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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

Palestinian Prisoners' Day

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

April 17 marked the Palestinian Prisoners' Day. It also marked the Zionist regime's never-ending abusive treatment of hundreds of Palestinian children still locked up in Israeli jails in violation of basic human rights.

As we speak, many Palestinian prisoners are still on hunger strike in protest against decades of arbitrary arrest and inhumane treatment by the regime. Approximately 6,300 Palestinians are currently held in Israeli prisons and detention centers on vague charges, including 300 children.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) says children are often coerced into signing confessions in Hebrew without understanding the language or content of the statement. The most common charge for children is stone-throwing, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 to 20 years!

Such harsh sentences are used because the world community is still looking the other way. This is while this year also marks 50 years that the Palestinians have lived without freedom, equality, or basic rights. However, the mistreatment of children by the Zionist regime runs counter to international human rights law and international Humanitarian Law, which mandates that "countries have a distinct juvenile-justice system that recognizes the special status of children, protects minors from violence, and focuses on rehabilitation and reintegration."

In the prevailing environment, the conclusion has to be this: The ongoing U.S.-led war on Syria is deliberate. It is deliberately designed to change for the worse the landscape around the Palestinian people's right to freedom and self-determination. The whole idea is to keep the resistance front busy fighting America's terror proxies in Iraq and Syria. This way no one would ever care for the Palestinians and their legitimate struggle for freedom and self-determination, much less force the UN to end Tel Aviv's systematic human rights violations, including those against children.

There is no denying that the situation on the ground is getting deliberately grimmer for the Palestinians because the world body is too busy blaming the Syrian government for staged chemical attacks being carried out by America's terror proxies against the Syrian people. The world body is also too busy with President Trump's runs against North Korea to do anything that could help protect the rights of all Palestinians, much less hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law and international human rights law.

In any event, the treatment with Palestine is not acceptable. Several anti-Israel resolutions have been passed by the UN to condemn Israeli crimes in occupied Palestine, yet they have all been vetoed by Washington, adding to the pains and problems of Palestinians. This is while all of the reports published by the UN Human Rights Council, Amnesty International, and many other human rights organizations have censured Tel Aviv for its irrefutable crimes and human rights violations.

The United Nations still has some potential for valid exercise of discourse and diplomacy, and only through the implementation of such reforms will there be any hope for the Palestinian people and international peace and justice. Else, the world body will remain, as always, a silent witness and partner to the unending bloodshed and injustice across the globe, principally in occupied Palestine, Yemen, and Syria.

Iranian-Americans Challenge U.S. Travel Ban in Court



Demonstrators march to Downing Street, as they protest against U.S. President Donald Trump's travel ban, in London, February 4, 2017.

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Iranian - Americans on Tuesday set to present in-person testimonies in a case against U.S. President Donald Trump's contentious executive order banning travel from six Muslim-majority countries.

The testimonies were given to

Judge Tanya S. Chutkan of the U.S. District Court in Washington, Politico news website reported.

Denouncing the U.S. travel ban as counterproductive, the plaintiffs detailed how Iranian students, medical researchers, and others could be disproportionately hurt by

the measure.

"It was a dagger in my heart as someone of Iranian-American heritage," said Cyrus Mehri, a civil rights attorney who is leading the litigation. "I really saw it as a flash point for this diaspora, over half a million strong, that has done so much to contribute to this country and is now in such danger of being potential scapegoats."

Most of the plaintiffs said were using pseudonyms in their court papers amid fears of reprisal from the U.S. administration.

Iran to Deploy 20,000 Police on Election Day

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Twenty-thousand Iranian special police forces will be providing security on the day of the presidential election in Iran, a police commander has announced.

Hossein Karami, the commander of the special units of the Iranian police force, said that efforts had long been underway to ensure that the May 19 polls would be held in an "atmosphere of security and order."

To that end, 20,000 special police

forces would be deployed across the country on election day, according to Karami.

He said the base's capacity in terms of personnel and matériel had been expanded threefold as part of the efforts to provide security on election day.

Iran will be holding its 12th presidential election on May 19. Elections for the 5th city and village councils will also be held on the same day.

Ex-IRGC Commander: U.S. Seeking to Revive Lost Role in Syria

TEHRAN (Fars) - Secretary of Iran's Expediency Council and former IRGC commander Mohsen Rezaee on Tuesday warned of the United States' enhanced operations in the region, saying that Washington is reinvigorating its military presence to revive its lost role in Syria.

"The Americans are after stronger role in the crisis in Syria and their activities in the region have increased, although they are not as active as they were during the Bush era," Rezaee said.

He also warned that the White House is attempting to cut Iran's relations with Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, but meantime underlined that their attempts

would lead to nowhere.

Elsewhere, Rezaee said that one of the problems existing between Tehran and Washington arises from the fact that President Hassan Rouhani and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump don't comprehend each other.

On April 7, the United States launched 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at the Syrian military airfield in Shayrat near the city of Homs.

Donald Trump said the attack was a response to the alleged chemical weapon use in Syria's Idlib on April 4, which Washington blames on the Syrian government.

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The Holy Qur'an

Then Allah sent down His tranquillity upon His Apostle and upon the believers, and sent down hosts which you did not see, and chastised those who disbelieved, and that is the reward of the unbelievers.

The Holy Qur'an (9:26)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:04
Evening (Maghreb)	19:58
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:55
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:24

Trump signed the executive order in late January, originally placing a 90-day travel ban on people from Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Iraq, and Yemen and a 120-day ban on any refugees. Iraq was removed from the list in a revised version of the ban on March 6.

The January order was blocked by a judge in Seattle amid mass protests worldwide.

The March 6 visa ban has also been put on hold due to court rulings in Maryland and Hawaii, which found the measure was likely unconstitutional and tainted by anti-Muslim bias.

U.S. State Department figures show that Iranians have received more than half of the U.S. visas issued to passport holders from the six countries over the past two years.

Press Digest

Election Dialog

KAYHAN: One month before the presidential race and we all can see that there are two different dialogs and mandates for candidates. From one hand, a group seeks to maintain the current situation and the status quo. They are of the opinion that if the situation continues they could fix the existing problems in the economy. The administration of Rouhani belongs to this group. His vice president Jahangiri and Muhammad Hashemi are at the forefront of this campaign.

Facts and Figures

RESALAT: President Rouhani doesn't know anything about the existing facts and figures in the economy. So he seeks the counsel of his vice president Jahangiri. The problem is people from all walks of life are trying to distance themselves from the current administration. Some 60 percent of people are not happy about the current situation. They believe things are getting worse, and they are not happy particularly with the president, which is unprecedented. Even government supporters are unable to defend it in this respect.

Imports Ban

AFTAB: The government seeks to ban the imports of some 700 goods that are being produced within the country. The parliament and the government representatives have consent on this important issue. In line with the Leader's recommendations, they plan to ban the imports of goods that are also being produced domestically. The government now has full authority to implement the law which is designed to protect domestic jobs.

Clueless President

VATAN EMROOZ: Things are not good for the government. President Rouhani is also unable to control the situation. That his vice president Jahangiri is also running for president is further proof that Rouhani is not confident whether he could win the upcoming race. No one has any doubt that Jahangiri's presence in the race doesn't have any justification. What purpose is he going to serve? Is he a rival or a supporter of Rouhani's campaign? The answer is clear: The government is not in good shape and Rouhani doesn't have a clue!