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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Saudi Arabia's Sordid Human Rights Record

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

It is being said in international circles that of late human rights violations in Saudi Arabia have reached rock-bottom, as if previously there was respect for the rights of people in the fiefdom Britain created in 1932 for the desert brigand of Najd, Abdul-Aziz Aal-e Saud, seven years after he shed torrents of Muslim blood during his occupation of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, as well as of Ta'ef and Jeddah.

Tuesday's report by an American medical examiner in New York of alleged suicide of two young Saudi girls last October, less than a month after a Saudi female teenager made world headlines by barricading herself at Bangkok airport and then ending up as asylum seeker in Canada, is being fiercely debated.

No one in his right mind believes that Rotana Farea, 22, and her sister Tala, 16, whose bodies were found beside the Hudson River with no visible signs of trauma but tied together at the ankles and waist by duct tape, had committed suicide.

Observers believe it was foul play and possible involvement of Saudi agents in their obvious murder, especially since they had spoken of courting death rather than return to Saudi Arabia.

The regime in Riyadh which brutally dismembered journalist Jamal Khashoqchi alive in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, on the direct orders of the notorious Heir Apparent Mohamed bin Salman (MBS) – who imposed the destructive war on Yemen and violated all diplomatic norms by physically thrashing Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'd al-Hariri – is capable of committing all crimes against humanity.

Those in doubt should focus on the macabre murders of the innocent people by the Takfiri terrorists in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and elsewhere by these devils in human form created by Saudi Arabia.

This means 18-year Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun, who succeeded in being granted asylum in Toronto, does not lie when she says that she might certainly be killed if she returns home, and that more and more women and teenaged girls intend to escape from the prison called Saudi Arabia, where there is no respect for human rights, especially of women.

Many women have been languishing behind bars for no apparent fault except for calling for freedom from the repressive Wahhabi regime.

Among the prominent detainees is Israa al-Ghomgham, who is the first Saudi woman to possibly face the death penalty for rights-related work. Charges against her include incitement to protest and providing moral support to rioters.

Ghomgham is a prominent Shi'a Muslim activist who documented mass demonstrations in the Eastern Province starting in 2011. She was arrested from her home in December 2015 along with her husband, and both of them are in prison.

The support by Washington for Riyadh is understandable in view of the criminal nature of President Donald Trump, but it is indeed a matter of regret that the UN which for political reasons alleges violation of human rights in independent countries, has turned a blind eye to the crimes against humanity in Saudi Arabia.

It is time Saudi Arabia should be taken to task for its human rights violations which will not end as is the situation in Yemen which is being daily bombarded by the Saudi and where people are facing famine and diseases.

Russia Sides With Iran in Condemning U.S. Summit



Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia speaks during a Security Council meeting at United Nations headquarters on April 14, 2018.

UNITED NATIONS — The United States has said a conference on the Middle East next month is not aimed at demonizing Iran, which has denounced the gathering as America's anti-Iran "circus."

U.S. deputy ambassador Jonathan Cohen told the Security Council that the conference in Warsaw on Feb. 13-14 sponsored by the United States and Poland is also not aimed at discussing the merits of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal known as the JCPOA, which U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from in 2018.

He called the ministerial meeting a brainstorming session to "develop the outline of a stronger security architecture" in the Mideast with sessions on the humanitarian crises in Syria and Yemen, missile development, extremism and cybersecurity.

Cohen's comments followed complaints from Iran directed at Poland for co-hosting the conference and a tweet by Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif denouncing it as a U.S. anti-Iran "circus." Poland's Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz said in remarks published Monday that Iran wasn't in-

vited and Russia would not attend.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the Security Council later that Moscow would like to believe the conference isn't just aimed at one country. He then asked: "Why has that conference not invited Iran, which is one of the most significant and large countries in the region?"

"Attempts to create some kind of military alliances in the region, holding different conferences and focusing on having a simplified unilateral approach to the region that is clearly linked just to Iran, is counterproductive," he said, "and just pushes further away the prospects of finding a genuine security architecture for the region."

Nebenzia also asked how it's possible to have "a genuine architecture without solving the Palestinian issue." He reiterated Russia's offer to host talks between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, stressing that this is the only way to solve so-called final status issues.

Looking ahead to the Warsaw conference, Cohen claimed that there would be "a more productive

approach" than the Security Council's monthly Mideast meetings focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"It's also important to state clearly what this ministerial (conference) is not: It is not a forum to re-litigate the merits of the JCPOA. While we've made our concerns with the JCPOA clear, we respect other states' decisions to support it," the U.S. envoy said. "It is also not a venue to demonize or attack Iran."

But he said the conference will acknowledge the need for action against Iran's missile program, Hezbollah's alleged tunnels from Lebanon into Occupied Palestine, and the "unacceptably provocative act by the Iranian and Syrian" government in allegedly launching a rocket from Syria at the Zionist regime over the weekend.

Pompeo, who recently completed a Mideast tour bringing the Trump administration's anti-Iran message to the region, said Sunday in Qatar, "We'll work on many issues including how it is we can get the Islamic Republic of Iran to behave more like a normal nation."

Iranian Ambassador: U.S. Has Rendered UN Ineffective

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- Iran's Ambassador to the UN Es'haq Al-e Habib has denounced the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Palestine, saying the U.S. has rendered the United Nations impotent to support the Palestinians.

The Iranian ambassador touched on the impunity of the occupying regime of Israel impunity, saying "now the only option is to put an end to such impunity through holding Israel accountable for their crimes against the Palestinians."

"This can ensure the application of law and deter its future violation," he said.

According to Al-e Habib, more than 295 Palestinian civilians have brutally been killed and over 29,000 others injured by Israel recently.

Many of those killed and about 7,000 of those injured were under 18 years of age, he said. "This proves that Israel is a child-killer regime. This is a clear manifestation of war crimes and crime against humanity."

In 2018, he said, more Palestinian homes were demolished and more illegal Israeli settlements were built in blatant violation of international law.

"There are yet new plans to demolish more Palestinian homes, to confiscate more Palestinian lands and to build more illegal Israeli settlements. This means the forced displacement of even more Palestinian families," he said.

According to Al-e Habib, Israel last year "also aggravated its decade-long illegal inhumane blockade on Gaza, the continuation of which will drastically deteriorate the already grave humanitarian situation."

He further touched on a law enacted by the Zionist

regime to ensure Jewish supremacy in the occupied territories, saying the move amounts to legalizing racism.

"Very recently, it inaugurated an apartheid highway that features a large concrete wall, one side of which is open to Israeli vehicles only and the other side to Palestinian vehicles only. Not surprising!" he added.

Al-e Habib said racism is in the very nature of the Israeli regime. "First, they constructed a racial segregation wall, then enacted a racial discrimination law, and have now constructed an apartheid highway."

"Extremely shameful! This must be condemned in the strongest possible terms," he said.

The Iranian ambassador said, "We should also strongly reject and condemn the recognition of Al-Quds Al-Sharif as the Israeli capital, as well as the continued occupation of parts of Lebanon and the Syrian Golan by Israel."

Al-e Habib then raised the oft-asked question about the systematic violation of Palestinians' inherent rights which has continued unabated over the past 70 years and offered his answer.

"It is simple: through shielding Israel, the U.S. has rendered this Council absolutely ineffective, with respect to Israel," he said, adding Washington's strong support for Tel Aviv has made it possible for Israel to ignore the rights of Palestinians.

"Consequently, Israel has been emboldened by impunity. Instead of facing punishment, it has been rewarded to continuously and brazenly commit all international crimes," the Iranian ambassador said.

(Continued on Page 7)

The Holy Qur'an



Whether thou ask for their forgiveness, or not, if thou ask seventy times for their forgiveness, Allah will not forgive them: because they have rejected Allah and His Messenger: and Allah guideth not those who are perversely rebellious.

The Holy Qur'an (9:80)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:16
Evening (Maghreb)	17:42
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:43
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	07:10

U.S. Continues to Detain Journalist to Pressure Iran

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – The staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) protested outside the UN office in Tehran Wednesday to demand the immediate release of Press TV anchor Marziyeh Hashemi who is held by the U.S.

IRIB World Service Director Peyman Jebelli said the U.S. government's arrest of Hashemi "for no reason" amounted to "a kind of kidnapping". Jebelli said the U.S. was suing Hashemi to pressure the Islamic Republic, denouncing it unacceptable.

Hashemi was "paying the price for being actually the voice of the voiceless," Press TV website Director Habib Abdolhussein said.

The protest came a day after Iran formally protested the FBI's arrest of the American newscaster and her family said rallies in Washington and elsewhere were planned if she was not freed.

Hashemi has been held for more than a week as a material witness in an unspecified criminal case and has appeared before a grand jury in Washington twice. She has not been charged with a crime.

Iranian officials have denounced the arrest as a provocative new irritant in the tense relationship between Iran and the United States, which has worsened since the Trump administration renounced the Iranian nuclear agreement last May and reimposed severe sanctions on the country.

Hashemi, 59, who has lived in Iran for more than a decade and travels back to the United States sometimes to visit family members, was arrested Jan. 13 in St. Louis and transferred by the FBI to Washington.

Under American law, witnesses can be arrested if the government can show that their testimony is "material to a criminal proceeding" and that they might flee. The law generally requires the release of such witnesses after their testimony is completed.

One of Hashemi's children, (Continued on Page 7)