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In the Name of the Most High

Viewpoint

## Iran Dismisses UN Chief's Baseless Report

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

*The first ever impartial assessment of human rights in the Islamic Republic by the UN last May following the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur to Iran had made observers think that the World Body was at last willing to rectify its 40-year long deliberate distortion of facts and realities in Iran.*

*These hopes, however, have been dashed following the report released by the UN Secretary General, who despite his brilliant socialist background in his homeland, Portugal, has once again indulged to politically motivated allegations obviously dictated by the US.*

*António Guterres has not only totally neglected the detailed report sent by Iran on each and every paragraph of the queries requested by his offices, but also ignored Alena Douhan's report on the Negative Impact of the US' Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights in Iran.*

*She had slammed the US for its brutal sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, asserting that decades of sanctions have wholly affected Iranian people's lives and have particularly hit the low-income section of the society.*

*Douhan had said without mincing words: "Applying extraterritorial sanctions on Iranian companies or companies working with Iran is illegal under international law. I urge states to unfreeze the assets of the Central Bank of Iran in accordance with customary norms of international law."*

*She had strongly censured the US for its brutal sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, asserting that decades of sanctions have wholly affected Iranian people's lives and have particularly hit the low-income section of the society.*

*The UN Chief has turned a blind eye to the realities of respect for human rights in Iran by bowing to Washington's pressures and parrotting the absurdities of the enemies of the Iranian people.*

*Tehran has dismissed Guterres politically motivated report, saying the Islamic Republic remains committed to promoting human rights, irrespective of the fact that the report was based on false claims made by terrorists.*

*Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Tuesday that UN Secretary-General's report "is based on false claims", pointing out that the Islamic Republic continues to be fully committed to promoting human rights due to its religious beliefs and legal obligations.*

*He also expressed regret that the report fails to mention the responsibility of those behind anti-Iran sanctions and refuses to acknowledge the negative and destructive effects of inhumane US sanctions against the country.*

*The Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights has also criticized the UN chief's statement, saying it was a "non-reflection of the country's human rights developments and achievements."*

*Unfortunately, this is the sorry state of affairs at the headquarters of the UN, where the US and its accomplices in crimes against humanity dictate policies.*

*Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran thus does not expect anything positive from the World Body.*

## Iran Hails Colombia's Presidential Election Result



Colombian presidential candidate Gustavo Petro gives the thumb-up as he arrives at a polling station during the presidential runoff election in Bogota, on June 19, 2022.

TEHRAN -- Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian on Wednesday congratulated the people of Colombia on their participation in the presidential election in a democratic process and Gustavo Petro on his election victory.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, in greeting and congratulating the people of Colombia for participating in the presidential elections in a free and democratic environment, congratulates the victory of Mr. Gustavo Petro as President-Elect and wishes success for him and the people of Colombia, on the path of development and well-being," Amir-Abdollahian said in a post on his Twitter account.

Petro, a former rebel fighter who has promised profound social and economic change, emerged victorious in Sunday's presidential runoff election to become Colombia's

first left-wing president.

He won 50.4 percent of the vote, while his rival Rodolfo Hernandez, a construction magnate, had 47.3 percent.

The win for Petro, a senator and a former mayor of Bogota, underlined a drastic change in presidential politics for a country that has long marginalized the left for its perceived association with the armed conflict. Petro himself was once a rebel with the now-defunct M-19 movement and was granted amnesty after being jailed for his involvement with the group.

In his victory speech, Petro, 62, issued a call for unity and extended an olive branch to some of his harshest critics, saying all members of the opposition will be welcomed at the presidential palace "to discuss the problems of Colombia".

Petro is on record to have praised Iran's Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani for his anti-terror efforts, while berating the United States for his assassination and supporting "the worst of the Middle East."

"Soleimani was the architect of the defeat of ISIS (Daesh)," the Colombian president-elect tweeted in January 2020.

Petro also credited General Soleimani for "achieving victory over a great enemy of democracy." The U.S., however, showed its appreciation of Soleimani's counter-terrorism genius and success "by assassinating him," the tweet read.

"The U.S. only strengthens the worst of the Middle East," concluded Petro, who won Colombia's presidency during run-off elections on Sunday.

### UN Chief's Iran Report 'Based on False Claims'

TEHRAN -- Iran has dismissed as politically motivated a recent report by UN Secretary General António Guterres on human rights in Iran, saying the Islamic Republic remains committed to promoting human rights, irrespective of the fact that the report was based on false claims made by terrorists.

Asked by IRNA to comment on Guterres' report, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said Iran has sent its detailed comments and arguments on each and every paragraph of the UN chief's report to his office but Iran's response has been regrettably neglected.

The report "is based on false claims and documents based on unreliable sources, and therefore, the main text of the report is mainly based on the contents of the claims and accusations of hostile groups and terrorist cults," he said.

Speaking before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on Tuesday,

UN deputy human rights chief Nada al-Nashif presented Guterres' latest report, which strongly criticized Iran over executions in the country and other issues.

"The secretary general is deeply concerned by the increase of executions, including for drug-related offenses," al-Nashif said.

Guterres also claimed that Iran has used coercive measures against dissidents.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman explained that the Islamic Republic continues to be fully committed to promoting human rights due to its religious beliefs and legal obligations and is ready to cooperate with UN human rights bodies.

He said the report fails to mention the responsibility of those behind anti-Iran sanctions and refuses to acknowledge the negative and destructive effects of inhumane U.S. sanctions against the country.

### Envoy Urges UN to Probe 'Deviation of Humanitarian Aid'

TEHRAN -- Iran's ambassador to the United Nations says certain countries use unilateral coercive measures against other countries as political leverage.

Such measures are a major obstacle to the provision of international humanitarian assistance, Majid Takht Ravanchi said at a meeting of the UN General Assembly.

The international community is confronted with emerging challenges in trying to address humanitarian emergency condition, Takht Ravanchi added.

The envoy condemned "im-

position of the unilateral coercive measures by certain states, which use them as political leverage in their bilateral relations."

He denounced the measures "as one of the main obstacles hindering international assistance as well as one of the main sources in creating humanitarian crises."

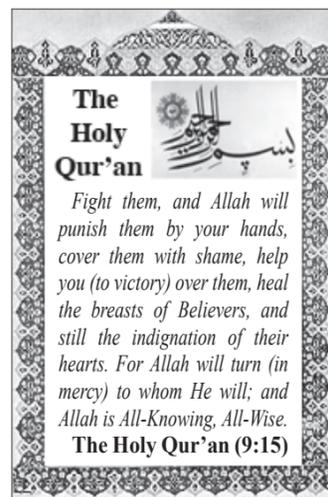
He went on to say that Iran, which is exposed to a variety of natural disasters such as earthquakes, droughts, dust and sandstorms, has severely been damaged by illegal unilateral sanctions by the United States.

The U.S. began unleashing a whole host of sanctions against Iran following the victory of the latter's Islamic Revolution in 1979.

It temporarily suspended some of the bans following the conclusion of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a nuclear accord between the Islamic Republic and world countries.

Upon conclusion, the JCPOA was ratified by the UN Security Council as its Resolution 2231.

The U.S., however, quit the agreement under former president



#### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:07
Evening (Maghreb)	20:45
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:49
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:02

### Tasnim Agency's Reporter Kidnapped, Beaten in Nablus

TEHRAN -- A Palestinian reporter working for Iran's Tasnim news agency was briefly abducted and beaten over the coverage of a student demonstration in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus.

Samer Khuaira was forced into a car at gunpoint, beaten, and threatened by armed assailants on Tuesday after he covered the violent dispersal of a student protest in the West Bank earlier this week.

Khuaira was quoted by the news agency as saying that four men in the car beat and swore at him, criticizing the reporter for covering the demonstration at Al-Najah National University as it would "undermine the Fatah Movement and the Palestinian Authority."

The Tasnim correspondent, who was released around half an hour later, said he had identified one of the abductors as a member of the Palestinian Authority (PA)'s security agency. The Palestinian Journalists Union condemned the attack on Khuaira, calling it a violation of freedom of expression and an encroachment on the profession of journalism.

During the protests at Al-Najah National University on Tuesday, there were clashes between the university's security staff and some of the students, with reports saying a number of students sustained injuries and were sent to the hospital.

Videos circulated online showed the guards beating students and what appeared to be plainclothes security forces firing into the air near the university.

Donald Trump in 2018 and restored the economic measures that the accord had lifted.

The International Court of Justice issued an order on October 3, 2018, unanimously requiring Washington to remove any impediments on the importation of foodstuffs as well as medicines and medical devices to Iran.

The Iranian envoy called on the world body "to investigate deviation of humanitarian aid and non-humanitarian activities carried out under the guise of providing humanitarian assistance."