

U.S. Withdraws Candidate Nomination After Zionist 'Apartheid' Remark



Zionist troops fire tear gas to disperse Palestinian protesters during a demonstration against illegal settlements in the village of Deir Jarir near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, on January 8, 2021.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has withdrawn the nomination of leading law professor James Cavallaro for an international human rights post because he called the Zionist regime an “apartheid” regime. Cavallaro is a law professor at Wesleyan University and the executive director of its Network for Human Rights.

The U.S. announced Cavallaro’s candidacy as an independent member of the Inter-

American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), a watchdog monitoring the Americas. It praised the law professor as a “leading scholar and practitioner of international law” with deep expertise in the region. Though, the State Department said that Cavallaro’s candidacy had been pulled because of his previous comments about the Zionist regime, which was confirmed by the law professor on twit-

“This morning, the US @StateDept informed me that it would withdraw my nomination to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (@CIDH), due to my statements denouncing apartheid in Israel/Palestine,” he wrote.

Cavallaro went on to explain that his candidacy was being withdrawn because of his view that “the conditions in Israel/Palestine meet the definition of apartheid under international human rights law.” He cited the major human rights groups Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and B’Tselem, all of which have determined that the Zionist regime does indeed impose apartheid on the people of occupied Palestine.

Details revealed in the Guardian showed that the withdrawal of Cavallaro’s nomination followed an article in the British newspaper published by a pro-Israel Jewish newspaper, the *Algemeiner*.

The withdrawal of Cavallaro’s nomination comes in the wake of former Head of HRW, Kenneth Roth, being denied a prestigious fellowship for criticizing the Zionist regime. Cavallaro referred to Roth’s case and described the withdrawal of his nomination as part of broader “censorship of human rights advocates who denounce apartheid in Israel.”

Inmates’ Families, Activists: Egypt’s Model Prison Rife With Abuses

CAIRO (Reuters) – A new prison which Egypt touted as a model for reform and which holds some of its most prominent prisoners denies inmates health-care and subjects them to punitive treatment including isolation, relatives of those inside and rights groups say.

Many of the inmates now in Badr prison on the outskirts of Cairo were moved from Tora, an older facility in a southern suburb of the city that held prisoners including leaders of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and other political activists.

Rights groups estimate tens of thousands of people have been jailed for political dissent under President Abdel Fattah

al-Sisi and have long reported abuses including systemic torture and life threatening conditions inside its jails.

The government, which says it does not hold prisoners for political reasons, did not respond to requests for comment for this article. In the past it has denied charges of abuses and has said it is working on improving conditions by reducing prisoner density at its jails and modernizing facilities.

The authorities took journalists, including a reporter from Reuters, on a tour of Badr last year, a move critics view as part of a government bid to bat away criticism of its rights record and to draw in more investment and aid flows.

Abdel Moneim Aboul Fotouh, a former presidential candidate in 2012, was detained in 2018 and is among those moved from Tora to the Badr 1 wing at the new prison.

“It was supposed to be at least on the same level but since the transfer, no, it’s much harder, the situation is worse and there’s no justification,” said his son, Hozafa Aboul Fotouh. He said his 71-year-old father spent 12 days in the same clothes in the new prison and no longer has the mattress he previously had at Tora to support his back. He said he had been denied enough blankets to fend off the winter cold.

Rights groups and relatives detail other abuses, although

several of those spoken to by Reuters said it was harder for them to get information about conditions from Badr, where they said prisoners were largely held incommunicado, than from Tora. Several asked not to be named for fear of reprisals. Reuters has only been able to access Egyptian prisons on official tours.

Four prisoners died at the Badr facility because of medical negligence last year, including a 47-year-old Alaa el-Salmy who was on hunger strike for two months over prison conditions, according to the rights groups Egyptian Front for Human Rights (EFHR) and Egyptian Network for Human Rights (ENHR).

Leader... (Continued From Page One)

the march with an analytical mind. And because they understood that the U.S. is fearful of their attendance, they demonstrated their actual orientation, which is to fully support the Islamic Revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic with passion, exuberance, motivation and meaningful slogans,” he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that the American and Zionist media empires are attempting to prevent this loud voice from reaching the ears of other nations. However, those who need to hear it, that is, the policy makers in the U.S. and England and the enemy’s spy agencies have definitely heard this voice.

The Leader also pointed out the propaganda uproar that took place on social media and the enemy’s media outlets on the eve of the 22nd of Bahman. “There were opposing voices that these media outlets tried to magnify, but the voice and call of the nation prevailed over all other voices,” he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei also spoke about “clarifying the falseness and weakness of the enemies’ claims about the Islamic Republic.”

“Sometimes they blatantly lie and say that the government is regressing, while the country, despite its problems, has com-

pletely changed from the way it was two or three decades ago. It has made great progress. Sometimes they say that the Islamic Republic has reached a dead end. When someone reaches an impasse, they will fall down themselves. If their claim is correct, why are they spending so much to make it collapse?”

Referring to the enemies’ repeated attacks and inquiries into the necessity of Iran’s military power, the Leader said, “First of all, a country that has this many enemies should think about itself and its nation, just like at the beginning of the Revolution, when I found out that some people wanted to sell F-14 planes, and I quickly gave an interview, made this known publicly, and that moved was stopped.”

He said Iran has paid considerable attention to its defense power based on logic and Sharia, and will try its utmost to make further efforts in this regard according to the teachings of the Qur’an.

“The country has worked and invested several times more in other fields, including industry, infrastructure such as road construction and dam construction, and other fields,” the Leader explained. “But the enemy, which is clearly afraid given its propaganda about Iran’s drones, denies other advancements and highlights defensive issues.”

By God’s grace, the Leader continued, the nation has not and will not pay attention to the temptations of ill-wishers and

“knows that any progress and movement to strengthen Iran will enrage the enemies, who should be told, according to the Quran, to die from this anger and rage.”

Ayatollah Khamenei called Iran’s progress an “invigorating and admirable truth,” but acknowledged that the country still suffers shortcomings in the media domain and demonstrating its achievements.

“Nonetheless, visitors to Iran’s exhibitions or achievements express their surprise at achieving such levels of progress in spite of the sanctions,” he said. “That is also the case for a Zionist missile commander who said a few years ago that although I am an enemy of Iran, I take off my hat in the face of the production of that advanced missile by Iranian scientists.”

Ayatollah Khamenei also said enumerating the country’s achievements does not amount to denying its shortcomings.

“There are many weaknesses and shortcomings in the country for various reasons, some of which are noticeable to the people, such as high prices, inflation, and the devaluation of the national currency; and there are also weaknesses in other sectors, such as administrative sectors,” he said.

According to Ayatollah Khamenei, there are two ways of looking at the weaknesses, namely the “revolutionary approach” and the “reactionary approach”.

He explained that the revolutionary view means looking at the progress already made and concluding that it is possible to

remove the obstacles and shortcomings given previous fruitful endeavors.

“With a reactionary view toward the weaknesses, one concludes that there is no use and nothing can be done, and therefore, we should sit idly or complain and utter the weaknesses loudly and even deny the principle of the Revolution and the Islamic Republic, as some do,” he added.

The Leader underlined that insisting on progress does not equate to denying the weaknesses. He pointed out that all nations have certain weaknesses, referring to the important weaknesses that exist in some of the world’s largest and most advanced countries.

“The solution to remove the weaknesses is not to destroy the principle and roots, but the correct approach is to remove the weaknesses based on the Revolutionary view”.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that economic growth and curbing inflation are the most important tasks that need to be attended to. He said everyone, especially the country’s officials has a duty to engage in jihadi activities and they need to consistently work round the clock.

“Economic affairs need to be prioritized today because the country cannot advance forward without economic growth. Economic growth itself requires stability, control of inflation and price stability.”

Ayatollah Khamenei noted that in addition to the country’s officials, various groups of people are also capable of play-

ing a role in many different fields. He referred to the roles that people have fulfilled in social fields and acts of service, stating that, “We have been able to overcome great weaknesses through the people on numerous occasions. An example of this was seen during the coronavirus pandemic where the people played a great role with their pious offerings of aid.”

The Leader described “national unity” as another effective factor in the strength of the country. Pointing to the existence of differences of opinion in society, he stated that the general tendency of the nation is a tendency towards the Revolution.

“There are some people in the country whose opinions on some political issues are against the opinions of the general public and officials. However, they are not the ones who the Iranian nation is dealing with. The global arrogance is the Iranian nation’s opposing side.”

Ayatollah Khamenei expressed his optimism about a bright future, stating that, “Whenever there has been a bright horizon before the country, we have reached it after a short time because of our nation’s immense capabilities and potentials.”

Hopes... (Continued From Page One)

modern world, have once again reasserted their determination to strengthen friendship and take firm steps toward homogeneous development, strategic partnership and a promising and prosperous future for the humankind.

Earlier in the day, President of Peking University Hao Ping granted an honorary academic title in recognition of President Raisi’s services and actions as to the enhancement of ties between Iran and China and promotion of regional and international peace and stability.

The ceremony was held in the presence of the dean, professors and students of the university.

The award has been approved by the scientific council of Peking University.

Additionally, four professors of Peking University were acclaimed for their efforts in the field of Iranian studies and teaching the Persian language.

On Tuesday Raisi says Iran and China are “friends in hard times,” stressing that further strengthening of relations between the two countries will contribute to the security of the region and the world.

In a meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, the Iranian president underscored the need for implementation of a strategic 25-year agreement between the two countries, which he said is “pivotal” to peace and stability in the region.

“Despite opposition from the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and China to the consolidation and expansion of relations between the two countries, these relations have taken great strides thanks to the favorable management of the parties,” he said.

Raisi lauded China’s positive and constructive role in talks on removing anti-Iran sanctions. He also referred to the failure of European countries to meet their obligations, saying, “Western countries once again made miscalculations about Iran.”

President Xi, for his part, China firmly believes in the development of relations with Iran.

Xi emphasized the need to confront unilateralism, foreign interference, and threats to security and stability in the region and across the world.

Xi voiced the Chinese government’s readiness to support the companies that are willing to invest in Iran.

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safe, “in order to start getting back to normal,” Tourism Minister Nuri Ersoy told a news conference in Malatya, some 160 km (99 miles) from the epicenter of the earthquake.

“We will quickly demolish what needs to be demolished and build safe houses,” Turkey’s Environment and Urbanization Minister Murat Kurum tweeted.

Across the border, in Syria, relief efforts have been hampered by a war that has splintered the country and divided regional and global powers.

Organized by Arab tribes, trucks loaded with blankets, food, medical supplies and tents arrived overnight in the militant-held rebel northwest from a region controlled by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, a Reuters witness saw.

More aid was being collected, said Hamoud Saleh al-Darjah, an organizer. “This isn’t the last campaign,” he said.

But some in the region worried about how they could start again.

“The situation is really tragic,” Abdulrahman Muhammad, a displaced Syrian originally from the neighboring province

of Aleppo, said in Idlib, where many had found refuge in the past decade from other war-torn provinces.

Parts of the provinces of Idlib and adjacent Aleppo held by Turkey-backed militants suffered the bulk of the quake’s casualties in Syria: over 4,400 of a death toll of more than 5,800, according to the United Nations and government authorities.

In Syria’s Mediterranean town of Jableh, Um Kanan recounted how she woke her three children and rushed them to a small closet in her bedroom for shelter, along with a collection of family photos and documents, when the earthquake hit.

The force of the quake brought their fourth floor apartment in crashing to the ground, but the four survived.

“I kept thinking to myself: ‘Can it be? Did the building just fall down? Is this a dream?’ I tried to move but I couldn’t,” she said. “The children and I, by some miracle, we ended up in this small space that I had left empty.”

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This has led to “fear, pain and premature death” among thalassemia patients.

Okafor and Douhan called on the U.S. government to remove any obstacles to financial transactions for medical purposes, effectively implement humanitarian exemptions, and not impose secondary sanctions on medical exports to Iran, while urging other UN members to abide by their human rights obligations.

Thalassemia is a genetic blood disorder that requires regular blood transfusions and medication to manage symptoms. Iran has a high prevalence of the disease, and approximately 25,000 people are born with thalassemia each year.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the OHCHR said the sanctions have hindered the import of necessary medical equipment and supplies, including blood transfusion devices and medication, leading to serious health risks for thalassemia patients. The OHCHR called on the countries imposing the sanctions to consider the humanitarian consequences of their actions and to exempt medical equipment and supplies from the measures.

The OHCHR also urged the international community to provide support to Iran in addressing the impact of the sanctions on the health of its population, including thalassemia patients.

In 2015, the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and Germany reached an agreement with Iran known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in which Tehran agreed to limit its nuclear energy research in exchange for respite from UN sanctions. The United States unilaterally exited the JCPOA in 2018, applying its own sanctions and intent on punishing anyone, anywhere who failed to abide by them.

Russian... (Continued From Page 2)

revitalization of the nuclear deal and maintaining nuclear non-proliferation. This is a big question mark as of today,” he added.

He also said the U.S. and E3 – France, Britain, and Germany – may have a “hidden agenda” with regard to the issue.

Iran, Russia and China have repeatedly blamed Western countries for the impasse in the talks.

During a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday, Xi said China will continue playing a constructive role in resuming the talks, support the Islamic Republic to safeguard its legitimate rights, and help “the early and proper resolution” of Iran’s nuclear issue.

Iran showed to the world the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing the JCPOA with six world states — namely the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Russia and China — in 2015. But, Washington’s unilateral withdrawal in May 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo.

Negotiations between the parties to the deal kicked off in Vienna in April 2021, with the intention of bringing the U.S. back into the deal and putting an end to its “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran.

Tehran, whose strict adherence to the nuclear deal had been certified several times by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), maintains that it is necessary for the U.S. to offer guarantees that it will not withdraw or violate the accord again.

The discussions, however, have been at a standstill since August 2022 due to Washington’s insistence on not lifting all of the sanctions slapped on Tehran by the previous U.S. administration and offering the necessary guarantees.