

## Human Rights Games

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The United Nations General Assembly has once again issued a political resolution on alleged human rights violations in Iran, and it's not surprising. The man behind the new resolution is again Ahmed Shaheed, a former Maldivian foreign minister. In early October he published his report, alleging that Tehran refuses to respect minorities' rights and its judiciary is not fair.

The new report has been emphatically rejected by Iran and other independent nations, which happen to be at odds with the double-standard policies of the United Nations and its self-appointed Security Council members.

Iranian Deputy Ambassador to the UN Gholam-Hussein Dehqani has dismissed the resolution as "political, prejudicial and unbalanced". Dehqani protests that the resolution does not acknowledge the "positive developments" in Iran.

The resolution builds on a report by Ahmed Shaheed. On June 17, 2011, the UN Human Rights Council, under pressure from the U.S. and its allies, named Shaheed as its human rights investigator on Iran. That's why Iran has repeatedly criticized his biased reports ever since, saying his appointment is "a selective, politically-tainted and unacceptable move".

This while Ahmed Shaheed is also in charge of reporting on human rights situations in places like the United States and Canada. But he has never done that! Ahmed Shaheed and the world public opinion are very well aware that both the U.S. and Canada have done more than enough to violate the basic rights of their Black, Latino and indigenous populations. All they need to do is follow the latest anti-racism news and protests across the American cities and towns, or demonstrations by the indigenous population in Canada.

Sadly enough, Ahmed Shaheed and the UN Human Rights Council have never bothered to prove their impartiality – let alone write down and publish even a one-page report about these violations and "substantiated atrocities".

They won't talk about the ongoing atrocities in places like Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Yemen either, where the U.S.-NATO militaries habitually portray carnage as "justified" and the death of civilians invariably as "accidental". Civilian deaths are still the central fact, the very essence in America's global "war on terror", where not seeing civilian deaths has equally become a daily habit for the UN Human Rights Council and its rapporteurs.

Another obvious example for the Western breaches of human rights could be their "unwavering support" for Israel and its massacre of Palestinians in occupied territories. Where was Ahmed Shaheed and the UN Human Rights Council when Israel last summer used American bombs and missiles to kill and wound over 10,000 defenseless Palestinians in the defenseless city of Gaza? Just imagine for a second if this was Iran and what type of measures and resolutions they were going to take against the country in a matter of hours if not days!

At the end of the day, these gross atrocities and violations are still there and someone (Ahmed Shaheed) somewhere (UN) has to do something about it before they are repeated all over again – as usual – by the same perpetrators (Israel, U.S. and Canada).

Until then, it is up to the conscientious people of the world to judge for themselves who violates and who continues to violate international human rights law "in practice" and in "substantiated" terms.

## \$1.3 Billion Spent to Improve Ports

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has invested \$1.3 billion to improve its ports and shipment sector, said the Roads and Urban Development Minister Abbas Akhoundi in a ceremony held to sign an agreement between the Ports and Maritime Organization and a private company here.

He added that the government is duty bound to reduce the costs associated with commercial, economic and political deals with foreign countries.

An agreement worth \$700 million was signed between the private sector and PMO.

Akhoundi noted that the private sector's investments in ports should be increased significantly, which will cause the sector to become the largest producer of value-added in the country.

Speaking at the same ceremony, PMO Managing Director Muhammad Saeednejad said the private sector has made about \$900 million worth of investments in Iranian ports during the year to mid March.

Some \$600 million worth of investments have also been made by the private sector in southern and northern ports of Iran during March 21-Nov. 21.

The official said the ground has been prepared for the activities of private sector in Iranian ports.

"Iran should rank first in the region in terms of transportation and economy," he said, adding this is among the main objectives envisaged by the 2025 Vision document.

Saeednejad noted that the strategic location of Iran has caused the country to become an important transit route in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

"All potentials of the country should be used to develop the ports and maritime sectors," he said.

# President: Iran Supports Iraqi Resistance



President Rouhani, right, holds talks with Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri in Tehran.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- President Hassan Rouhani said Iran supports the fight against terrorism in all parts of Iraq.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stood by all Iraqi people" regardless of their religious, sectarian and tribal affiliations and "supports unity, integrity, security and stability across Iraq", President Rouhani said in a meeting with visiting Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri.

The Iranian nation is now standing by the Iraqi nation, Rouhani further stated, adding, "In every region of Iraq that Iraqis fight terrorists, we support the resistance of the Iraqi people and it makes no difference to us which tribe or sect is in the majority in that region."

## Monument Honoring Jewish Martyrs Unveiled

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran has unveiled a monument to honor Jewish-Iranian soldiers who fell during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

In a ceremony here, a senior Iranian parliament member praised the Iranian Jewish community's ties to the state and its "obedience" to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and the late Imam Khomeini before him.

A public ceremony marked the memorial's opening, with speeches that took place at a dais flanked by the Iranian flag and a menorah. Banners showed the images of fallen

The Iranian president further noted that unity and integrity among the Iraqi tribes and sects have been cemented more than ever after terrorist attacks by the Takfiri ISIL militants.

Rouhani further lauded Iraq's victories against the Takfiri militants, describing as "praiseworthy" the Iraqi nation and army's resistance against terrorists and aggressors.

The Iranian president congratulated the Iraqi people and government on providing security for millions of people participating in Arba'een rituals in the country, describing the measure as a great "show of power".

The Arba'een ceremony, which marks the 40th day after the anniversary of the martyrdom of Proph-

et Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussein, was held in Karbala on December 13.

The Iraqi official, for his part, stressed Iraq's willingness to boost its relations with Iran, saying Baghdad and Tehran have numerous common interests and ties.

Key steps have been taken in Iraq today to cement unity in a bid to fight terrorism and the ISIL, Jabouri said, adding that terrorists will not be allowed to sow discord among the Iraqi people.

He stressed that terrorism poses a threat to the whole region, urging a collective effort to counter the scourge.

The ISIL militants currently control swathes of territory across Syria and Iraq. They have carried out heinous atrocities in both countries, including mass executions and beheadings of people.

## Press Digest

### Two Visions

RESALAT: Iran faces two difference challenges these days: One says if you want development and growth or international standing and peace, you must join the international community and act within the framework of international law. You must also follow the guidelines of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This vision is based on commonsense wisdom. The other vision says to save your Islamic Republic and independence, you must maintain your revolutionary beliefs and values and stand united against global arrogance. This vision is based on religious wisdom.

### Anti-Racism Protests

HEMAYAT: Black Americans continue to demand justice and equality. They refuse to go home because the ruling elites are blatant in their intentions of maintaining white supremacy. There is also a reason why the United Nations shouldn't just sit and watch former and current White House officials make a mockery of international justice. Their concern in both racial discrimination and the CIA Torture Report is a ruse. They seek no justice and equality.

### Unabashed Torturer

VATAN EMOOZ: Former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney says the brutal interrogation techniques used by the CIA in its torture chambers was fine and he would do it again in a minute. It is an affront to humanity and a dark chapter in U.S. history when its officials so openly advocate torture; are proud of their role in the creation of CIA's torture program; and admit they did it with the blessing of the Justice Department!

### Washington Hypocrisy

ABRAR: The protests against racial discrimination and injustice in the United States have sparked international solidarity and outcry, highlighting once again Washington's hypocrisy and double standards on human rights. Amnesty International roundly condemns the excessive force used by law enforcement agencies against Black protesters, and calls for accountability and systemic change to curb human rights abuses increasingly seen in American communities.

The Holy Qur'an

And (as to) those who disbelieve in the communications of Allah and His meeting, they have despaired of My mercy, and these it is that shall have a painful punishment.

The Holy Qur'an (29.23)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:02
Evening (Maghreb)	17:14
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:39
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:10

## Cleric Denounces U.S. Racial Discrimination

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- A top Iranian cleric on Friday took a swipe at the United States for racial discrimination practiced in the country, urging Washington to revisit its approach in dealing with the people of color.

"How longer are you (the U.S.) going to continue this racial discrimination? How longer do we have to see persons of color gather in the streets and stage demonstrations chanting 'Don't kill us?'" said Ayatollah Muhammad-Ali Movahehdi Kermani while addressing worshippers during weekly Friday prayers.

"It's not good to confront the people of your country," added the senior clergyman.

Earlier last month, U.S. President Barack Obama acknowledged that the United States is suffering from racial discrimination amid protests (Continued on Page 7)