

# Ansarullah: West Allows Desecration of Qur'an Under Zionist Lobby's Influence

SANA'A (Dispatches) – Following the desecration of the Holy Qur'an in Sweden, the leader of the Yemeni popular resistance movement Ansarullah says the West allows the perpetration of the heinous crime under the Zionist lobby's influence.

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi made the remarks on Tuesday, less than a week after two men stood outside the Swedish capital of Stockholm's central mosque and burned a copy of the holy book following a go-ahead given to them by a Swedish court.

The repeated and state-authorized instance of sacrilege against the Muslim holy book was made to coincide with the Muslim festivity of Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice), which marks the conclusion of the annual Hajj pilgrimage that is partaken by millions of Muslims from across the world.

The act of desecration has opened the floodgates of protest across the Muslim world.

Al-Houthi vehemently con-



Iraqis hold up the Holy Qur'an during a protest following Friday prayers in Nassiriyah on June 30, 2023, denouncing the burning of Islam's holy book in Sweden.

demned Western countries' double standards vis-à-vis Muslims, saying acts of sacrilege against the Holy Qur'an amounted to insult against all prophets and holy books.

The Westerners refuse to expose Zionists' crimes, he said, adding, "This points to the Zionist lobby's influence [across the Western countries]."

"The lobby manipulates the

West and infiltrates nations as it pleases. The Western world has, therefore, turned into a hotbed of the lobby's plots."

The Ansarullah leader, meanwhile, criticized Muslim countries for their failure to serve the insult with a proper response.

"It would be a salutary lesson for other countries if Muslim countries severed their diplomatic relations with Sweden and started

bringing it under economic sanctions," he said.

Referring to Sweden's limited hosting of intra-Yemeni talks in the past, al-Houthi said Sana'a had officially informed Stockholm that it would not be allowed to serve as the convening country for any new such negotiations.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Yemeni official pointed to Israel's earlier killing of at least 13 Palestinians across the occupied West Bank, mostly in the northern city of Jenin.

He identified Tel Aviv as a "criminal" entity that has been perpetrating crimes against the Palestinians on a daily basis since its claiming existence on Palestinian soil in 1948.

"The [international] Muslim nation bears a great responsibility concerning Palestine," al-Houthi concluded, considering Arab states' positions on the Israeli crimes to be disproportionate to the oppression that was being committed against Palestinians.

## Lebanese PM Calls for Quick Election of President

BEIRUT (Xinhua) – Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati has called for the quick election of a new president to help overcome the country's problems and support people in dealing with their daily struggles.

"Have mercy on people and stop the useless arguments," Mikati said while addressing the different political parties, according to a statement by the Lebanese Council of Ministers.

Lebanon has been running without a president since October 2022, when the term of former president Michel Aoun ended. The country has been mired in a severe economic crisis since 2019, and the political impasse is

only making things worse.

The Lebanese parliament has failed to elect a new president 12 times, because of a lack of consensus among the country's political factions.

The deadlock is a major obstacle to Lebanon's economic recovery as a new president is needed to form a new government and implement the reforms required by the International Monetary Fund, which has offered Lebanon a bailout package but has made clear that the reforms must be implemented before the money is released.

Lebanese experts and businessmen also urged Lebanese authorities on Tuesday to enact significant reforms, including

bank restructuring and the implementation of proper legislation to encourage investment from Lebanese expatriates in their home country.

The call came during a session at the 3rd Emigrants Economic Conference held in Beirut, which saw the participation of over 300 attendees from 30 countries.

Lebanese Energy and Water Minister Walid Fayyad said the banking sector needs to be restructured in order to restore confidence in the industry and attract investment from expatriates.

"Investment in Lebanon today is based on equity, so we have expensive services. We need to be able to give credit to the private

sector to activate the economy again," Fayyad said, adding this begins with the government addressing losses in the banking sector and restructuring depositors' funds.

"This is the top priority" as the collapse of the banking sector poses the greatest challenge to Lebanon in attracting investments, he noted.

Nidal Abou Zeki, the secretary general of the Lebanese Business Council in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, noted that Lebanon could benefit from the vast knowledge and capital of its expatriates by enacting appropriate legislation to protect investors' funds.

## Zionists...

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armed factions hailed victory, and the mood among residents returning home to the camp appeared triumphant.

"They did not get what they wanted, thank God. The youths are fine, the families are fine, and the camp is fine," Mutasem Estatia, a father of six, said after what he described as two nights being kept away, one of them in Israeli detention.

"There are 12 martyrs and we are proud of them, but we expected more damage."

Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned on Tuesday the Jenin aggression was unlikely to be a "one-off" and said it would be "the beginning of regular incursions and continuous control of the territory".

In turn, the spokesman for the Al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of Islamic Jihad, said "every alley and street will soon turn into clashes and fighting fields."

The scale of the Israeli aggression, one of the biggest in 20 years, pointed to the growing strength of the resistance groups in Jenin, where the Zionist regime estimates almost half the population is affiliated to Islamic Jihad or Hamas.

Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh congratulated the Palestinians on inflicting a "humiliating defeat" on

Israel.

"We say this to the Zionist enemy that their days when it would perpetrate crimes against the Palestinian nation without paying the price are over," he said.

The resistance operation featured an "integrated response" on the part of Palestinian fighters from various branches, striking "fear and terror" inside the heart of the Israeli military, Haniyeh noted.

He said the incidents showed Palestinians from various places and societal strata view resistance as their "strategic option" against the enemy's atrocities.

Islamic Jihad also felicitated Palestinians on the occasion of the "great victory."

"Through their unity and the support they provided for the Palestinian fighters, the Palestinian people proved that they can defeat the enemy in whatever confrontation," said its secretary general Ziad al-Nakhaleh.

Many parts of the Jenin camp have been reduced to rubble, with hospitals and places of worship also heavily damaged in the attacks. Eyewitnesses said the attacks resembled the aftermath of an earthquake.

## Teachers...

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has been passed to the independent School Teachers' Review Body (STRB). Education union leaders have called

on Education Secretary Gillian Keegan to urgently publish the STRB's recommendation as they warned the hold-up is causing "anxiety" in schools and "frustrating headteachers".

Mary Bousted, joint general secretary of the NEU, said: "Teachers do not want to strike. They want to be doing what they do best - teaching and supporting their pupils.

"However, the disruption to children and young people's education occurs daily due to the running down of our education service by government. This cannot go on."

A spokesperson for the Department for Education said: "Any strike action is hugely damaging. We have made a fair and reasonable pay offer to teachers, recognizing their incredible work and commitment.

"Thousands of schools received significant additional funding as part of the extra £2 billion of investment we are providing both this year and next.

"As a result, school funding will be at its highest level in history next year, as measured by the IFS (Institute for Fiscal Studies)."

## Mass...

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the 342nd that the United States has seen this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive (GVA), with at least 21,699 people killed -- including 12,144

intended to halt the violence.

The heated political debate surrounding gun violence and gun ownership in America has sparked limited action, despite the large number of mass shootings in America.

Many Republicans have argued the rise in mass shootings is a "mental health problem" not a gun issue. Despite passing the then Democratic-controlled House in July 2022, a proposed assault weapons ban failed to earn enough support in the Senate in November. An assault weapons ban continues to be a point of disagreement between Democrats—who say a ban is necessary in order to reduce the number of mass shootings—and Republicans—who disagree with removing weapons from Americans who they say use them for self-defense.

## Iran ...

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The report accused Iran of meting out "harsh punishments" on people suspected of involvement in "mass protests," calling on the country to stop the executions of those sentenced to death in connection with the riots and release all those detained.

In response, Gharibabadi said the establishment of such a mechanism despite Iran acting responsibly during and after the riots is a case of double standard and hypocrisy.

"The very same countries that fomented the riots in Iran and of course later got caught in a similar situation provided such a mechanism," he said.

Gharibabadi said what happened in Iran last fall was "not simple and peaceful gatherings", but violent riots and terrorist attacks architected by think tanks in the West and carried out with the financial, arms and media support of West security services.

"During the riots, intelligence services of 20 countries were involved in fueling the unrest. Terrorists also entered the scene and close to 100 people affiliated with terrorist groups, mostly from the [Mujahedin Khalq Organization], were arrested," he said.

The official said the U.S.-based social media network Instagram allowed users to teach people how to make smoke bombs and Molotov cocktails, and in Twitter over 50,000 fake Persian-language users were created during the first month of protest to spread anti-Iran propaganda.

He also said London-based TV channels, including BBC Persian and Iran International, allocated a huge part of their programs to inciting violence and providing terrorists with a platform.

He said Iran's policy on the riots was to use minimum force against lawbreakers and this resulted in law enforcement forces sustaining heavy casualties and damage.

"During the three months of riots, over 75 law enforcement forces and people were martyred by the rioters, and more than 7,000 law enforcement forces were also injured," he said. "Also, over 2,100 public and private property, asset and facility worth 20,000 billion rials were vandalized by the rioters."

Gharibabadi, however, said the plot against Iran was foiled thanks to massive popular support for the Islamic establishment, with the government quickly bringing the situation under control.

He said that back in early February Iran pardoned nearly all of those who had participated in the riots, excluding only a few rioters who had committed brutal crimes, and the government has also formed an independent committee addressing complaints by those impacted by the riots.

The Iranian official expressed hope that countries sponsoring the riots rectify their wrong policies and adopt realistic ones.

Gharibabadi further said Western states are not in a position to talk about the rights of women and children in Iran, while they themselves are violating the rights of women and children in their own countries.

He enumerated a number of crimes

committed by certain countries against Iran, citing the role of Western states in providing former Iraqi regime with chemical weapons that were used in attacks against the Islamic Republic in 1980s, impacting thousands of Iranian women and children.

Gharibabadi also pointed to the "illegal and cruel" sanctions on Iran by Western countries, saying the bans have caused many Iranian women and children to suffer, slamming the punitive measures as a "crime against humanity."

## Palestinian...

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The enemies are so "upset" and "helpless that they assassinate the first person in the fight against terrorism," he added, referring to the US assassination of top Iranian anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani in January 2020.

"Today, the Islamic Republic is among the most decisive in the region," the commander noted, comparing Iran's position to that of the U.S., which "spent \$7 trillion in the region over the past 20 years, but achieved nothing and instead lost something every day."

## Iranian...

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and any party that was involved in this criminal act."

They also discussed transit routes in the region, with Aliyev saying speculations that the reopening of a transit route linking Nakhchivan to Azerbaijan would lead to the closure of the historical transportation routes between Iran and Armenia were incorrect.

Aliyev emphasized that Azerbaijan has not sought to close Iran's historic transportation routes in the region and will never do so, Amir-Abdollahian added.

The minister said the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran have the most in common among their neighbors.

"We consider that travels between the people of the two countries and all-round cooperation between the two countries should be at their best without any restrictions and misunderstandings. We believe that disputes in the South Caucasus region can only be resolved peacefully."

## Official...

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claims about the installation of 100 surveillance cameras at a nuclear plant in the city of Isfahan.

"We had no new obligation to the IAEA beyond the safeguard agreement. All of our measures were taken within the framework of the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions," he noted.

Iran has repeatedly voiced its readiness to resolve differences with the IAEA within a framework of constructive and mutual interaction and technical cooperation.

The disputes between the two sides have been a sticking point in the talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

## Zionists...

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It further blamed the failed pursuit on "the irresponsibility of the Zionist regime and those behind the kidnapping, the loss of many evidence and documents with the passage of time, and the lack of a serious and effective action by relevant international organizations."

Iran, it added, expects the friendly and brotherly Lebanese government to keep up its efforts, both domestically and internationally, to help discover the fate of the missing diplomats.

The ministry also reiterated that it will diligently continue its moves meant to follow up on the issue until the fate of its kidnapped diplomats is determined.