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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

100 Years to Rebuild Blockaded Gaza!

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

First they said it would take 50 years to rebuild the vital structures of blockaded Gaza Strip. Now Oxfam International, the United Nations and several other aid agencies warn it could take 100 years!

This should come as no surprise. As maintained here last year, Egypt, Israel and their Western cohorts are turning Gaza into the biggest prison on earth and it is official. As per the despicable conspiracy, Egypt's military junta is leveling the Rafah border area and its entire neighborhood to build a "buffer zone" with the besieged city - where roads, schools, hospitals, mosques and the electricity and water plants are still in ruins because of last year's war.

To this end, the border – the only way out - has been effectively shut down, preventing any construction materials from getting in. The international aid money – if any – is also being held by the Zionist regime and the Palestinian Authority, which means Gazans don't have any access to foreign aid.

Cairo might claim otherwise; that it is building the "buffer zone" to keep militants in Sinai out. But the fact is this: The systematic measures are being taken to further the isolation of Gaza, use Sinai as a platform for political opportunities to be exploited, and reassert the relevance of the Egyptian army and its annual US budget. The ultimate goal is to make the enforcement of Zionist occupation far more efficient.

No wonder Oxfam warns it may take a century to rebuild the enclave. It is evident that the "buffer zone" is not being built to facilitate reconstruction efforts. Quite the opposite, it seeks to ensure that international reconstruction and aid efforts will fail and Palestinians will never be able to continue to fight for survival amid deteriorating conditions.

In the words of Oxfam: Bearing the brunt of this systematic suffering are the most vulnerable, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, women and nearly one million children, who have experienced unimaginable suffering in three major conflicts in six years. Children lack access to quality education, with over 400,000 of them in need of immediate psychosocial support.

It is about time to stop the illegal construction of the "buffer zone". That's the only way to ensure Palestinians can rebuild their lives. It is utterly deplorable that the international community is refusing to do so - failing the people of Gaza when they need it most. The dire situation will never change if Western countries and world bodies continue to be complicit in the new Cairo-Tel Aviv conspiracy.

Under international law, the civil society has a duty to speak out and call for punitive measures and boycotts against Egypt and Israel. It's the only way to force them to end the illegal siege. After all, they carry on the way they do because of the complicity of international community.

Ex-Mossad Chief Slams Netanyahu on Iran

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- A former chief of the occupying regime of Israel's spy agency Mossad has criticized Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of the Iranian nuclear issue.

Ahead of Netanyahu's contentious speech to U.S. Congress, Meir Dagan said that "the person who has caused the greatest strategic damage to Israel on the Iranian issue is the prime minister".

Dagan has been a fierce critic of Netanyahu's approach to Iran, emerging as a key opponent of Zionist military attack threats against its nuclear facilities.

He said Netanyahu's trip to Washington, over White House objections, is pointless and counterproductive.

Dagan directed the Mossad from 2002 to 2010, a period when it re-

portedly carried out covert attacks against Iranian nuclear scientists and unleashed cyber-attacks.

His comments come days after a leaked intelligence cable from 2012 revealed a rift between the occupying regime of Israel's top politicians and its intelligence agency over Iran.

Mossad contradicted Netanyahu's warning to the UN General Assembly that Iran was nearing completion of building a nuclear bomb, in the classified document, which was revealed as part of The Spy Cables, a cache of hundreds of intelligence documents leaked to Al Jazeera's investigative unit.

In Occupied Palestine, Netanyahu is being accused of cynically turning the speech into a campaign stop ahead of March 17 elections, insisting on confronting U.S. President Barack Obama to distract from scan-

dals and domestic issues dogging his re-election bid.

The uproar has even pushed aside debate over his key argument that Iran's nuclear capabilities will be left largely intact.

The occupying regime's media and political opponents have lambasted the decision to flout the White House, and even some allies who support Netanyahu's message have criticized the approach.

The U.S. administration is refusing to meet with him and appears to be considering ways of undercutting him.

The White House has already said it was scaling back on the intelligence it typically shares with Israel, some pro-Zionist Democrats are skipping his speech and Jewish American groups have spoken out against the visit.

Iran Mulls Building Small Nuclear Reactors



A general view of a heavy water reactor near Arak in central Iran.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Iran is looking into the development of small nuclear reactors, atomic energy chief Ali Akbar Salehi says.

Salehi has been quoted by Iran's local media as saying that this is a new strategy that could decrease the costs and in turn increase the profits over the utilization of nuclear energy.

"During the recent talks with U.S. negotiators in Geneva, U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said Washington is also looking into this strategy," the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has been quoted as saying by the Persian-language newspaper Ta'adol.

Salehi said the construction of a

1600-megawatt reactor requires an investment of \$15 billion. "This is while the construction of small reactors with a capacity of 50-100 megawatts requires much less investment," he said.

Salehi accompanied Iran's Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif in Iran's high-profile nuclear negotiations in Geneva on Sunday and Monday in which U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Energy Secretary Moniz had also participated.

It was for the first time that Iran

Pakistan Eyes Lifting of Sanctions on Iran

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Islamabad said on Saturday very good progress has been made in the nuclear talks between Iran and the P5+1 over the past one and a half years, expressing optimism about the clinching of a practical deal between the two sides in the near future.

There are many problems and tensions in the region and a good agreement between Iran and the P5+1 countries would be a major step toward settling regional conflicts and woes, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam Khan told IRNA. She added that a practical deal on Iran's nuclear program and removal of sanctions would be a significant opening in the path of economic cooperation, particularly among regional countries.

Islamabad has always emphasized that differences over Iran's nuclear issue should only be solved through negotiations, Aslam Khan said.

She stressed the importance of

concentrating efforts on the settlement of issues instead of adding more regional and international problems.

The spokesperson said serious nuclear negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 countries over the past 18 months indicate that all parties to the negotiations are determined to reach a comprehensive deal.

Political directors from Iran and the P5+1 group's foreign ministries will hold a fresh round of talks about Tehran's nuclear program in Montreux, Switzerland, on March 5, EU spokeswoman, Catherine Ray, said on Friday.

A senior Russian official dismissed Western media reports about Russia's view on a final deal between Iran and the P5+1 group of world powers, saying Moscow has not lost interest in achieving a positive result from negotiations on Iran's nuclear deal. A success in the nuclear talks between Iran and the six countries will be in Russia's best interests, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said.

"We were somewhat alarmed to see speculations in some Western media outlets lately that Russia, for some reasons, is losing interest in the productive completion of the negotiations and has slackened its activity for some irrelevant considerations. This categorically doesn't reflect the reality," Ryabkov told Interfax.

Adding that Russia is interested in playing its "role in favor of a productive completion of the negotiations," he emphasized that everybody should be interested in the faster normalization of the process of negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 countries about Tehran's nuclear program.

"A potential multilateral deal with Iran should not set precedents in the international system negatively," Ryabkov said.

The Holy Qur'an

They have taken a small price for the communications of Allah, so they turn away from His way; surely evil is it that they do.

The Holy Qur'an (9.9)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:16
Evening (Maghreb)	18:17
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:11
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:34

and the U.S. were bringing a nuclear chief and an energy secretary into Iran nuclear talks. Not much has come out on the exact topics of discussions but Iran and the U.S. have already emphasized that some positive steps had been taken during the course of the talks.

Salehi told Iran's media on Thursday that "very useful results" had been obtained during technical negotiations with the U.S. team. He also said some "long steps" had been taken over some key technical issues that had previously hit a deadlock in the course of Iran's nuclear negotiations with the P5+1 group of countries.

Iran and the U.S. will meet again in the Swiss city of Montreux next week to continue discussions that are meant to remove the remaining disputes on the way of a final agreement over the Iranian nuclear energy program.

Press Digest

Accountability

VATAN EMROOZ: Some of the management practices at the market go against the establishment. The question is how the banks are helping the establishment to pursue its policies and plans and whether they have been doing their end of the bargain? Do the Central Bank officials know what exactly the banks are doing right now? Why do they insist on linking their performances to the outcome of the nuclear talks? No enemy will ever come and knock on door to say I have no more excuses. That enemy would be utterly stupid.

American Politics

SIASAT ROOZ: Americans seek a nuclear deal that serves their own illicit interests. They want to stop Iran's nuclear achievements – even if that goes against international law and NPT. The US also shares common interests with the Zionist regime. That's why the nuclear talks have been going for a decade now. The idea is to impose new sanctions and force Tehran into retreat so it would have no choice but sign an unfair and unjust deal.

War of Deceit

RESALAT: Just like the previous wars of deceit, there's a profit to be skimmed by the makers of American cruise missiles, drones and arms in the war on ISIL. They stay in the black while the region suffers. And just like the Western oil and gas companies that are busy buying stolen oil from Iraq and Syria at knock-down prices, their goal is to grab what they can while the grabbing is good.

Bahrain Crackdown

AFTAB: There has been no condemnation of the Bahraini regime by the UN Human Rights Council in connection with the policies that have led to widespread torture and unlawful killings and arrests. The Council has yet to investigate hundreds of cases of torture, some involving deaths in custody, and there has been no investigation for people killed in custody. No authority has ever been convicted of any offense.

Regional Dialogue

HAMSHAHRI: Tehran is not happy to see Russian/Ukrainian people getting killed over territorial disputes. To be sure, Iran is against aggression and will do all it can to ensure stability and peace in the Caucasus, particularly in eastern Ukraine. The new ceasefire is holding and Tehran is happy to see the bloodshed has finally stopped. There are better ways to deal with territorial disputes that taking up arms that will only serve the interests of the pivot-to-Asia cabal.