

DUBLIN (Dispatches) -- A student society at Trinity College Dublin has canceled a speech by the occupying regime of Israel's ambassador to Ireland after a group of students chanting pro-Palestinian slogans rallied outside the event. Trinity's Society for International Affairs had invited Ambassador Zeev Boker to give a speech Monday night. Before the event could start, activists from the Students for Justice in Palestine group blocked the entrance, waved Palestinian flags and chanted, "We are all Palestinians!" Organizers opted to cancel Boker's appearance rather than have police remove the protesters by force.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's oil minister said that the first of its new contracts would be finalized with Total within two months, according to the Mehr News agency. Bijan Zangeneh said that a contract was still being pursued with Total but noted recent comments from the chief executive of the French company indicated it was awaiting feedback from the United States. "From the information I have the policy of the European Union is not subordinate to the United States," he said. "We will take the necessary steps to go ahead with the contract. But we also have a complaint as to why these things are being said."

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By Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer  
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## Ayatollah Khamenei Tells Int'l Conference on Palestine:

# Creation of Israel a Dirty Chapter That Will Be Closed

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- **Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday called for the "complete liberation" of Palestine, saying all Muslim countries have a responsibility to support the Palestinian resistance, which should be a source of unity in the Islamic world.** Ayatollah Ali Khamenei addressed the sixth international conference in support of the Palestinian intifada (uprising). Among the guests from the 80 countries taking part in the conference were the parliament speakers of Algeria, Mali, North Korea, Lebanon and Syria, and the leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement, Ramadan Salah. Ever since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, Iran has been implacable in its opposition to the occupying regime of Israel and has provided extensive support to Palestinian resistance movements. It expressed strong backing for the two Palestinian intifadas of 1987-1993 and 2000-05.

to remind the audience that today is the martyrdom anniversary of Malcolm X, an American Muslim leader. I would like to request all attendees to please recite Sura Fatiha and Sura Tawhid for the soul of this martyr.

**In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and Allah's peace and greetings be upon the Master of All Peoples, Muhammad al-Mustafa, and upon his immaculate household and chosen companions

Allah the All-Wise said in the Manifest Book [The Holy Quran]: "So be not weary, nor fall into despair for you shall have the upper hand if you are believers" [The Holy Quran, 3: 139]. And says the Mightiest of Speakers: "Be not weary crying for peace, while you have the upper hand and Allah is with you and never will He put you in loss for your deeds" [The Holy Quran, 47: 35].

In the beginning, I deem it necessary to welcome all you dear guests, the honorable heads of Islamic organizations, the leaders of various Palestinian groups, the intellectuals, scholars and outstanding personalities of the world of Islam and other personalities who fight for freedom. I welcome you for your presence in this valuable conference.

The sorrowful story of Palestine and the excruciating sadness felt because of the oppression against this patient, enduring and resistant nation, truly distresses any individual who seeks freedom, truth and justice and it thrusts an agonizing pain and suffering upon one's heart.

The history of Palestine is full of ups and downs, marked by the cruel occupation of that region, the rendering of millions of individuals homeless, and



Ayatollah Khamenei addresses International Conference in Support of Palestinian Intifada, attended by officials and experts from 80 countries in Tehran, Feb. 21, 2017.

the courageous resistance of those heroic people. An intelligent quest in history shows that no people in any era of history have ever been subject to such pain, suffering and cruelty. It has never been witnessed that a country is completely occupied in a supra-regional plot, that a people are driven away from their home and their country and that another group of people from remote areas in the world are brought there in order to replace that nation. It has never been witnessed that a real entity is ignored and that a fake entity takes its place.

But this is another dirty page in history which will be closed with the permission and assistance of Allah the Exalted, just like other dirty pages in history: "Falsehood is bound to perish" [The Holy Quran, 17: 81] and He says: "My servants

the righteous shall inherit the earth" [The Holy Quran, 21: 105].

Your conference is being held under one of the most difficult circumstances in the world and in the region. These days, our region - which has always supported the people of Palestine in their fight against a global plot - is undergoing numerous upheavals and crises. The existing crises in several Islamic countries in the region have caused the support for the issue of Palestine and the holy ideal of Quds' freedom to be undermined. Attention to the result of these crises helps us to understand which powers benefit from the existence of these crises.

Those who created the Zionist regime in the region with the purpose of hampering the stability, solidity and progress of the region through imposing a long-term conflict are behind the seditions that exist in the present time as well. These are seditions that have culminated in the capabilities of regional nations being used to foil one another because of engagement in futile and meaningless conflicts.

When all these capabilities are ruined, the ground will be prepared for strengthening the usurping Zionist regime on a daily basis. Amid all these, we are witness to the endeavors of well-

intentioned and wise personalities in the Islamic Ummah. They are diligently trying to resolve these differences. But unfortunately, the complicated plots of the enemy have managed to impose civil wars on nations by benefiting from the negligence of some governments. These plots have managed to pit nations against one another and to counter the effect of the endeavors that well-intentioned personalities in the Islamic Ummah have made.

What is significant in this regard is the effort to weaken the position of the issue of Palestine and to give it the lowest priority. Despite the differences that exist among Islamic countries - some of these differences are natural, some originate from the enemy's plot and the rest are because of negligence - the issue of Palestine can and should be the pivot of unity for all Islamic countries. One of the achievements of this valuable conference is announcing the first priority of the world of Islam and freedom fighters all over the world, which is the issue of Palestine and the creation of an atmosphere of harmony and unanimity with the purpose of achieving the lofty goal of supporting the people of Palestine and their truthful and justice-oriented fight.

The significance of offering political support to the people of Palestine should never be neglected. This issue has a special priority in today's world. Even if Muslim and freedom-seeking nations have different viewpoints and opinions, they can gather together with one goal which is Palestine and the necessity to liberate it. With the emergence of signs of the collapse in the Zionist regime and the weakness that has dominated its main allies - in particular the United States of America - it is witnessed that the global environment is gradually moving towards confronting the hostile, illegal and inhuman activities of the Zionist regime. Of course, the global community and regional countries have not yet managed to carry out their responsibilities towards this humanitarian matter.

Suppressing the people of Palestine in a brutal manner, arresting numerous individuals, looting and murdering people, occupying the lands that belong to the Palestinian nation and building settlements in them, making an effort to change the appearance and identity of the Holy City of Quds, Masjid al-Aqsa and other holy Islamic and Christian places, violating the basic rights of citizens and many other abuses continue to exist. These acts enjoy the all-out support of the United States of America and some other western governments and unfortunately, they do not receive a proper response from the world.

The people of Palestine are proud that Allah the Exalted has given them a great favor by helping them to shoulder the great responsibility of defending this Holy Land and Masjid al-Aqsa. The people of Palestine have no option other than keeping the flames of fighting alight by relying on Allah the Exalted and by relying on their innate capabilities, as they have genuinely done so until today. The intifada that has begun for the third time in the occupied lands, is subject to more suppression than the previous two, but it is still moving forward in a bright and hopeful manner. And by Allah's permission, we will see that this intifada will begin a very important chapter in the history of fighting and that it will inflict another defeat on that usurping regime.

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## Bahrain Approves Military Trials for Civilians

DUBAI (Dispatches) -- Bahraini lawmakers voted Tuesday to change the constitution to allow civilians to be tried in military courts, further empowering its security forces amid a crackdown on dissent at level unseen since its 2011 Arab Spring protests. The decision by the 40-seat Council of Representatives, the lower house of the tiny Persian Gulf nation's National Assembly, comes after a royal decree a month ago restored the power of its domestic spy service to make some arrests. Limiting the power of the National Security Agency was a key reform recommended after authorities put down the 2011 demonstrations. Activists immediately decried the vote.

limitations on who military courts can try. During the council's session, Brig. Gen. Yussef Rashid Flaifel, the head of the country's military courts, told lawmakers the change is needed as the nation is "fighting terrorism."

Lawmakers voted 31-1 to pass the constitutional amendment, with three members on hand not voting. The bill now heads to the 40-member Consultative Council, a body appointed by Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Bahrain, a predominantly Shia island off the coast of Saudi Arabia that's ruled by a monarchy, is home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet and an under-construction British naval base. Regime forces, with help from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, crushed the 2011 uprising by Shias and others who sought political reform.

Independent news gathering on the island has grown more difficult since the regime began a crackdown on dissent in April. Activists have been expelled or imprisoned, and the

main Shia opposition group has been dismantled. Low-level unrest that's plagued Bahrain since the protests has increased.

In January, Bahrain executed three men found guilty of a deadly bomb attack on police. Activists allege that testimony used against the condemned men was obtained through torture.

Protesters meanwhile demonstrated against the death Monday of 22-year-old Abdullah al-Ajooz. Al-Jooz had escaped from prison in June while serving a life sentence on charges including attempted murder, premeditated murder and bomb making.

Bahrain's Interior Ministry said al-Jooz "tried to escape" during his arrest and fell from a home, suffering injuries that caused his death. However, activists questioned that account as the home al-Jooz fell from was only two stories tall.

The protests gave way to clashes with police that activists said wounded some youths.

## Germany to Increase Troops to About 200,000

BERLIN (Dispatches) -- Germany is to increase its army by 5,000 soldiers, the defense ministry said Tuesday, bringing the total to 198,000 in 2024, at a time when U.S. pressure is mounting on European NATO members to raise military spending.

"The German army faces demands like never before," Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said in a statement, adding that the army had to be able to respond in an appropriate way to developments abroad and security concerns.

Germany, reluctant for decades after World War II to get involved in military

missions abroad, has in the last few years become more active in supporting international deployments such as in Afghanistan, Mali and against Daesh militants.

In January, Germany sent a battlegroup of more than 1,000 to Lithuania as part of a NATO mission to protect its eastern border with Russia in response to its annexation of Crimea and its support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

On top of the 5,000 extra soldiers, Germany is also adding 1,000 civilian posts and about 500 reserves.

The increase, long flagged by von

der Leyen, comes at a time when U.S. President Donald Trump is pushing NATO members, especially from Europe, to raise their military spending.

The defense alliance in 2014 agreed to end years of defense cuts and meet a target of spending 2 percent of economic output on defense by 2024. German defense spending is currently at 1.22 percent.

A defense ministry spokeswoman said provided the plan goes ahead, the increase would mean additional costs of about 955 million euros (\$1.01 billion) per year from 2024.