

TEHRAN – Director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Department for Public Diplomacy Alireza Delkhosh said on Saturday that 51 artifacts trafficked out of Iran to various museums across the world have been identified and efforts are underway to return them to the country.

The artifacts have been detected in many museums around the world, including London and Paris, and so far the ministry has managed to return 18 works and collections, he said.

Kayhan International



TEHRAN—An Iranian fighter plane crashed near the central city of Isfahan on Saturday after its engine failed, but both pilots survived, IRNA news agency said.

The pilots were taken to a local hospital, it said, adding there was a technical failure in the engine of the Grumman F-14 Tomcat that led to the crash. Iran's air force has an assortment of U.S.-made military aircraft purchased before the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the Tomcat F-14 is American-made. It also has Russian-made MiG and Sukhoi planes.

VOL NO: LV 11728 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Sunday, June 19, 2022, Khordad 29, 1401, Zil-Qa'dah 19, 1443, Price 200,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Freedom Awaits the Fearless

FM: Iran Strongly Seeks Dialogue With Neighbors



Iran Beat Argentina at IHF Youth Beach Handball World Championship



Zionist Drones, Jets Carry Out Missile Strikes in Gaza



Zionists Prophesying Their Imminent Doom

By: Ramzy Baroud*

While it is true that Zionism is a modern political ideology that has exploited religion to achieve specific colonial objectives in Palestine, prophecies continue to be a critical component of Israel's perception of itself, and of its relationship to other groups, especially Christian messianic groups in the United States and worldwide.

The subject of religious prophecies and their centrality to Israel's political thought was once more highlighted following remarks by former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, in a recent interview with the Hebrew-language newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth. Barak, perceived to be a "progressive" politician, who was once the leader of Israel's Labor Party, expressed fears that Israel will "disintegrate" before the 80th anniversary of its 1948 establishment.

"Throughout the Jewish history, the Jews did not rule for more than eighty years, except in the two kingdoms of David and the Hasmonean dynasty and, in both periods, their disintegration began in the eighth decade," Barak said.

Based on pseudo-historical analysis, Barak's prophecy seemed to conflate historical facts with typical messianic Israeli thinking, reminiscent of statements made by Israel's former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 2017.

Like Barak, Netanyahu's comments were expressed in the form of fear over the future of Israel, and the looming "existential threat," the cornerstone of Israeli hasbara throughout the years. At a Bible study session in his house in Jerusalem, Netanyahu had then warned that the Hasmonean kingdom – also known as the Maccabees – had merely survived for 80 years before it was conquered by the Romans in 63 BCE.

The "Hasmonean state lasted only 80 years, and we needed to exceed this," Netanyahu was quoted by one of the attendees as saying, the Israeli Haaretz newspaper reported.

But, even according to Netanyahu's purported determination to exceed that number, he had reportedly vowed to ensure Israel will surpass the Maccabees' 80 years, and survive for 100 years. That is merely 20 years more.

The difference between Barak and Netanyahu's statements is quite negligible: the former's views are supposedly "historical" and the latter's are biblical. Worth noting, however, is that both leaders, though they subscribe to two different political schools, have converged on similar meeting points: Israel's survival is at stake; the existential threat is real and the end of Israel is only a matter of time.

But the pessimism in Israel is hardly confined to political leaders, who are known to exaggerate and manipulate facts to instill fear and to rile up their political camps, especially Israel's powerful messianic constituencies. Although this is true, predictions regarding Israel's grim future are not confined to its political elites.

In an interview with Haaretz in 2019, one of Israel's most respected mainstream historians, Benny Morris, had much to say about the future of the entity. Unlike Barak and Netanyahu, Morris was not sending warning signals but stating what, to him, seemed an unavoidable outcome of Israel's political and demographic evolution.

"I don't see how we get out of it," Morris said, adding: "Already, today there are more Arabs than Jews between the (Mediterranean) Sea and the Jordan (River). The whole territory is unavoidably becoming one state with an Arab majority. Israel still calls itself a Jewish state, but a situation in which we rule an occupied people that has no rights cannot persist in the 21st century."

Morris' predictions, while remaining committed to the racial fantasy of a Jewish majority, were far more articulate and also realistic if compared to those of Barak, Netanyahu and others. The man who once regretted that Israel's founder, David Ben Gurion, did not expel all of Palestine's native population in 1947-48, spoke with resignation that, in a matter of a generation, Israel will cease to exist in its current form.

Particularly notable about his comments is the accurate perception that "the Palestinians look at everything from a broad, long-term perspective," and that the Palestinians will continue to "demand the return of the refugees." But who were the "Palestinians" Morris was referring to? Certainly not the Palestinian Authority, whose leaders have already marginalized the Right of Return for Palestinian refugees, and most certainly have no "broad, long-term perspective." Morris' "Palestinians" are, of course, the Palestinian people themselves, generations of whom have served, and continue to serve, as the vanguards of Palestinian rights despite all of the setbacks, defeats and political "compromises."

Actually, prophecies regarding Palestine and Israel are not a new phenomenon. Palestine was colonized by Zionists with the help of Britain, also based on biblical frames of reference. It was populated by Zionist settlers based on biblical references dedicated to the restoration of ancient kingdoms and the "return" of ancient peoples to their supposedly rightful "promised land." Though Israel took on many different meanings throughout the years – perceived to be a "socialist" utopia at times, a liberal, democratic haven at others – it was always preoccupied with religious meanings, spiritual visions and inundated with prophecies. The most sinister expression of this truth is the fact that the current support of Israel by millions of Christian fundamentalists in the West is largely driven by messianic, end-of-the-world prophecies.

The latest predictions about Israel's uncertain future are based on a different logic. Since Israel has always defined itself as a Jewish State, its future is mostly linked to its ability to maintain a Jewish majority in historic Palestine. By the admission of Morris and others, this pipedream is now crumbling as the "demographic war" is clearly and quickly being lost.

Of course, co-existence in a single democratic state will always be a possibility. Alas, for Israel's Zionist ideologues, such a state will hardly meet the minimum expectations of the entity's founders, since it would no longer exist in the form of a Jewish, Zionist state. For coexistence to take place, the Zionist ideology would have to be scrapped altogether.

Barak, Netanyahu and Morris are all right: Israel will not exist as a "Jewish state" for much longer. Speaking strictly in terms of demographics, Israel is no longer a Jewish-majority entity. History has taught us that Muslims, Christians and Jews can peacefully coexist and collectively thrive, as they have done throughout the Middle East and the Iberian Peninsula for millennia. Indeed, this is a prediction, even a prophecy, that is worth striving for.

*Dr. Ramzy Baroud is a journalist and the Editor of The Palestine Chronicle. He is the author of six books.

Courtesy: Antiwar.com

Iran's Dexterity Leaves Enemies Fuming



A view of the Natanz uranium enrichment facility 250 km south of the Iranian capital Tehran, March 30, 2005.

TEHRAN -- Iran has notified the UN nuclear agency of its plan to relocate the activities of the TESA complex in Karaj to the city of Natanz, the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says.

In an interview with Nour News, which is affiliated with the country's top security body, Behrouz Kamalvandi said the move was taken to intensify security measures around Iran's nuclear facilities.

Referring to last year's sabotage at the TESA complex, the AEOI spokesman said the transfer of some of the activities to an area near the Natanz nuclear site aims to prevent the recurrence of such attacks.

The complex in Karaj, on the outskirts of Tehran, saw a sabotage attack in June last year, which authorities blamed on the occupying regime of Israel. The attack damaged surveillance cameras at the site.

In response to reports in Western media about construction activities near the Natanz nuclear site, Kamalvandi said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been informed about it, even though Iran has no obligation to provide such information to the agency.

A report in the New York Times on Thursday, citing unnamed Israeli and American intelligence officials, said Iran was digging a "vast tunnel network" south of the

Natanz nuclear site.

The report said Biden administration officials had been following the construction of the new facility for more than a year, "but are not especially alarmed".

Kamalvandi said Iran has no safeguards obligation to inform the UN agency of its activities aimed at enhancing passive defense capabilities of its nuclear facilities and establishing underground workshops to relocate some activities to new locations, but it has still notified the agency of all its measures.

He described Iran's actions as "fully transparent" and blasted the Israel-affiliated media for creating a false atmosphere around the country's peaceful nuclear program.

He also denounced the UN nuclear agency for failing to fulfill its technical mandate and failing to condemn terrorist acts against Iran's nuclear facilities.

Tehran and the IAEA have been at loggerheads recently after the UN nuclear agency adopted an anti-Iran resolution pushed by the U.S. and its European allies at the agency's board of governors meeting.

Before the meeting, IAEA chief Rafael Grossi made a whirlwind trip to Occupied Palestine, where he met senior regime officials, including premier Naftali Bennett.

These unsavory developments have

(Continued on Page 7)

U.S. Navy Mysteriously Firing Lots of Commanders

WASHINGTON (Task & Purpose) -- The Navy tends to relieve leaders in clusters, and the firings have come thick and fast recently.

Since May 31, six commanding officers and one command master chief have lost their jobs: Capt. Amy Larson and Marine Lt. Col Bret Swaim were relieved as commander and executive officer of the Naval Justice School; Cmdr. Matthew McCormick was relieved as commander of Electronics Attack Squadron 137; Cmdr. Devine Johnson and Command Master Chief Earl Sanders were ousted as the skipper and senior enlisted leader of the destroyer USS Bulkeley; Capt. Jeffrey Sandin was fired as head of Recruit Training Command; and Cmdr. Peter Lesaca was relieved as commanding officer of the destroyer USS Preble.

In every case, the Navy said the five men were relieved "due to loss of trust and confidence" in their ability to command rather than providing the exact reasons why they were fired with the exception of USS Preble commander Lesaca, whom a Navy spokesman told the San Diego Union Tribune was relieved after he was arrested on suspicion of drunk

driving.

The "loss of confidence" explanation for the firings is an empty phrase that all the military branches use whenever they publicly announce that an officer or senior enlisted leader has been relieved. It is rare for military officials to say what prompted the sudden loss of confidence in leaders that cost them their jobs, even though that information can later be obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request, which is how Task & Purpose learned why leaders such as Marine Lt. Col. Benjamin Wagner and Sgt. Maj. Jayson Clifton were relieved.

The Navy has relieved 13 commanding officers so far this year, including one Marine who was at a Navy command, said Navy spokeswoman Cmdr. Reann Mommsen.

"These reliefs are not related," Mommsen told Task & Purpose. "Leadership decided to relieve these commanding officers for a number of different reasons. Historically, from 2011 through 2022, an average of about 17 commanding officers have been relieved per year. (Note, this does not include 2022 numbers)."

(Continued on Page 7)

Call for Probe Into Zionist Oil Shipments From Kurdistan

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- An Iraqi politician has called on the government to open a probe into reports that shipments of crude oil have been smuggled out of the country's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region to the Israeli-occupied territories.

"The smuggling of oil from Kurdistan to Tel Aviv, which is being carried out under the supervision of ruling parties in Erbil, is no longer a secret. Three oil tankers are now operating for such a purpose in Turkish ports, and the whole process enjoys the full support of the Turkish government," independent Kurdish politician Othman Hassan Pasha told Iraq's Al-Maalomah news agency on Friday.

Erbil is the capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region.

Pashas said Turkey is involved in the procedure in exchange for large financial discounts, noting that between 40,000 and 80,000 barrels of crude oil are estimated to arrive at Israeli-occupied ports per week.

"The smuggling of oil, which floods the treasury of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) with

millions of dollars every day, has adversely affected the lives of millions of Kurds in light of a stifling fuel crisis," he added.

"Kurdistan is on the verge of an outburst of public anger against ruling authorities as a result of illegal smuggling of their natural wealth, which has left millions of people in destitution and pushed up the prices of basic commodities."

According to a Financial Times report, more than two-thirds of the occupying regime of Israel's oil is imported from the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

The Kurdistan Regional Government has repeatedly denied that it deals directly or indirectly with the Zionist regime, with KRG officials pointing out that oil cargoes often change hand several times before reaching its final destination.

Italy, France and Greece are reportedly big buyers of Kurdish crude, using pre-pay deals brokered by large oil trading companies, the FT reported.

Last month, Iraq's parliament passed a law that makes it a crime to

(Continued on Page 7)