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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

Death of a War Criminal

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Former Israeli president Shimon Peres, who is responsible for the massacre of almost 4,000 Palestinians, has died after two weeks of illness following a stroke.

The war criminal held numerous official positions in the Zionist regime during his seven decades of political life. He served as president (2007-2014) and as the regime's premier and military chief.

Under Peres, nearly 4,000 Palestinian lives were lost during two wars launched by the Israeli regime between 2007 and 2014. In the second war, which began on July 8, 2014 and ended on August 26, some 11,100 people – including women and children – were also injured.

That all this massacre was deliberate is beyond dispute. What's tragic is that war criminals like Peres were never brought to justice in The Hague – despite damning evidence, reports and testimonies from many Israeli soldiers who confirm that not only did they deliberately kill civilians, but that they were explicitly ordered to do so, particularly in Gaza.

According to these reports, civilian infrastructure, homes, schools and hospitals were deliberately attacked without any clear operational justification: "Israeli troops were ordered to shoot people on sight. They shelled homes and reduced neighbourhoods to rubble as part of a deliberate policy of force protection that cost the lives of Palestinian civilians."

It's all the reason why the International Criminal Court in The Hague should still step in to investigate. There is another clear reason for this too: Amid talk of Israeli soldiers ordered to deliberately murder Gaza civilians, Israeli army commanders talk up an even bigger civilian toll in the third war.

Along similar lines, the United Nations and numerous human rights organizations and aid groups have equally exposed Israeli war crimes committed during the previous wars. They say Israel deliberately defied, and continues to defy, international law, adding that the world community should hold Israel accountable for war crimes.

However, like Peres, no Israeli soldiers, commanders or politicians have ever been held accountable for their war crimes. The Israeli regime has resisted international human rights investigations, from Amnesty International and the United Nations to the International Criminal Court in The Hague – thanks largely to America's vetoes and unconditional support at the UN Security Council.

Before it's too late and before more Israeli war criminals like Shimon Peres and Ariel Sharon die, international law dictates that these world bodies are still duty-bound to at least investigate the Israeli soldiers' testimonies and those of human rights groups to ensure veracity and justice for the long-suffering people of Palestine.

It is well past time for a more robust and transparent investigation and outside review about the Israeli war crimes in the two wars. That's the only way to move forward and prevent Israel from committing similar systematic war crimes in the future.

Nuclear Safety Accord Signed With Swiss

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran and Switzerland have signed an agreement in the Austrian capital, Vienna, foreseeing bilateral cooperation in the area of nuclear safety.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by the countries' respective top nuclear safety officials at the permanent mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations office and other international organizations in Vienna, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

"The agreement has been signed following Iran's nuclear deal with the P5+1 group," said Nasser

Rastkhah, the head of Iran's Nuclear Safety System Center, who put his signature to the accord alongside Hans Wanner, the director general of the Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate.

In July 2015, Iran and the P5+1 group, namely Russia, China, France, Britain, the U.S. and Germany, signed a landmark nuclear deal, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The deal, which came into force in January, envisaged Tehran scaling back its nuclear program in return for the lifting of all anti-Iran nuclear-

Zarif Holds Talks With Turkish PM in Ankara



Iranian FM Muhammad Javad Zarif, right, meets with Turkish PM Binali Yildirim, center, with Turkish FM Mevlut Cavusoglu, right, also in attendance in Ankara, Sept. 28, 2016.

ANKARA (Dispatches) -- Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif Wednesday visited Ankara for his third set of talks with top Turkish officials in less than one-and-a-half-months despite standing on opposite

sides of the Syria conflict, sources said.

Zarif met with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu in an unscheduled trip to Ankara on his way back to Tehran from a visit

to New York for the UN General Assembly, a Turkish diplomatic source told AFP.

They discussed bilateral and regional issues, including the Syrian conflict, the source added.

Zarif was later due to meet with Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, the premier's office said.

Iran and Turkey stand on two opposing sides of the conflict in neighboring Syria, with Tehran one of the allies of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, while Ankara backing militants fighting for his ouster.

Turkey has launched an unprecedented incursion Syria and

UAE, Bahraini Accusations 'Baseless'

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran has dismissed as "baseless and absurd" the Emirati foreign minister's allegations that Tehran is fueling regional insecurity, saying such remarks come despite Abu Dhabi's deadly bombing campaign against Yemeni civilians.

Abbas Yazdani, the first secretary of the permanent mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, made the comments in an address to the world body's General Assembly.

"It is absurd and hypocritical for the official of a country whose jet fighters are bombing innocent civilians in Yemen to accuse Iran of interfering in domestic affairs of other countries," said Yazdani.

Abu Dhabi has joined Saudi Arabia in its deadly war on Yemen, which has claimed about 10,000 lives since its onset in March 2015.

He went on to say, "It is also farcical to witness a regime who, along with some other accomplices, have been exporting a host of extremist, tafkiri ideologies for decades and funding and arming terrorists in Iraq and Syria and in many other places, just to take the floor in the UN to accuse Iran" of trying to stoke tensions.

On September 24, Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan claimed during

the UN General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting that Iran is seeking to undermine regional security since it signed a nuclear agreement with the P5+1 group of countries last year. He also alleged that Iran is sponsoring terrorism.

The minister once again repeated the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) claims to sovereignty over three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, namely Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, calling on Iran to "return them."

Yazdani further slammed the Emirati official for repeating the groundless claims, saying Tehran has repeatedly said "that these islands have been and continue to be part of Iranian territory."

The three Persian Gulf islands have always been part of Iran historically, the proof of which can be found in and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world.

However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid baseless claims to the islands.

The Iranian diplomat further drew a parallel between Al Nahyan's anti-Iran comments and those of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

This "clearly shows that how their two respective regimes are coming together, and how the UAE and a few of its partners in the Persian Gulf are now coalescing with the Israelis; a coalition that could only be tantamount to betraying the Palestinian people," Yazdani said.

Yazdani also reacted to similar allegations by Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifah on September 27 that Iran is attempting to jeopardize the tiny Persian Gulf kingdom's security and social peace.

He described the claims as "an obvious lie."

The Iranian diplomat stressed that Tehran has always made efforts towards easing tensions in the Middle East, and seeking friendly relations with its neighbors, including the Persian Gulf states.

The Holy Qur'an

And those who built a masjid to cause harm and for unbelief and to cause disunion among the believers and an ambush to him who made war against Allah and His Apostle before; and they will certainly swear: We did not desire aught but good; and Allah bears witness that they are most surely liars.
The Holy Qur'an (9.07)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:54
Evening (Maghreb)	18:09
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:35
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:58

is also pressing for what it describes as a safe zone inside its war-torn neighbor.

Despite the differences over Syria — and Ankara's increasingly close relationship with Saudi Arabia — the two countries have worked hard in the last months to preserve a strong relationship.

The visit comes amid a flurry of diplomatic contacts between Turkey and Iran since the summer in the wake of the July 15 failed coup.

Tehran was swift to voice support for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after the attempted coup, winning praise from Ankara for its rapid reaction.

Cavusoglu made a surprise visit to Tehran in mid-August, after Zarif held talks in the Turkish capital the same month.

Press Digest

Legal Negotiations

KAYHAN: Majlis speaker says the government can only negotiate FATF membership within the framework of domestic rules and regulations. Iran can only join the trade regime based on three laws ratified at the parliament. They include the law to fight money laundering and terrorism. There should also be some considerations when there is a decision to join the FATF.

Lack of Transparency

VATAN EMROOZ: According to the Central Bank chief, the Americans have not been transparent in their implementation of the nuclear deal. They are way off the line to claim that they have met their end of the bargain. Most of those commitments are yet to be fully implemented. From one hand they tell their banks to do business with Iran. On the other, they threaten them with financial penalties if they do so. This is not what they call transparency.

Motion Picture Politics

SIASAT ROOZ: The U.S. makes war films to show that there is no remorse in its regional wars. Then there are films in which aliens attack the United States and people are allowed to take up arms and fight back in defense. The same films don't give such a right to the women and children of other nations. The people of the countries that the U.S. invades and attacks have no right to defend themselves. They even call their murderous soldiers war heroes in such films.

Successful Operations

RAJA NEWS: Iranian armed forces have carried out countless military operations abroad, with great success in places like Iraq and Syria. As a consequence, the nation lives at peace. Iran is located in one of the most volatile regions in the world, under constant threat from the U.S., Israel, and ISIL terrorist groups. Our armed forces have successfully managed to deal with these threats.