

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

Would the OIC Communique Change Realities on the Ground?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

The communique released in Istanbul yesterday at the end of the extraordinary summit of the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), although it declared the Zionist occupied Islamic holy city of Bayt al-Moqaddas as the capital of the Palestine state that still does not exist, and ruled as "null, void and violation of international laws" the decision of the quixotic US president, Donald Trump, to shift the American embassy to that particular city which he roguishly called "Israel's capital", it did nothing to change the realities on the ground in Palestine proper or practical measures to mobilize world Muslims for its liberation.

The speech of Iran's President Hojjat al-Islam Dr. Hassan Rouhani, including his emphasis on unity, cooperation and dialogue among Muslim states without any pre-conditions to resolve differences, and the fact that it was the secret dealings of certain OIC member states with the illegal Zionist entity that emboldened the US to make its criminal move, was impressive and drew applause from the audience.

The host, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for his part, delivered a fiery speech by calling, for the first time, the Zionist entity as a "terror state", and saying the US has forfeited all claims to be a mediator for resolving the chronic question of Palestine.

But, as said above, how will the equations change in the Zionist usurped land of Palestine which since the past seven decades has been reeling under the jackboots of the illegal Zionist migrants from Europe, who have no connection whatsoever to the land which the British occupiers gifted to them as "Israel" and where not only the Islamic heritage is being erased but also the legacy of Christianity.

Irrespective of the absence of the Saudi ruler or his self-imposed heir at the OIC summit – the duo is known as bosom friends of the US and Israel and their pictures are being burned almost daily by Palestinians for treason against Islam's first qibla – there were many participants at Istanbul who are unwilling to go beyond rhetoric because of their unequal relationship with Washington.

For the sake of Islamic unity, we won't name the said countries or their pro-American rulers, but it is a fact that they were in Turkey for courtesy's sake and will never sever or downgrade their ties with the US, for obvious reasons.

So what sense does the phrase in the OIC communique of "holding Trump's administration liable for all the consequences of not retracting from this illegal decision", make?

There was no mention of providing any economic aid to Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and Bayt al-Moqaddas, who are daily being targeted by the police and military forces of Israel, let alone discussions on serious military measures to end their plight.

In such a case what impact will the OIC Summit, although it was a welcome development and showed the resolve among Muslim states to keep the issue of Palestine, make in international circles?

If OIC is not the appropriate forum for openly discussing such topics, then the officials of those Muslim states serious on supporting the Palestinians by all means, should get together for exclusive talks, similar to the measures taken over a quarter century earlier by Iran and a few conscious Islamic countries to bolster the defences of the oppressed Bosnian Muslims in the fight against the Serb aggressors.

It paid dividends then, and should do it now in the case of Palestine, the moment the world of Islam is ready to resolve its differences and put up a united force – not for bombarding Yemen or meddling in the internal affairs of independent anti-US and anti-Zionist states.

It is about time the Muslim World awakened to the realities and took action to change the equations on the ground in the occupied land of Palestine.

Leader's Aide: U.S. Presence in Mideast Not Justified



Ali-Akbar Velayti addresses a ceremony in the northwestern city of Tabriz on Dec. 12, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- A top advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says there is no justification for the presence of the United States in the Middle East region.

Ali-Akbar Velayti said Wednesday Washington's key cronies to trigger tension in the Middle East region are gone.

"The Americans, like it or not, should leave the region, too. There is no reason for the U.S. to be present in this region. This region belongs to its people," said Velayti in an interview with the Persian-language Tasnim News Agency.

He said those who are supposed to be present in West Asia either must be from that region or must be invited by the legitimate governments of countries in the region.

"Iran is present in Iraq and Syria with an advisory role at the request of the governments of those countries," he said.

He said the Americans are not invited to the region and that they are seeking domination

through force and hegemony.

"The U.S. currently seeks to reignite chaos both in Syria and Iraq, especially in Raqqah," he said.

"Definitely, the Syrian government and people together with the resistance front will drive the Americans away from the areas they have occupied in Syria with humiliation," Velayti noted.

The top official also touched upon U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to relocate the American embassy in Occupied Palestine from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem Al-Quds.

"Trump's move has put a spark to the powder keg of sentiments and religious beliefs of the Muslim world," said Velayati.

"No move could have been worse than what the U.S.

Iran Ready to Help End Yemen 'Nightmare'

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said Wednesday Iran said ready to help end the ongoing "nightmare" in Yemen.

"Ending the nightmare that is the war in Yemen is our collective responsibility," Zarif said in a tweet. "We welcome the growing recognition that there is no military solution," he went on to say.

The Islamic Republic is "ready to contribute to any effort towards an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian assistance and intra-Yemeni dialogue," he added.

Zarif had earlier urged the UN to consider and implement a four-point plan he proposed in April 2015 right after Saudi Arabia launched a war on Yemen.

The plan calls for "ceasefire

and immediate end to all military operations; unimpeded urgent humanitarian and medical assistance to the people of Yemen; resumption of Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned national dialogue, with the participation of the representatives of all political parties and social groups and establishment of an inclusive national unity government."

At Least 18 Injured in New Quakes in Kerman

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's southeastern province of Kerman was hit by multiple strong quakes on Tuesday and Wednesday, injuring at least 18 people and damaging some 20 houses, state media reported.

The first quake of magnitude 5.9 struck on Tuesday morning 56 km north of Kerman, a city with a population of more than 820,000.

The tremor, initially reported as a magnitude 6.2 before it was revised downward, was followed by dozens of smaller aftershocks.

During the night, early on Wednesday, a stronger quake of magnitude 6.0 struck the same area. It was shallower - only 10 km deep, which would have amplified the shaking.

Officials said the second quake which struck during the night had not caused any damage.

No deaths were caused by the first earthquake, which hit in late morning on Tuesday, but it left at least 18 people injured.

Pictures showed groups of people standing in streets in the quake zone, fearing the collapse of buildings. The 20 damaged buildings were mostly older structures, reports said. The pictures showed collapsed mud brick walls.

On Monday, another quake with the magnitude of 6.0 hit western Iran, in the same region where a magnitude 7.3 earthquake killed at least 530 people last month. There have been no reports of deaths or injuries from Monday's quake.

The Holy Qur'an

On the day when the earth shall be changed into a different earth, and the heavens (as well), and they shall come forth before Allah, the One, the Supreme. And you will see the guilty on that day linked together in chains. Their shirts made of pitch and the fire covering their faces hat Allah may requite each soul (according to) what it has earned; surely Allah is swift in reckoning.

The Holy Qur'an (14.51)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:59
Evening (Maghreb)	17:12
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:37
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:06

president did. The previous (U.S.) president didn't dare relocate Israel's capital to Al-Quds. Such a move needed someone whose decisions are not that wise, and Trump did it," said Velayati.

He said it is right that Jerusalem Al-Quds has been desecrated, and that the Americans want to relocate their embassy to that city, but they should know that, from now on, Muslims, especially Palestinians and their supporters, will not allow Zionists and their American backers to get away with it.

Iran's Interior Minister:

Daesh Seeking Recruits in New Regions

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iran's interior minister has called for collective efforts to prevent Takfiri terrorists from recruiting forces in new areas after their defeat in Syria and Iraq.

Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said the defeat of terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq has prompted them to extend their operations to other countries.

"Terrorists are seeking to recruit forces in some new regions and make those areas a hotbed of their activities," he told reporters here.

The minister underlined Iran's resolve to continue its unrelenting fight against terrorism as he touched on the country's counterterrorism cooperation with Iraq, Turkey, Syria, Pakistan,

Russia and Afghanistan.

Iran, he said, is closely monitoring the activities of terrorist groups, including Al-Qaeda and Daesh.

In separate comments, Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alawi warned about Daesh's attempts to establish a self-proclaimed caliphate in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan after being flushed out of Iraq and Syria.

The Takfiri terrorists were driven out of their last stronghold in Syria's Al-Bukamal last month.

Daesh militants made swift advances in northern and western Iraq over the summer of 2014, after capturing large areas of Syria.