokayev assumed power through elections that were criticised by many members of the international community.

Kazakhstan is one of the most important economies in Central Asia because it is rich in natural resources especially oil and gas, in addition to its strategic location. Its gross domestic product amounted to 172 billion dollars in 2020.

It is one of the most important oil-producing countries in the Caspian Sea. It ranks 12th in the list of the world's total oil reserves as it has about 1.8% of it. Kazakhstan is also rich in minerals, has the second-largest reserves of uranium in the world and has large deposits of coal. It is also one of the most important tourist hubs in Central Asia.

Kazakhstan has strong relations with the USA which is investing tens of billions of dollars in the oil and gas sector in this country whose citizens live in hardship while the government makes not effort to improve the Kazakhs' living conditions.



Iran submits to the Azerbaijani-Turkish alliance under the pretext of good neighbourliness

Despite the arrogance of Iran's foreign policy, especially in the Arab Gulf region, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon, it chooses to submit in other disputes as it did in its dispute with Azerbaijan after Tehran had accused Baku of hosting Israel.

Iran warns Baku

In early October, a dispute escalated between Iran and Azerbaijan after Azerbaijan had imposed high tariffs on trucks transporting Iranian fuel to the city of Stepanakert, the capital city of the Republic of Artsakh which is unilaterally declared and backed by Armenia. As well, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev denounced Iran's plans to hold military drill in northwestern Iran on the borders of Azerbaijan while Tehran was very surprised by Azerbaijan's cooperation with Israel close to the Iranian borders.

Feda Hossein Maleki, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security Commission, threatened that if a single bullet was fired from Israel at Iran, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev would be the first victim. "Preserving our territorial integrity is a red line for our armed forces." He said. "Israel is playing with fire by encouraging some small countries in the region to move against Iran," he added. "Tehran does not expect the Azerbaijani President to host Tel Aviv behind our borders," he noted.

Azerbaijani drill and escalation

However, Azerbaijan did not back off. The media reported that Azerbaijan and Turkey would launch joint military drill near the border with Armenia, entitled "the Indestructible Brotherhood-2021", to promote cooperation between the Turkish and Azerbaijani armed forces.

On October 5, Azerbaijan closed the office of the representative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei in Baku and its mosque but the Iranian ambassador in Baku Abbas Mousavi



President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev

denied the closure of Khamenei's office saying: "A Husseiniya belonging to the Iranian embassy in Baku was closed under the pretext of the COVID-19." "The Iranian embassy submitted a protest letter to the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry," he noted. Tehran also announced before that its embassy in Baku was attacked after disputes arose between the two neighbouring countries.

An Azeri military source told the official agency in the Persian language: "Iran informed the Azeri side, through official military channels, that it had banned Azerbaijan from using its airspace to transport military equipment to the Autonomous Republic of Nakhchivan," where it was intended to hold drill between Azerbaijan and Turkey.

"The Iranian operation against Azerbaijan was ordered by Armenia. It is treason! Iran's attempt to target Azerbaijan will not affect the military supply to the military units in Nakhchivan. Baku does not use this way so much and prefers to take other ways," added the Azerbaijani source.

Iran and the Turkic alliance

It was obvious Iran was aware that Azerbaijan would not have been that

superior and arrogant if it was not supported by Turkey, the thing that angered Tehran. Mojtaba Zonnour, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security Commission, said on October 7: "The rulers of Turkey, Azerbaijan and the Zionist regime will certainly fall into the abyss of destruction by creating an ominous triangle against Iran." He also talked about the strife caused by Azerbaijan in the northwestern borders of Iran pointing out that the world Zionism and the system of hegemony were the main reason behind the war Iraq started against Iran and they sent Saddam Hussein on their behalf to do so.

"Saddam has gone away and the Americans and their agents regretted. They left Iraq after they were defeated and disgraced, but the Iranian and Iraqi peoples are now brothers & friends due to their nature and their religious & cultural common factors," added Zonnour. "However, today Erdoğan and Ilham Aliyev want to follow in Saddam's footsteps," he noted.

"The rulers of Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Israel are against Iran by creating an ominous triangle that creates crises and they are the first to plunge into them and lose." He stressed that

the regional security would stabilize if the countries linked their security to Iran's one explaining that "Azerbaijan, by provoking strife in the region, is sinking into the swamp prepared by Israel."

Turkey becomes part of the dispute

Ankara is not far from the whole scene and it is actually the mastermind behind the scenes. On October 25, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan answered the question of whether a hot crisis can arise with Iran after Turkey had turned into a power and a major actor in the Caucasus region: "Personally, I do not expect that. Iran will not be in a place to target Azerbaijan because of its relationship with Israel." "The percentage of Azerbaijanis in Iran today is clear. This absolutely prompts one to think. Not that easy! what happened was a mistake. I believe that the new administration in Iran will not continue this mistake," in a clear threat to Iran that Turkey can create chaos in it by provoking the Azeri ethnicity.

It seems that the new leadership in Tehran has decided to submit. Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi said on the same day that foreign countries do not wish the best for the region and that Iran "will not allow the Zionists" to sabotage its relations with neighbouring countries and a month later specifically on November 22 the Iranian Foreign Ministry said that relations with Azerbaijan will see positive developments.

On December 25, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian paid Baku an official visit and said: "During the official visit to Baku, we agreed to open a new chapter of relations. During a friendly meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and discussions with Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Speaker of Parliament Sahiba Gafarova, we drew up a roadmap for further strengthening of relations."

Kuwaiti women in the military .. step for more open-minded society & state

Little by little, the peoples of the region realise that if a country did not keep up with the times, it would encounter many serious problems especially extremism which created armed terrorist organisations such as ISIS, al-Nusra or Islamist groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood (regardless of its different names in the Arab world). Accordingly, the countries of the region began to gradually adopt a more open-minded policy to remove the old close-minded ideologies.

It is absolutely open-minded thinking to hire women to do jobs that they would not dare to think to do years ago like military jobs which have always been done by men, although women in developed countries such as France and Germany are military leaders and defence ministers.

It is not possible to ignore the great role played by women in counter-terrorism like the brave fighting of the "Women's Protection Units" in northern Syria against ISIS after the units being assisted by the international coalition. Perhaps these things and others encouraged countries like Kuwait to allow women to join the military despite the rejection that such a decision may face in conservative societies.

Women in the military

On 12 October, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Sheikh Hamad al-Ali, issued a historic decree allowing women for the first time to join the Kuwaiti military as officers and recruits after their role was restricted to civilian roles. The decree was welcomed by many and attacked by some religious hardliners like the Salafi former MP Walid Al-Tabtabaei who tweeted: "When primary school education was feminized, there was a need for this and studies also proved that women are better as teachers for primary schools."

Al-Ali defended his decree to give women a chance to join the Kuwaiti



army pointing out that this procedure does not contradict the state constitution. "Giving an opportunity for half of Kuwaiti society, our Kuwaiti sisters & daughters, to have the honour of military service does not violate the Kuwaiti constitution which did not differentiate between men and women," he said.

"The mechanism for implementing the decree allowing women to join the Kuwaiti military will take into account the positions & jobs that suit our brave women's capabilities," he explained. He stressed that he will always follow all steps and procedures to ensure that women work in supportive and suitable jobs.

Praise to the Kuwaiti women

The Kuwaiti decree was applauded by senior military officials like the Assistant Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Military Major General Khaled Al-Kandari who praised the role of Kuwaiti women in supporting the state in times of peace & war and crises. "The Kuwaiti military needs women to meet our needs for technical jobs, jobs that need women

to be there like medical services or the Amiri Guard, inspectors of Amiri palaces, VIP bodyguards, engineers, jobs in military bases, the signal corps, air defence or air force and the administrative positions of specialized administrative bodies," he said.

"Women had a great role in the brutal invasion. They were part of the armed resistance and participated in combat operations and peaceful demonstrations and some of them were captured or martyred," Al-Kandari added.

On November 1, the Kuwaiti Minister of Defense reiterated that "the military decisions are irreversible" after an MP filed a lawsuit for the official authorities to interrogate the minister. "The decree that allows Kuwaiti women to have the honour of military service will develop the capabilities of the Kuwaiti military as in other military institutions in the National Guard and the police," he stated

Requirements to join

The General Staff of the Kuwaiti

Army announced on 15 December that women can start applying to join the military. "The door is open now for those who want to have the honour of military service as non-commissioned officers and members of the female staff who hold bachelor's degrees, diplomas, the twelfth or the eleventh degrees at school and below.

The general conditions require the applicant to have Kuwaiti nationality, be between 18 & 26, be physically fit, of good reputation, pass the personal interview, not have been previously convicted of a criminal penalty or a crime against honour or honesty unless she was acquitted, leave her current job in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations and to have a certificate approved and certified by the official authorities in Kuwait.

Women's tasks in the military will not be mostly military but women's involvement in the military shows that Kuwait wants to grant women more privileges and open more doors for them to develop and prove themselves just like in developed countries.

The Makkah Declaration as a historic constitution

Allamah Sayyed Mohammed al-Husseini, the current Secretary-General of the Arab Islamic Council, told in interview to Levantnews he sees that returning Lebanon to normal is based mainly on preventing Iran from interference in its local affairs, getting help from Arab countries to make Lebanon stand on its own feet and getting support from all active political forces and all religious and intellectual elites to resist Iranian influence. Here is the interview script

● **Both the Sunni and Shiite political Islamist organisations are tools to threaten political and economic stability in some Arab countries. What is the clergy's role in supporting moderation?**

The experience of political Islamist organisations has clearly failed to bring about any change in our societies even those Islamists who assumed power such as the MB (Muslim Brotherhood). It turned out that all of their discourse is aimed at destabilisation and sowing discord not at providing a good model for ruling a state.

This also means that their ideological and political project is nothing but populist extremist ideology covering the violence they perpetrate. The honest religious men have contributed to revealing this fact. As well, the Muslim World League had the most prominent role in this regard especially at the European and global levels because the West believed for a while that these organisations actually speak for Islam or let us say that the West took that "Islam" as a pretext for Islamophobia.

What the Islamic League has done was simply the explanation of the real Islam as a religion of moderation, open-mindedness and dialogue. It removed all misinformation spread by these organisations and developed through its intensive activity in various parts of the world a religious intellectual media base to counter extremism.

● **There is an analysis saying the political Islamist organisations have**

evoked strong feelings of religious extremism. How much can we say that Hezbollah is an example of those organisations?

Such organisations cannot live in a unified and stable Islamic society because their divisive rhetoric will be rejected so they search for divided societies where there are religiously-warring groups.

Because of this, Iran chose to plant Hezbollah in divided Lebanon where a civil, regional and global war is taking place. Hezbollah quickly based his ideology on religious grounds to mobilise & recruit. It talked about the Shiites' violated rights and religious persecution.

Yes of course! Hezbollah is an example of these kinds of organisations that invest in conflicts, wars and divisions.

● **Lebanon is in dire straits on all levels and the relationship between Hezbollah & Iran greatly complicates things. In your opinion, what things to base on to get Lebanon out of this crisis?**

For Lebanon to solve its crisis, first and foremost Hezbollah party has to cut ties with Iran, and this is impossible because it is nothing but Tehran's tool in Lebanon. We are not talking about a Lebanese political party but rather a military organisation with an artificial political purpose established by the terrorist IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) for specific goals.

returning Lebanon to normal is based mainly on preventing Iran from interference in its local affairs, getting help from Arab countries to make Lebanon stand on its own feet and getting support from all active political forces and all religious and intellectual elites to resist Iranian influence.

● **How should the Makkah declaration be viewed? Where did the coexistence initiatives launched by the declaration achieve?**

The Makkah Declaration is a historic constitution reflecting the truth of

Islam and the tolerant Abrahamic religions. On one hand, The declaration establishes the values of coexistence among the followers of different religions, cultures, races and sects in Islamic countries. On the other hand, it establishes peace and achieves harmony among all ethnicities of human society to have a more tolerant world that returns Islam to its values of moderation, acceptance of the other and creative human coexistence.

The document with its sublime moral and faith values paved the way for all people to get out of conflicts and wars. The declaration made the world understand the real reasons for these conflicts; they are political conflicts for economic interests, they are not religious, ethnic or national ones. This way, peace is being achieved in many regions of the world. There is no doubt that coexistence initiatives in our region have become more realistic and achievable.

● **How does Hezbollah use the country to serve the local and foreign interests of the Iranian Governance of the Jurist as Iran does in Yemen & Syria and uses its war with Israel?**

Hezbollah first entered Lebanon for religious reasons as an Iranian military organisation. When it extended its influence over the Shiites, it gradually dominated the entire state and made use of it for its policies that serve the Governance of the Jurist in Iran. This is what we have been witnessing from the wars Hezbollah is waging from Lebanon for the sake of the IRGC's terrorist expansionist project in our land. This happened during the wars with Israel to strengthen Iran's position in the negotiations of the nuclear deal. That was strongly proved by Hezbollah's openly military support to Iran's ally al-Assad's regime and in Yemen to undermine the KSA's national security in particular and the Arab security in general, not forgetting getting involved in other Arab countries' conflicts to implement the Iranian division agendas.



Allamah Sayyed Mohammed al-Husseini

Biden's difficult year and uncertain future



Ian Black

Exactly a year since Joe Biden entered the White House as America 46th president, it's hard to be optimistic about his future as the elected leader of the world's democratic superpower. And indeed the future of the United States itself – not just because of its escalating domestic divisions - but its global reputation as well.

The world, and many Americans, breathed a sigh of relief when he was sworn in an emotional but highly unusual inauguration on January 20th 2021. But a year on from that Biden's reputation has suffered many blows despite the very different nature of the issues on which he been judged to underperform.

Back then the ceremony on Washington's National Mall was bizarre: the absence of the usual large crowds was because of the increasingly challenging Covid pandemic; and the big numbers of military personnel was a vivid and worrying reminder of Donald Trump's supporters' unprecedented attack on Congress two weeks earlier, claiming a "stolen election."

In his inaugural address Biden pledged to "overcome this deadly virus" and "end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal." Fast forward 12 long and stressful months, victory on both fronts has been elusive if not actually unattainable. Covid is of course still with Americans – and the rest of the world as well. The Biden administration initially performed well on the pandemic front. It delivered a speedy vaccine rollout, passed a bipartisan emergency relief package and brought a sense of cautious calm after Trump's turbulent four years.

But the summer months provided yet more challenges: on July 4 Biden declared that America was



"closer than ever to declaring our independence from a deadly virus". Then the US vaccination rate plateaued and deaths spiked with the arrival of the Delta variant.

In August came the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan and that did serious damage to the worldwide reputation of the Democrat in the Oval Office – even compared to his disruptive Republican predecessor. That is clearly a factor in Vladimir Putin's threat to intervene in Ukraine.

Even Democrats who voted for Biden in November 2020 are highly critical of his administration's handling of Covid, but admit that they would back him again if he stood in 2024 – despite the significant drop in public confidence.

Then there was the economic impact of the pandemic and rising prices. Biden's version of Franklin Roosevelt's 1930's "New Deal" was dubbed "Build Back Better" (BBB) act, the \$1.75tn spending package that includes massive investments in childcare, healthcare and climate change initiatives. But the US president was unable to secure a deal on that with Congress and the Senate. It may still happen but is likely to go back to basics.

Biden will turn 80 this year.

Given his age – and Republican accusations that he is senile or already has dementia - his vice-president Kamala Harris is subject to far more scrutiny than previous deputies. Harris is her boss's heir-apparent, but she has not proved to be reassuring. Biden's approval ratings are bad. He is the second most unpopular president since records began. But hers are worse.

Biden is also seen as the least charismatic and politically savvy president since George H.W. Bush, who was in the White House from 1989-1993. The eight years he spent as vice-president under Barack Obama didn't prepare him well for his current term in the Oval Office. He is increasingly viewed as a flawed politician in an impossible job.

Democrats are already bracing themselves for the midterm elections this November. With a very small majority in the House of Representatives, and the Senate being 50-50, Biden will not want to lose any seats, given the difficulties his administration is having in getting legislation through Congress as it stands.

The Republican leader in the Senate, Mitch McConnell, has shown the confidence some in his party are starting to feel, by openly

talking about the West Virginia Democrat, Senator Joe Manchin, potentially changing parties. Manchin clashed with the White House when he said he could not vote for the BBB act.

Biden's approval rating has declined by 25% since the start of his term – leaving him almost as unpopular as Trump at this stage of his presidency. It is true, of course, that presidents nearly always suffer losses in their first midterm polls and the tiny majorities the Democrats have in both chambers of Congress are unlikely to hold.

A great unknown in the coming period is whether Trump will stand again in 2024: he will be 78 then. But that may well be to the advantage of the Democrats. If that happens all bets are off about the future of what is still – so far – the most powerful and democratic country in the world. Hopefully Republicans will come to understand that in the coming months.

Polling evidence does suggest that Democrats are over-pessimistic, even fatalistic about the future, to such an extent that it may turn out to be self-defeating. But of course, it is true that they do not have an awful lot to look forward to in the course of what may turn out to be an extremely daunting 2022.

ISIS Resurgent?



James Denselow

The incredible ascent of ISIS as a geopolitical actor and terror group without peers was thought to have met its bitter end in the final battles for holdouts across Syria and Iraq. The legacy of rubble and detention camps was what many hoped was all that remained of those who fought under the black flag. However, events in Hasakah over the past week have suddenly given a stark example of what many feared; that whilst battles against ISIS had been won, the war is not finished. The major, coordinated and complex attack on Guweiran prison is a multi-layered narrative that has yet to come to a conclusion but still tells us much as to the state of ISIS in the region and its current strategy. Attacking prisons is by no means a new tactic adopted by ISIS or indeed other non-state groups across the globe. Tactically such attacks place huge pressure on security forces whose primary role is to keep dangerous men inside a prison rather than

armed actors attacking from outside. What is more if the attacks are successful then suddenly the size of the attacking force is multiplied when former prisoners join their ranks.

In this instance they targeted the largest ISIS-designated prison in NE Syria, which held several thousand adult males and 700 children, a perfect combination of reinforcements and human shields. The attack struck against all sides of the prison and a simultaneous bombing of a nearby SDF facility sowed confusion and the chaos of the moment. Fighting metastasized over several days with over 100 dead and panic forcing the displacement of tens of thousands of Syrians. Entire neighbourhoods have suddenly emptied, despite the harsh winter in the area, a reminder of the fear that the group inspires as well as the intensity of the fighting.

The US-led Coalition, which was almost disbanded by former President Trump in light of the ISIS 'defeat' three years ago, provided air and ground support which was likely a vital component in the SDF being able to reassert control over events. At the time of writing the situation

remains fluid with no confirmation that all prisoners and attackers are accounted for. Analysts have been quick to describe the events as evidence of a 'resurgence' of ISIS with ramifications for the geopolitics of the region and beyond.

The ambition and capacity of what remains of ISIS is clearly a threat that the SDF cannot handle easily by themselves. Yet the continued purgatory of the detention of thousands of fighters and their families, many of whom come from countries across the globe, cannot be an issue that the Kurdish administration are left to handle on their own. If ISIS had been successful at releasing thousands of their fighters, the scenarios and prospects for a renewed crescendo of violence is clear for all to see.

Let us not forget that ISIS grew out of a "Breaking the Walls" campaign of prison breaks in Iraq back in 2012. The planning that has gone into this most recent attack continues to speak to the levels of organisation that it maintains. According to the SDF it involved not only the forces involved in the direct attacks but also sleeper cells, suicide bombers and

an insurrection inside the prison. All these assets would have required weapons to be maintained, supply caches to be kept stocked, training camps to operate, and safe houses for fighters and commanders to retreat to in central Syria.

SDF losses in this period of action have not been light and the damage to the physical prison infrastructure appears extensive. All this points to the need of the US-led Coalition to review not only the capabilities of ISIS but more importantly what their plans are to counter them better. Prisons will need to be rebuilt and improved, SDF forces replenished and trained but ultimately the question as to the long-term future of these detainees and their families has to be better grasped and owned. Considering how the prisons act as a rallying point and strategic objectives for ISIS there is an even stronger argument than before to disperse many of the fighters back to the fifty of so countries they're originally from in order to face justice. The tension in Ukraine, however, is currently dominating the world's bandwidth making even the resurgence of ISIS a sidebar story.



Islamic State fighters at a makeshift prison in Hasaka, Syria

Houthi Attack on UAE: Another Evidence on the Failure of Biden Middle East Policy



Dalia Ziada

The deadly attack by Houthi militia, close to Abu Dhabi Airport, earlier this week, is another evidence on the failure of Biden Administration's foreign policy in the Middle East. There is no logic that can appropriately explain why the American President is adopting such a policy that is militarily weakening Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), while re-empowering Iran and its affiliated proxies and militias, that are wreaking havoc throughout the region.

It was clear from the early statements of President Biden, during his electoral campaign, that his administration will not be as supportive to the war led by Saudi Arabia and UAE in Yemen, since 2015, as the Trump Administration was. In a media interview, in 2019, Biden highlighted the policy he intended to adopt towards Saudi Arabia, if he becomes a U.S. President, by saying: "I would make it very clear we were not going to, in fact, sell more weapons to them. We were going to, in fact, make them pay the price and make them, in fact, the pariah that they are."

Later in 2020, on his nomination hearing, the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the Senators that Biden "has made clear that we will end our support for the military campaign led by Saudi Arabia in Yemen. And I think we will work on that in a very short order once the President-elect is President."

Immediately after Biden's inauguration, in January 2021, the U.S. State Department decided to review Trump Administration's decision to designate the Houthis in Yemen as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). The next day, the State Department announced holding for review arms and ammunition sales agreements that the Trump administration signed with Saudi



Arabia, and to temporarily pause the sale of F-35 fighter jets that are due to UAE upon a contract signed with Lockheed Martin under the Trump administration. Meanwhile, the Biden administration announced its intention to revive talks with Iran on the nuclear deal and ease the suffocating economic sanctions imposed by Trump.

Two days after, Italy decided to follow the American lead. The Italian government revoked the authorizations for exporting missiles and aircraft bombs to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and preventing the issuance of similar authorizations for exporting similar weapons to the two countries in the future. The revocation of this license, alone, led to canceling the supply of over 12,700 bombs to Saudi Arabia. The Italian government justified the decision by the same justification offered by the American government. That is; eliminating the possibility of Italian weapons being used against civilians or contribute to worsening the already tragic humanitarian situation in Yemen.

In less than a year, Saudi Arabia and UAE started to pay for the flawed policy of the Biden Administration in the region. The missile and drone attacks launched by the Houthis on Saudi Arabia intensified and frequented, targeting strategic

economic sites in Saudi main cities. By the beginning of this year, the Houthi started to expand their operations to target other Arab Gulf Countries, such as the UAE. The Houthi has not targeted UAE, since 2018, when the UAE decided to downsize its military operation in Yemen via the Coalition Forces. In January 2021, Anwar Gargash, the then UAE State Minister of Foreign Affairs, tweeted that "the UAE ended its military involvement in Yemen in October 2020. Eager to see the war over, the UAE has supported UN efforts and multiple peace initiatives. Throughout, the UAE has remained one of the largest providers of humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people."

Despite that, the UAE continued to support smaller rebel groups in the southern governorates, such as the Giants Brigades, that supported the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, when the Houthi captured Sana'a in 2014. On the 3rd of January, the Houthi military spokesman published, on social media, the footage of a UAE-flagged vessel, carrying military equipment and supplies, that they arrested at the coast of Hodeidah, in the Red Sea. Exactly, two weeks later, on the morning of the 17th of January, a drone attack, claimed by the Houthi, hit an oil facility in Abu Dhabi, flamed fires at Abu Dhabi International

Airport, and led to the killing of three people. On the next day, the Saudi-led Coalition Forces retaliated by launching several air raids on Houthi-affiliated targets in Sana'a, including the house of a former military official, and killed at least 20 people. In a media statement, the Houthi leadership promised launching similar attacks on the UAE, in the future.

Clearly, this episode of war between the Coalition Forces and the Houthi is not expected to end soon, which will eventually insinuate troubles in world trade movement via the Red Sea, and further disturbs the Arab Gulf region. That is especially true if the Biden Administration continues to give the benefit of the doubt to the Houthi. In an official media response by the U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan to the Houthi attack on Abu Dhabi, this week, he said that "the United States strongly condemns the terrorist attack in Abu Dhabi... the Houthis have claimed responsibility for this attack, and we will work with the UAE and international partners to hold them accountable. Our commitment to the security of the UAE is unwavering and we stand beside our Emirati partners against all threats to their territory."

Hopefully, Sullivan's words would be translated, in the nearest date possible, into real action that corrects the policy mistake of the Biden Administration towards the Gulf region. Actually, no human, with a conscience, can endorse a military escalation that magnifies the unbearable humanitarian sufferings of the Yemeni people. However, this should not blind the Biden Administration, or other observers in the international community, from the fact that the Houthi is not working for Yemen. The Houthi is a terrorist militia that is military equipped by Iran, and is contributing a big deal to the sufferings of the Yemeni people. The Biden Administration's giving an Iran-backed militia the benefit of the doubt was a mistake, and the time has come to correct it.

Who Is Responsible for The Resurgence of ISIS?



Jwan Dibo

The recent bloody events that took place in Ghweran prison in northeast Syria, which is overcrowded with ISIS terrorists, have proven that the so-called ISIS sleeper cells are no longer asleep, but rather they are very vigilant.

The intuitive question that comes to mind is: who bears the responsibility for the re-emergence of ISIS with this remarkable momentum? The answer, effortlessly, is the US, the EU, and the UK.

The reason behind this belief is because these three players are the ones who have fought ISIS at the international level in Iraq and Syria. Therefore, any defect or unpleasant surprises in this regard will be borne by these three parties, especially the US, as it leads the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS.

In this context, a set of thorny questions emerge strongly and make the West's credibility about defeating ISIS questionable. Why does the West evade its responsibilities towards the thousands of ISIS terrorists detained in the prisons of the Autonomous Administration

of North and East Syria (AANES) under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)? Why does the West reject to take back ISIS terrorists who hold European nationalities? Why does the West not help to establish a global tribunal outside Syrian Kurdistan to prosecute ISIS fighters?

How can the West, especially the US, demand the Kurdish-led AANES and the SDF to guard thousands of ISIS detainees and tens of thousands of their families? Such formidable tasks could not be performed even by the West itself. So, why does Washington force the AANES and the SDF, with limited capabilities, to assume such complex and difficult tasks?

The Kurdish-led SDF, composed of various components of northern and eastern Syria, have paid thousands of martyrs in order to undermine ISIS strongholds. The SDF have fought the remnants of ISIS on behalf of the whole world, especially the West, the first target of ISIS. So, after all these huge sacrifices by the SDF, do these forces and the peoples from which they emerge deserve some practical, not verbal, appreciation and gratitude? Unfortunately, neither in politics nor in international relations there are no such ethical and

humanitarian considerations.

The US does not help the areas controlled by the SDF even economically. Washington did not exclude the SDF regions from the painful consequences of Caesar's Law. Rather, the AANES regions were also afflicted with the sanctions of this law. America and the West do not contribute to economic development of the AANES regions to ease the burdens of the stifling economic crisis that has plagued them for more than 10 years. The dedication and sacrifices of the Kurds and the SDF in fighting ISIS were met by the ingratitude of America and the West. Last but not least, they forced the Kurds and the SDF to bear the unbearable, namely, guarding the world's fiercest terrorists.

The US and the West have always turned a blind eye to Turkey's direct sponsorship and generous Qatari funding of ISIS terrorists. For this reason, the attempt of ISIS terrorists in Ghweran jail to escape and take control of the city of Al Hasakah coincided with the recent Turkish escalation against the Kurds in several areas of north and east Syria.

ISIS is a local, regional, and international project in which the interests and hands of states and intelligences overlap. First and

foremost, ISIS is a project to create and perpetuate instability in the Middle East, a region that is already suffering from scourge and insecurity. Since the instability of this region is in the interest of the US, the West, Russia, China, and even Iran and Turkey, ISIS will not disappear no matter how many strikes it receives, but rather it will recover more than it was in the recent past.

In other words, there is no real international and regional project to eliminate ISIS. On the contrary, there is an internationally blessed regional strategy to strengthen ISIS more in the Middle East, North Africa, and the entire Islamic world. The humiliating US withdrawal from Afghanistan after handing it over to the Taliban terrorist movement is a step along this path. Simply put, there is an international and regional decision to save political Islam groups, regardless of its different patterns.

Indeed, the US and the West are the main ones responsible for the resurgence of ISIS. However, history has never witnessed that the great powers have been held accountable. Mercy and glory to the martyrs of the Kurds and SDF, the real warriors against ISIS. Shame and disgrace to ISIS terrorists and their local, regional, and international sponsors.



Pointless Vienna talks .. Will they be held forever?



Thaer Alhajji

Over the past decade, statements about the Iranian nuclear programme between US, Iranian and Israeli diplomats have not stopped especially after the announcement of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in September 2011.

The former Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said once: "America is imposing sanctions - Europe is leading the negotiations and Iran is resisting."

Israel's statements are more strict than other countries' ones because Tel Aviv does not want a nuclear competitor in the region. The last of these statements was twelve days ago when Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said, "We will not allow Iran to become a nuclear threshold state, and if necessary, we will act on our own." It is a message to all parties involved in the negotiations with the Iranian delegation in Vienna.

This shows that the regime in Tehran is resisting time nothing else. There are many reports that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps have made steps in manufacturing nuclear weapons, and in parallel, they are making ballistic missiles and they always avoid discussing them, thus, what is happening in Vienna is no more than a waste of time.

It is known that Iran is good at strategic patience especially it has been under Western sanctions for more than 40 years and this is all in public while in fact there are deals that are being signed under the table. Arabs in general and Iraqis in particular mentioned the so-called scandal Iran-Contra Affair between the Iranian regime and the USA and the Israeli delegate at the time was there, "Ari Ben-Menashe", to supply Tehran with missiles during the Iran-Iraq war during the era of the late Presidents Ronald Reagan, Saddam Hussein and the Iranian one Abolhassan Banisadr.

The most obvious thing about the P5+1 negotiations between the



great powers and Iran is that Tehran hides its missile arsenal which it will use to terrorize its Arab neighbours before any other enemy and it always brags about its resistance against Israel and says that the way to Jerusalem is through Syria to justify its intervention to support the Syrian regime in killing its opponents.

From the Iranian point of view, returning to the nuclear agreement requires: Returning to the nuclear agreement, lifting sanctions and returning to UN Resolution 2231. Starting from there, there is no need for new negotiations because there were already agreements signed in 2015. The United States is arming itself with pre-imposed sanctions on Tehran after the former damaged the Iranian economy to end its nuclear ambitions. Any declaration of a nuclear state in the Middle East would lead the region to a nuclear and ballistic arms race which Turkey and the Arab Gulf states would be engaged in.

The US role

Based on those facts, the USA wants Vienna talks to work step by step i.e. a gradual lifting of sanctions in exchange for stopping uranium enrichment.

It is clear that the Biden administration is trying to wait before taking any step lest it gives Tehran a gift which it may regret later especially since the US does not know the facts of events in Iran after Trump withdrew from the deal in May 2018.

The Europeans consider any return to the agreement as an opportunity to invest in a country with a population of nearly 100 million and whose economy suffers from the sanctions and the open conflicts in the region; the thing that suspended the French Airbus deal and the import of Iranian oil to Germany.

despite the ideological differences between Moscow, Beijing and Tehran, they have something in common, they all suffer from the US sanctions.

Accordingly, there is nothing that indicates that the West is against Iran having nuclear weapons but the question is whether Israel will be enough with just attacking the Iranian sites in Syria which has become common and neither of them bears any consequences at all levels. Most of the dead militia militants are Shiitized Arabs who follow the fatwas of Iranian mullahs that encourage jihad with no basis or reference.

The most excited ones about the implementation of the nuclear

agreement are those who are running behind the illusions of security and stability thinking that by doing so they would stop the Syrian massacre & the Iraqi factions, return Lebanon to its Arab brothers, and they preserve Yemen's geographical and national unity. However, the problem for the countries of the region is that signing the agreement will recover the Iranian economy after releasing the frozen funds and will be able to maintain its refusal to comply with international relations and protocols. The second problem, if the agreement is reached, is lifting the 10-year sanctions imposed by Washington on ballistic missiles in January 2016 due to Iran's development of the "Qadr-H" and "Emad" missiles after signing the nuclear agreement with the Obama administration in 2015. The US claimed that these sanctions achieve security and stability in the largest security complex in the world i.e. the Middle East.

All this happened and we did not mention the contracts that Iran signed in Iraq with China, the US opponent, to extract oil and gas in the southeast of the country in the governorates of Basra and Maysan and the way Washington ignored the concerns of its strategic allies the GCC.

Lavrov's messages to the Syrian Kurds



Zara Saleh

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov again has highlighted the importance of the Syrian Kurds to support and maintain Syria's sovereignty and they are the key factor of stabilisation in the region, and they should be represented in the Syrian constitutional committee. Comparing to the Kurdistan Regional Government and federal experience, Lavrov said "the Syrian Kurds should take into consideration the experience of Iraqi Kurds". However, Russian Foreign Minister has warned the Kurds at the same time regarding their relations with the US that they "will not determine the fate of Syria". In other words, he clearly is calling the Syrian Kurds to return back to the Syrian regime by cutting their relations with the US. However, Russia consequently would play mediation role for peace talks between the two parties. Despite the diplomatic speech of the Russian Foreign Minister, Lavrov

had mentioned the Iraqi Kurds experience of federalism that could be passed to the Syrian Kurds as well, he forgets that he had always accused the US of seeking to split Syria and establishing a Kurdish state in north Syria. Furthermore, Lavrov in some his previous interviews had explained that the US is planning to establish a new state in north Syria and "it will be another round of the most dangerous game with Iraqi Kurdistan, the idea of the so-called unified Kurdistan." In contrast, Russia has been failed to play the guarantor role between the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Syrian regime to hold a serious negotiation until now as Moscow always has played the regime's spokesman role, seeking to take control over all Syrian territories without any guarantee of the Kurdish rights. Added to that, Lavrov is already aware about the SDF demands during previous talks with the Syrian regime. The Kurdish self-administration should be recognised by Assad's regime in the new Syrian constitution.

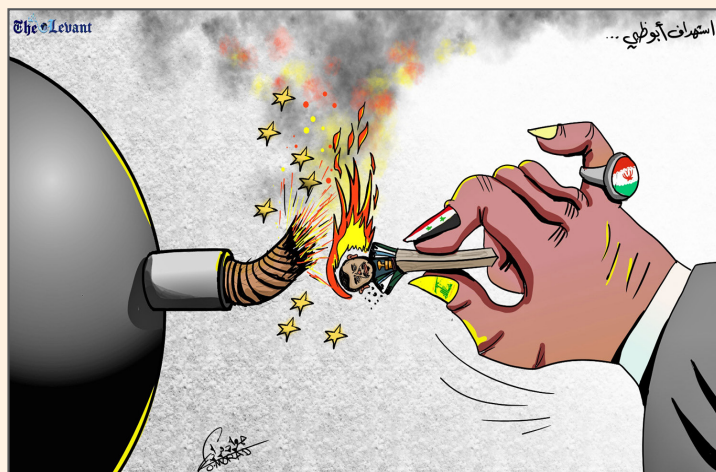


Sergey Lavrov

On the other hand, the Kurdish self-administration or the Democratic Union Party (PYD) administrator has never mentioned any federal region or state that is based on national and ethnic basis. For example, the PYD spokesman Sama Bakdash had answered to Lavrov's speech, has rejected the comparison between the two examples of the Kurdish experience in Syria and Iraq and she said, " we have a different view about the political solution

in Syria". Whereas the PYD and the self-administration is seeking democratic and ecologic federalism in the context of the decentralisation state in Syria which is completely different from the Kurdish federal region in Iraq. Besides that, the Russian representative for Syria Lavrentyev has recently confirmed that no change will be done regarding the current Syrian constitution that was written in 2012 and he added, "it is a red line for us". Consequently, the Russian Foreign Minister, Lavrov, is continuing the plan of blackmailing Kurds by using the Turkish threats and the carrot and stick policy. Such Russian policy towards Syrian Kurds is aiming to convince them to accept the talks with Assad's regime without any promises to guarantee the recognition with the self-administration and the secure of the Kurdish rights in the expected Syria's constitution, as Lavrov is always warning that the US will withdraw its troops from north-eastern Syria that controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces.

The Levant
CARICATURE



Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram icons
@thelevantnews0

Info@thelevantnews.com