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Managing Director: Hamid Najafi

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue, Tehran - Islamic Republic of Iran

In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Election Farce in Occupied Palestine

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The Zionist regime has just released yet another comedy film about "general elections" and we are not impressed at all.

It's all about the Zionists and an occupying regime bankrolled by the United States. After all, what does it matter that the usurper regime has had an "election" in occupied Palestine and that the results are out? It's of interest to the Zionists only, yet it is plastered all over the news in the West as a fine example of democracy! It's wishful thinking.

The "winners" are celebrating because at the end of the day, their will will be done. Palestinians have had no say in this, while more Palestinian lives have been taken; and more fascism, hate, propaganda until the international civil society forgets everything the Zionist regime has done, and the lives it has, and will continue to take in the name of their false idol.

Isn't it a joke that Israel is always hailed as the "only true democracy" in the Middle East, and yet the Palestinian parties are banned, as their ideology is equality and freedom for all races and religions - which does not agree with the Zionist polls?

It is no more than Fascism: A false democracy where parties are restricted to illegal settlers and land thieves, and where the native people are denied a voice at the ballot box. A life is nothing more than a fascist state. This is not about being "anti-Jewish" as Zionists would like to suggest. It's about being pro-human rights and pro-democracy that the world so much adheres to.

As is, no one in his right mind should ever expect any change in Israel's policies following the recent "general elections" as all the regime's parties follow the same aggressive approach. They all have a racist nature. They are all pro-war and occupation; accomplices in crimes against humanity and everything that has to do with a truly free, all-inclusive, and democratic Palestine.

In their "election" campaigns they never bother to talk about the American-led "peace process", let alone re-see the peace flag and the very idea of conceding a Palestinian state. It's no wonder those who avoid this issue altogether and pledge Palestinian statehood is "null and void" always win!

As ever, Palestinians have every right to boycott such stinky elections. They have no representative and legitimate role to play in the future of their occupied land. It's a shame for the international civil society. It's also bad news for the Palestinians because it only means more war crimes, more Palestinian sufferings and discrimination, more racism and alienation, and more land thefts and blockade.

Countries Hail Iran's Human Rights Progress



A general view of a session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Representatives from several countries including Russia, China, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Tajikistan, and Vietnam on Wednesday lauded the progress made in Iran's human rights conditions, saying the country has

taken "positive steps" in this regard.

In the 28th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, the Russian representative welcomed Iran's positive steps on human rights, praising Tehran's interaction with human rights mechanisms.

Representative of China also hailed Tehran's progress in support of the rights of people and vulnerable groups, and called on the international community to pay attention to Iran's interaction with Universal Periodic Review

Assyrians Demand Iran Protection Against ISIL

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- The Assyrians have appealed to the Islamic Republic to help provide security for the minority community in Iraq who are facing threats from militants, a senior Iranian official said on Wednesday.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani said in an interview that the representative of the Assyrians in the world has called on Iran to provide training and weapons to help ensure security for the Iraqi Assyrians.

"This indicates that the Islamic Republic of Iran's assistance is not limited to a certain group or belief, and that when it comes to fighting terrorism it (Iran) is considered a supporter and pioneer to confront this scourge," Shamkhani said.

Iran has contributed to restoration of peace and sta-

bility in the region without taking its own interests into account.

Over the past months, Assyrians, who come from one of the world's oldest Christian communities, have been under increasing threat from the ISIL terrorists.

In late February, a new report said the ISIL group is systematically targeting religious and ethnic minorities in northern Iraq, adding, "While minorities have long been vulnerable to attacks by extremists, this violence appears to be part of a systematic strategy to remove these communities permanently from areas where they have lived for centuries."

The report came shortly after that the ISIL terrorists kidnapped 220 Assyrians in the northeastern Iraqi province of Hasakah.

Environmental Challenge Threatens Iran's Future

TEHRAN (Guardian) -- In 2013, Issa Kalantari, a former agriculture minister, claimed Iran was becoming uninhabitable. The threat, he said, was "more dangerous" than Israel or the United States.

Since then, a succession of environmental crises has prompted Iran's leaders to examine the country's chronic management of water, land and air. With dams only 40% full, President Hassan Rouhani has urged Iranians to cut their water use by 10%. Major rivers such as Karun and Karkheh in the south-west have fallen to a trickle, while the Zayandeh-Rud in the historical city of Isfahan frequently runs dry. Lake Urmia, the Middle East's largest salt-water lake, in north-west Iran, has shrunk by about 90% during the last decade.

Rapidly thinning forests are causing land degradation due to the loss of fertile top soil. In February, dust storms halted everyday life in Iran's southwest as dust particles in the air reached 66 times safe limits. Parliamentary representatives from Khuzestan province lambasted the department of environment for its failure to confront the problem, wearing medical masks to show solidarity with their constituents.

It was a telling piece of theater, even if it ignored the role of parliament over decades in promoting or supporting development projects that have been a major cause of the environmental disaster. And parliamentary speaker Ali Larijani did urge environmental experts to cooperate closely with the parliament's research center and expert

commissions to improve decisions and law-making. Larijani referred to Article 50 of the constitution, which describes preservation of the environment as a "public duty" and forbids "economic and other activities that inevitably involve pollution of the environment or cause irreparable damage to it".

Early this month President Rouhani stressed that the dust storms had made "environmental problems... more tangible now than ever before".

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has demanded action. During this year's National Week of Natural Resources (7-13 March), which symbolizes the nation's appreciation of nature, the Leader told officials and activists that "the issue of the

natural environment is not related to this and that government, person and (political) orientation" but was "a national issue" which "everyone should join hands" to address. Drawing on religious teachings on the importance of environmental conservation, Ayatollah Khamenei expressed concern as to whether sufficient consensus and collaboration existed among different government bodies, and demanded the preparation of a "national environmental plan for all construction and industrial projects".

In particular, the Leader instructed officials to confront harmful construction plans including tourist resorts and religious seminaries. He stressed the criminal nature of ill-conceived clear-cutting of forests,

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The Holy Qur'an

We sent not an apostle except (to teach) in the language of his (own) people, in order to make (things) clear to them.

The Holy Qur'an (14-4)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:12
Evening (Maghreb)	18:32
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:46
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:09

(UPR) mechanism. Representatives from Iraq, Eritrea, Tajikistan, Lebanon, Syria, and Vietnam also hailed Iran's human rights achievements and progress, and the country's commitment to international regulations.

Elsewhere in the session, a number of countries including Myanmar, North Korea, Zimbabwe, and Venezuela deplored the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) over adopting double-standard policy on Iran, and underscored the necessity for avoiding political and unilateral approaches and measures.

The 28th regular session of UNHRC kicked off in Geneva on March 2 and will go on until 27. A delegation from Iran headed by Kazem Ghariabadi, the international affairs deputy of Iranian judiciary's human rights council, is also attending the session.

Press Digest

Governance

RESALAT: The plan to liberate Mosul will carry serious tactical and strategic risks. But it's still achievable - as long as Washington and its allies stay out. They only seek to ignite sectarianism. It doesn't take a strategic mastermind to grasp that only Iraqis can evict the death cult from Mosul. But liberation is just the beginning. No effective strategy to counter the foreign-backed death cult will emerge unless the intricate issue of good governance in the city is also fully addressed.

Islamophobia

HAMSHAHRI: Islamophobia in Europe is rising - thanks largely to the Syria war blowback. It was in fact Ayatollah Khamenei who warned the West some three years ago about the terrible consequences of their war on Syria. The flow of "moderate" terrorists from Europe and North America to Syria and Iraq to join ISIL is becoming the largest in the history of global terrorism. Security services around the world are becoming increasingly alarmed at the implications for the safety of their citizens. They have no one to blame but themselves.

Self-Serving

AFTAB: UN resolutions never name and shame the states that have sponsored or continue to sponsor ISIL, al-Qaeda and other terrorist outfits. They don't offer any help to the Syrian government and people in their fight against terrorist groups. They fail to condemn the ongoing airstrikes into Syria that have no UN resolution authorizing force or invitation of the host country. They are only designed to preserve the status quo and pretend that the U.S. and allies are also fighting the terrorist goons.

Boycott

QODS: Regional countries should hold Israel accountable for its war crimes. They have a responsibility to do so, especially through the civil society campaign of boycott. Still, Cairo and Tel Aviv have agreed to double efforts to build a buffer zone around Gaza. Those behind the boycott Israel campaign describe the new developments and business deals with Israel as disgraceful for the international community. It is evident that the U.S. sponsorship of the negotiations/deals represents a direct cover for liquidating the Palestinian cause.