


TEHRAN -- Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has seized a foreign vessel in the Persian Gulf for smuggling 757,000 liters of diesel out of the country, IRNA reported on Saturday. The unnamed vessel's seven crew members, who are foreign nationals, have been handed over to legal authorities, the news agency reported without elaborating on the nationalities of the ship or its crew. Iran has been fighting rampant fuel smuggling. The IRGC has detained several ships in the past few months for smuggling fuel in the Persian Gulf.

TEHRAN -- Ansarullah spokesman Muhammad Abdul-salam said here Saturday mounting pressure on the Yemeni people with the continuing economic blockade might force the movement to reassess a UN-brokered ceasefire with the Saudi-led coalition. "The Americans and Saudis want the ceasefire to hold, but the existing situation is not consistent with human rights. We want the economic blockade on the people of Yemen to be lifted so that we would benefit from the truce," Abdul-salam said during a meeting with Iranian parliament speaker Muhammad Baqer Qalibaf.

**Viewpoint**

### The Terrorist Nature of the US & its Preposterous Lies

### Sanctions Show U.S. Behind Albania Scenario



### Nekounam Shortlisted for Carlos Queiroz's Assistant



### At Least Seven Zionist Troops Injured in Reprisal Attack



## Iraqis Drive to Border to Help Iranian Pilgrims

MEHRAN BORDER, Iran (Dispatches) -- Iraqis are extending warm welcome to hundreds of thousands of Iranian nationals who are crossing the border into the Arab country and heading to the holy city of Karbala to commemorate Arba'een, the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam.

The border crossings of Mehran and Chazabeh in the western and southwestern parts of Iran have witnessed an unprecedented number of pilgrims arriving over the past few days, creating problems as regards their transportation to Karbala.

Iraqi people and state official are working to bring the situation under control, and resolve the difficulties.

Amid the mayhem, Iraqis have driven towards the border crossings with their own cars to solve the problems. With only a week left until Arba'een rituals, the population of people seeking to cross into Iraq has grown significantly compared to previous years.

Last year, it was estimated that between one and 1.5 million

people had crossed Iranian land and air borders into Iraq seven days before Arb'een. The figure stands at more than two million people this year.

One could say that all Iraqi people are playing their share this year to host pilgrims in the best possible form, and have rolled up their sleeves to give the guests a hearty and sincere welcome.

Apart from the main and secondary routes leading to Karbala, even unofficial routes and houses on the outskirts of the holy shrine cities of Karbala and Najaf have also turned into stalls to welcome and accommodate pilgrims.

Every year on Arba'een, millions of people from around the world flock to Karbala. Large groups of mourners travel on foot toward the holy city to take part in the largest annual Islamic gathering on earth. The ceremony falls on September 27 this year.

Imam Hussein (AS) and his 72 companions were martyred in the Battle of Karbala in southern Iraq in 680 AD after fighting courageously for justice against the much larger army of the Umayyad caliph, Yazid I.

## 'Stop Normalization': Moroccans Burn Zionist Flag



Moroccan demonstrators carry banners against the normalization of ties with the occupying regime of Israel at a protest in Rabat on Sept. 9, 2022. Inset shows protesters burning an Israeli flag.

RABAT (Dispatches) -- Demonstrators protested outside Morocco's parliament against the kingdom's normalization of ties with Israel, and after the Zionist regime recalled its top envoy from Rabat amid a probe into alleged sexual and financial misconduct at the recently-opened Israeli mission.

They chanted slogans against the rapprochement between Morocco and Israel, criticizing Zionist chargé d'affaires David

Govrin and Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita.

"Today, we are in front of the parliament to protest against the hideous acts" committed by Govrin, said Amine Abdelhamid, an activist against normalization between Morocco and the occupying regime of Israel.

"Morocco's dignity is not for sale, the normalization must end," he said.

Protesters burned an Israeli flag at the end of the demon-

stration.

Zionist foreign ministry inspector General Hagay Behar was rushed to Morocco last week after allegations were leveled at the head of the mission, Govrin, regarding serious complaints about the functioning of the office, which opened last year.

The most serious complaint was that "a senior Israeli official" at the mission had sexually exploited several local women,

something that could lead to a serious diplomatic incident with Morocco.

There were also complaints of sexual harassment within the mission.

The ministry is also investigating a range of financial and administrative problems, including the disappearance of a very valuable gift sent by the king of Morocco.

It was also investigating reports that a local businessman and Jewish community leader, identified as Samy Cohen, a friend of Govrin, was involved in hosting several Israeli ministers, including Yair Lapid, Ayelet Shaked and Gideon Sa'ar, and initiating meetings between them and local officials, even though he was not in any way officially affiliated with the mission.

The team was also investigating a reported feud between Govrin and the mission's security officer.

The decision to recall Govrin was made by foreign ministry director-general Alon Ushpiz following an initial investigation carried out by a senior Israeli delegation that arrived in Morocco Monday to collect statements from ministry staff.

According to a report by the Ynet news site, there was a general sense of chaos at the ministry

(Continued on Page 7)

## Growing Drinking Water Crisis Threatens U.S. Cities

JACKSON, Mississippi (Dispatches) -- Residents of Jackson, Miss., recently experienced a week without reliable water service. And an advisory to boil any water that does flow from faucets in that capital city of 150,000 people has been in place since late July.

This is just some of the alarming drinking-water-related news that has surfaced as summer winds down in the U.S. Other reports have told of arsenic in tap water in a New York City public housing complex, potentially sewage- or runoff-related Escherichia coli bacteria in West Baltimore's water supply and a lawsuit alleging neurological issues linked to thousands of liters of jet fuel that leaked into drinking water in Hawaii last year.

In the aftermath of the drinking-water contamination crisis that hit Flint, Mich., in 2014, a growing number of similar incidents have received national attention, eroding confidence in neglected drinking-water and wastewater treatment systems that once were considered among the world's most sophisticated and robust.

Some ground will be gained as billions of dollars from the Biden administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law start to flow to states for improvements to local water systems—including the replacement of dangerous lead pipes that run from public water lines to buildings' plumbing. But

money alone cannot solve larger structural and systemic issues afflicting the nation's thousands of aging public and private water and wastewater systems, experts say.

Upmanu Lall, a hydroclimatologist at Columbia University and a luminary in his field, has co-authored and led numerous studies that document the rise of contaminated drinking water in the U.S.

He and his colleagues assessed a national data set of 17,900 water utilities and other community drinking-water systems, revealing that water-quality violations of the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act more than doubled between 1980 and 2015.

In the latter year, drinking-water systems serving nearly 21 million people in the U.S. were cited for such water-quality violations.

"Jackson is one of many cities where things like this are happening. It is perhaps one of the larger such crises. And it's a more chronic one," Lall told Scientific American.

"One big concern is the California drought. The agriculture industry there is at an extremely high risk of dying. And that will have an impact on the food supply. More generally, we will see a slowly evolving epidemic of water system failures like the one in Jackson."

## Workers Protest Google's Project for Zionists

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Hundreds of workers and pro-Palestinian activists assembled outside Google offices in U.S. cities, calling on the company to stop work on its controversial Project Nimbus, the \$1.2 billion contract between the tech behemoths and the occupying regime of Israel.

The protests outside several Google offices in four cities come as pressure continues to build inside and outside Amazon and Google to end collaborations with the Zionist regime, in what activists are describing as big tech's complicity with Israeli apartheid.

"We are here because Google's leadership decided that arming [the Zionist regime] with tools of surveillance, control and violence, is more important than their workers' values, their user safety and Palestinian lives," one worker told the crowd gathered outside Google's offices in Manhattan, New York.

"They have chosen apartheid over justice, and money over morality. They announced this

stance to the world when they signed Project Nimbus," the worker added.

Since Project Nimbus was announced in mid-2021, hundreds of workers at the companies have raised concerns they would be helping facilitate and advance Israel's apartheid project. Training materials leaked to the Intercept show the project will see Google provide advanced artificial intelligence and machine-learning capabilities to the Zionist regime.

"While they provide no specifics as to how Nimbus will be used, the documents indicate that the new cloud would give Israel capabilities for facial detection, automated image categorization, object tracking, and even sentiment analysis that claims to assess the emotional content of pictures, speech, and writing," the Intercept wrote.

On Thursday, workers from both companies rallied outside Google headquarters in New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Durham, in North Carolina, both to show solidarity with

Palestinians and take their campaign inside the tech behemoth to a mainstream audience.

Carrying placards "No tech for apartheid" and chanting "This Google worker says no tech for apartheid", activists from several organizations, such as MPowerChange and Acre's Crescendo project - as well as tech workers from both companies - said it was unacceptable their employers were profiteering off Palestinian oppression.

Activists said neither Google nor Amazon have responded to several letters and worker-led petitions that raised issue with the contract.

The actions took place around a week after Ariel Koren, a Google employee, quit her job citing a hostile working environment after she spoke out and organized within Google against Project Nimbus more than a year ago.

Last week, several Palestinian Google workers posted testimonies to YouTube criticizing the company's treatment of Palestinians and its censorship of

employees who support them. The Palestinian workers at the rally in NYC did not speak to the media out of fear of workplace retaliation.

In October 2021, workers began a petition calling for the contract to be dropped. Since then, an estimated 800 Google and Amazon employees and 37,500 others have signed on to the call to end the partnership.

"Google and Amazon are standing by this contract and refusing to listen to the thousands of voices of opposition calling on the company to provide transparency, to do the right thing, and ultimately rescind this contract," Koren told MEE.

Organizers said an estimated 250 people assembled in New York and another 250 in San Francisco, around 150 in Seattle and 40 in Durham.

In New York, protesters squeezed themselves onto the sidewalk between early evening traffic and the gigantic Google building at 111 8th Avenue in Manhattan, and raised their voices

(Continued on Page 7)