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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

The World Will Not Forget Nakba

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Every year on May 15, Palestinians and human rights activists all over the world hold demonstrations to commemorate Nakba Day, which marks the anniversary of the forcible eviction of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland by Israel in 1948.

More than 750,000 Palestinians - now estimated to number nearly five million with their descendants - were driven out of their homes on May 14, 1948. Since 1948, the Israeli regime has denied Palestinian refugees the right to return, despite United Nations resolutions (all vetoed by the United States) and international law that upholds people's right to return to their homelands.

It's the perversion of justice and exorbitance of legal authority. The global West, led by the U.S., the Israel lobbyists and certain Arab officialdom are still doing everything they can to force the Palestinian unity government to recognize Israel.

To this end, they have blockaded Gaza altogether. U.S. lawmakers have even advanced a legislation that penalizes international participation in the growing movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel (BDS) for human rights abuses against Palestinians. Under the new law, the U.S. would put pressure on other countries not to engage in BDS against Israel of any kind, including refusal to do business with illegal settlements.

It is said tyranny and anarchy are never far asunder and oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The political groups and factions in Palestine are fully aware that the Israelis will stop at nothing to expand their territories or stop them from returning. That's why they are fighting back.

Their legitimate fight and demand for the right to return, and for equal opportunities and self-determination, is humane and in accordance with each and every human rights book in the world. It should be fully acknowledged and legally backed by each and every human rights organization in the world too. Oppression can only survive through silence.

The good news is that the world has said yes to the BDS campaign. For instance, Norway's largest trade union body has just voted in favor of economic, cultural, and academic boycott of Israel over its treatment of Palestinians. Despite U.S. pressures, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions made the decision at the Congress on Friday, May 12. The Congress is the organization's highest authority and holds its meetings every four years. The Confederation is launching an effort "to achieve an international economic, cultural and academic boycott of Israel."

Indeed, the global boycott serves as an instrument for Palestine to be recognized as state, and to bring an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian land and the Gaza blockade. The right of return for refugees to their homes from where they were forcibly removed cannot be compromised either. It's a right guaranteed by international law and enshrined in UN General Assembly Resolution 194.

International law also says Palestinians have the legal right to fight occupation and they can use force (armed resistance) to achieve their independence. Seeing that:

-The only way to ensure justice for Palestinians is to hope for a change in the world order. The actions of civil societies, conscientious politicians and independent states have not yet changed that balance.

-As a consequence of U.S.-led wars and discord in the Muslim world, Palestinians are suffering. Israel continues to kill Palestinians and steal their lands. The regime has destroyed a nation and the Muslim world is not doing anything about it.

-Israel's war on Gaza showed only through armed resistance will it be possible for Palestinians to secure their freedom.

-Last but not least, a national referendum could help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But until such democracy prevails, armed resistance is the only choice for Palestinians to repel the U.S.-backed Zionist aggressors, and rid themselves of decades of occupation, loss and despair.

Presidential Candidates Focus on Economic Woes



Presidential candidates get down to brass tacks as the countdown begins for election day on May 19.

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Poverty takes the center stage in Iran's presidential campaigning as candidates travel across the country to take their message to the voters ahead of an expected close race on Friday.

Incumbent Hassan Rouhani pledged to eradicate "abject poverty" over the next four years if he is re-elected as he addressed a crowd of thousands at Azadi Stadium in Tehran.

Speaking to the audience, Rouhani called on them "to declare to the world in this election that we are determined to build our future, not to destroy Iran's future."

The president also defended his performance in the face of scathing criticism, saying his administration had managed to establish "economic stability" in the country.

Rouhani said inflation for foodstuff

stood at 51% at the start of his mandate, adding his administration had brought it below eight percent.

Low-income families had to pay up as much as 200 million rials (\$5,000) for a surgical operation, but they can receive the same service at less than one-twentieth of the cost now, he said.

Rouhani further said his government would not be cutting monthly subsidies as rumored in some rural areas.

The issue of monthly handouts has become a hot subject, with one candidate pledging to raise them five-fold.

The president also touched on corruption, saying it is rooted in lack of transparency. His government, he added, has submitted a bill to Parliament, obliging all organizations to present their track record for audit.

Rouhani also pledged to root out smuggling, saying the problems had to be tackled through producing quality goods and making them competitive. Border provinces, he said, should become hubs for exports instead of being a haven for smuggled commodities.

Fear of technology has become another impediment for the country, the president said. "One cannot avoid using the cyberspace and the technologies related to it," he said.

Qalibaf: Govt. Created Class Divide

Embassy: Iranians in UK Can Vote in Elections

TEHRAN (Tasnim) -- Iranian expatriates in Britain will have the chance to vote in the country's presidential election, with polling stations planned to be set up in London and six other cities, Iran's ambassador said on Sunday.

Providing details of the presidential election that will be held in Britain simultaneous with Iran, Hamid Baedinejad said 11 polling stations in seven British cities will be open to the eligible voters on May 19.

A total of 12 ballot boxes will be stationed in 11 polling places in London, Manchester, Birmingham, New Castle, Glasgow, Leeds, and Cardiff, the envoy announced in a post at his page in a social network.

There will be six ballots boxes in five polling stations in London alone, including two boxes at the Iranian Embassy building, he noted.

Iranian Hajj Pilgrims to Get Electronic Bracelets

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Iranian pilgrims travelling to Saudi Arabia for this year's Hajj ceremonies will be kitted up with electronic bracelets to "avert possible problems", Tasnim news agency quoted an official as saying.

Iran Electronics Industries has designed and manufactured the

bracelets and will also process data from the devices, head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization Hamid Mohammadi told the news agency.

It will be undoubtedly a great help to the pilgrims and will contribute to better services to the travelers, he added.

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The Holy Qur'an

But if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, they are your brethren in faith; and We make the communications clear for a people who know.

The Holy Qur'an (9.11)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:00
Evening (Maghreb)	20:22
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:19
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:58

Tehran Mayor Muhammad-Baqer Qalibaf, who has emerged as the biggest critic of the administration, told his female supporters in Tehran that the government was favoring certain people and creating a class divide.

He cited unemployment, inflation, and high prices at the heart of the country's "economic crisis."

Separately, Qalibaf said in televised remarks that the management system governing the country was outdated, related to 60 years ago.

He said liquidity under President Rouhani had ballooned by 8,000 trillion rials (\$246 billion) becoming a burden for the country and preventing it from turning its economic maladies around.

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Press Digest

Going to Waste

HAMSHAHRI: Government continues to come up with strange rumors and statistics. They claim it's not possible to deliver the 5 million jobs. The Sixth National Development Plan makes clear that the government needs to create 1 million jobs per year. This is while the number of young jobseekers goes up by 1.2 million during the same period. Meaning, if the government is unable to hit the job target, the lives of so many young people will go to waste.

Visually Displeasing

AFTAB: Election campaigns, ads, and propaganda continue to destroy the beauty of Ahvaz. City Council candidates are busy putting visually displeasing ads and pictures on the walls, traffic signs, and tress, or distributing foods and snacks and presents among people to win votes. People are wondering whether there are some loots in the City Council. Some candidates are also wearing heavy makeup which makes the campaigns more like fashion shows than elections. The problem is, some revolutionary candidates were disqualified to run on the pretext that they had reformist agendas.

Lies and Statistics

KAYHAN: The government claims we had economic growth in the past four years. It even delivers statistics to back this false claim. Most of the growth rate is attributed to oil exports. The government talks about the end of recession and pays no attention to the realities which show a huge recession in the economy. This is intentional. Rouhani talks about GDP growth rate of 7.4 percent for last year which has surprised many. Without oil exports, it was just about 0.9 percent.

Fixated on the West

RESALAT: The country has so many problems because the government has its eyes fixated on the West to resolve them. Our officials refuse to hold talks with neighbors like Iraq and Afghanistan. Instead, they only endorse the United States, look down on relations with Afghanistan, and roll red carpet for Europeans. This way, we will never see any economic breakthrough. A government cabinet whose members have foreign exchange bureaus and import goods are never up to the task. When Rouhani chose his cabinet members, the goal was not to fix the existing problems. Rather, the main concern was how much each and every one of them would make in office.