

US sanctions the entire ICC to shield American and Israeli war criminals

By staff writer

TEHRAN — The United States placed the International Criminal Court under sanctions on Friday, October 9, dropping any pretense that its quarrel was limited to individual judges and prosecutors.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced the measure in a video statement that left little room for interpretation. “Either the ICC will end its threats, or we will end the ICC,” he said. ▶ **Page 5**

Yemen hits Riyadh airport again as Saudi flights collapse

TEHRAN — Riyadh's airport was hit again on Saturday, two days after Yemeni missiles killed three Saudis there. Regional officials told the Associated Press that air traffic stopped and the airport was evacuated.

A hospital source told Euronews that dozens were injured, at least five in intensive care. Riyadh confirmed the strike by evening but Sanaa had yet to claim it. Three Western embassies warned citizens away, and Kuwait Airways scrapped its Riyadh flights.

Thursday set the pattern. Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority admitted two attacks on King Khalid International Airport, one on facilities and one on a Saudia aircraft, that killed Captain Hamoud Ali Alkalhami and two other Saudis. CNN verified images of smoke over Terminal 4. ▶ **Page 5**

Martyr Leader's “Cell No. 14” published in Armenian

TEHRAN – The Armenian translation of the book “Cell No. 14,” which is the autobiographical memoir of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was unveiled at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Yerevan State University in Armenia on Friday.

Translated by Maryam Zazian, an Iranologist and translator, the book recounts Ayatollah Khamenei's memoirs from his years of struggle and imprisonment before the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, ISNA reported.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth, Ahmad Donyamali, said that the book is an account of a journey that begins in a simple home and reaches the days when the history of Iran enters a new phase.

He noted that the significance of the book lies in its account of the distance between Ayatollah Khamenei's youth and the figure who later played a decisive role in Iran's political developments, and the years marked by “patience, solitude, choices, and paying the price.” ▶ **Page 8**

Trump seethes that no one knows her; Navi Pillay has rattled US and Israel anyway



▶ **Page 5**



Guests listen as Rubio speaks on the Pnyx on 7 October 2026.

From Athens to Anger

Why Rubio's history lesson backfired in Iran

By Seyed Mohammad Torabi

TEHRAN – US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's October 7 speech at the Pnyx hill in Athens, in which he invoked ancient Greece to call for Western revival and labeled the Islamic Republic of Iran a “cult of death,” has triggered a wave of angry reactions across Iran — from senior officials and former diplomats to academics, newspapers, and social media users.

While Rubio framed his address as a defense of Western civilization stretching from ancient Athens to the United States, Iranian respondents have described it almost unanimously as a selective, politicized reading of history aimed at providing an ideological cover for the ongoing US-Iran war.

Officials: Contradiction and distortion

The most detailed official response came from Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei, who wrote on X that Rubio had reduced Western history “from ancient Greece to Trump's America” into a straight, unbroken line.

“This is precisely an instance of anachronism: distorting historical time by clumsily mixing concepts such as Greece, Rome, Christianity, Europe, America and finally America First,” Baghaei wrote. “It is as if America has concluded that instead of naked bullying in cowboy language, it is better to justify its policy of intimidation and force under the beautiful neon lights of philosophy of history.”

From burning Sardis to bombing Tehran: What Rubio got wrong about Persia

Tehran Times speaks with Touraj Daryaei, historian of ancient Iran and editor of encyclopaedia Iranica



▶ **Page 3**

More than 50 Iranian army units deployed along borders, commander says

TEHRAN — Iran has deployed more than 50 combat and support units of its Army Ground Force along the country's borders, including mobile, rapid-reaction, armored and mechanized brigades, as well as artillery, engineering, missile and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) units, the force's commander has said.

Brigadier General Ali Jahanshahi, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Force, said the force had revised its operational plans, restructured elements of its combat organization and strengthened its readiness in response to lessons learned from previous conflicts, including the 12-day war and the conflict Iranian officials refer to as the Ramadan War. ▶ **Page 2**

Iran to raise US attacks' environmental toll on Kharg Island at international forums

TEHRAN – A comprehensive report is being prepared on the environmental damage caused by US attacks on Kharg Island, southern Bushehr Province, with the aim of pursuing the matter through legal and international channels, including the United Nations.

Abdolrahman Moradzadeh, director general of Bushehr Province's Department of Environment, said protecting the island's natural habitats and wildlife species was part of the responsibility to safeguard the country's national assets. ▶ **Page 7**

Iran proposes BRICS intl. network of photonics labs

TEHRAN – Iran has proposed the establishment of an international network of photonics laboratories among BRICS member states to strengthen scientific cooperation and facilitate access to advanced research infrastructure.

The proposed network would enable researchers across member countries to access laboratory equipment and specialized services, while making better use of existing capacities in fabrication, characterization, testing, and calibration, as well as other specialized infrastructure essential to photonics research.

Vahid Jan-Nesari, an official with the Headquarters for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, presented the proposal during the sixth meeting of the Photonics Working Group, held online from October 3 to 6 in Bengaluru, India.

He also highlighted the need for the promotion of interactions among researchers and scientific centers of BRICS member states, the expansion of collaborations through the exchange of professors, researchers, and students, the transformation of scientific cooperation into joint technological and industrial projects, and the development of targeted collaborative efforts. ▶ **Page 7**

“Shootinga” takes top honors at 38th Isfahan children's film festival

TEHRAN- The film “Shootinga” emerged as one of the leading winners at the 38th edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan, receiving awards for best children's film, best director and technical achievements at the closing ceremony on Thursday.

Directed by Arash Moayerian, “Shootinga” won the Golden Butterfly for best direction, while Amir Rahimzadeh received the award for best children's film as its producer. The film also earned Golden Butterfly awards for visual effects, presented to Amir Valikhani and Reza Mahmoudian, and cinematography, awarded to Davoud Rahmani. Hassan Ayyubi received an honorary diploma for editing the film. ▶ **Page 8**

Pezeshkian visits Tehran exhibition showcasing rural and nomadic achievements

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday visited the sixth exhibition of rural and nomadic achievements in Tehran, praising rural residents and nomadic communities for their contribution to the country's production and supply of essential goods.

During a two-hour visit, Pezeshkian toured booths showcasing products, crafts and economic capacities from Iran's 31 provinces, meeting exhibitors and learning about their activities. ▶ **Page 6**



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In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday’s Iranian newspapers.

Diplomacy and the battlefield must be managed

In an article, Etemad examined Iran’s current situation and its policy positions. Following the 40-day war, Iran’s adversaries have launched a psychological campaign against the Iranian public by repeatedly announcing different dates for the outbreak of a third war involving Iran, the United States, or the Israeli regime. Although the conflict appears to be continuing on various levels, predicting another war requires a careful assessment of the circumstances and underlying conditions. Iran’s situation is also far from favorable. The state of neither war nor peace has placed considerable pressure on both the government and the public. As a result, expectations for either an end to the current situation or the beginning of a new conflict are growing. At a time when the Israeli regime is seeking an attack on Iran, the United States is preoccupied with the uncertainty surrounding Trump, West Asia and the wider world are filled with tension, and even the possibility of a global war is being discussed. Under such conditions, Iran must carefully manage both the diplomatic arena and the battlefield, as the country’s future can be shaped by the decisions made today. Acting wisely will strengthen Iran’s position in the region and in the years ahead.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Broad interactions through new initiatives

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to the significance of Iran’s participation in the Caspian Sea environmental summit. In its foreign policy, of Iran has adopted a rational and realistic approach, moving beyond an exclusive focus on negotiations and instead pursuing multilayered activities in various fields. This strategy emphasizes an eastern-oriented policy and the expansion of relations with neighboring countries, particularly Iran’s northern neighbors. Within the framework of this active diplomacy at the highest levels, President Pezeshkian traveled to Turkmenistan on an official visit. One of the most important aspects of the summit of the heads of state of the Commonwealth of Independent States was Iran’s presence as the only non-member country. Iran’s significant geopolitical position and its internal capabilities have led member states to emphasize the necessity of deeper cooperation and greater integration with Tehran. This participation both exposed the failure of efforts to isolate Iran internationally and demonstrated the country’s regional and global influence. It was also portrayed as evidence contradicting Trump’s claims regarding Iran’s destruction or decline.

Arman-e-Melli: An impotent America

Arman-e-Melli discussed developments between Iran and the United States in an in-

MP warns any attack on Iran would trigger a much stronger response

TEHRAN — Abbas Goudarzi, a member of the Iranian Parliament’s Presiding Board, has described US President Donald Trump’s threats against Iran as part of Washington’s psychological warfare, warning that any attack on the country would be met with a response many times more forceful.

Speaking to Mehr News Agency, Goudarzi said the United States uses threats and public manipulation to undermine Iranian society’s resilience and influence the calculations of the country’s officials.

He said such pressure was not new, noting that Iran had faced threats and sanctions since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Nevertheless, he argued, the country had continued to withstand external pressure by relying on domestic capabilities, national self-confidence and public support.

Goudarzi described the confrontation between Iran and the United States as an existential struggle, arguing that despite the considerable costs Iran had incurred, Washington had failed to achieve its objectives. He said resistance to external pressure was not merely a political choice for Iran but a strategic necessity for safeguarding its independence, security and future development.

The lawmaker identified defensive deterrence as one of the principal factors in preventing aggression against Iran. He said any potential adversary must understand that an attack would carry serious consequences and could no longer be launched without the prospect of a forceful response.

Iran, Goudarzi added, should not only preserve

terview with international affairs analyst Alaeddin Boroujerdi. He stated that Trump, facing a turbulent political situation ahead of the elections, is deeply concerned about declining popularity and voter support and may resort to drastic measures. However, entering a war before the election would certainly not benefit Trump because Iran’s response would be stronger than that of the United States. He also described conditions within the United States as highly unstable, asserting that American citizens are increasingly frustrated by economic pressures and energy-related challenges that, in his view, have resulted from Trump’s miscalculations. Consequently, he argued, Americans are paying the price for these mistakes. Boroujerdi noted that Trump’s recent proposals to increase military spending have not won broad approval. Combined with financial difficulties, ammunition shortages, and growing domestic pressure, these factors suggest that Trump’s political problems will become increasingly difficult. He further emphasized that resilience is a decisive factor in warfare and argued that, owing to its experience during the eight-year Iran-Iraq War, the Islamic Republic has gained valuable expertise in coping with sanctions and enhancing national endurance.

Khorasan: Bessent threatened himself

Khorasan analyzed remarks made by Central Bank Governor Abdolnasser Hemmati, describing them as a clever response to US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent. According to the article, in the context of what it called a cognitive and perception-based conflict, Hemmati provided the banking sector’s official response to the US Treasury’s psychological campaign. At the beginning of the dispute, Bessent had effectively set a two-week countdown, intending to generate fear and accelerate a collapse in Tehran’s financial markets. However, once the deadline passed and none of the predicted outcomes materialized, at least not in the manner Bessent had claimed, Hemmati responded with the sarcastic remark, “You only have three days left,” symbolically turning the same countdown clock back on Bessent himself. The newspaper argued that recent events revealed two important realities. First, they demonstrated to the Iranian public and financial markets that the opposing sides’ deadline had expired and amounted to little more than a propaganda claim that had not been fulfilled. Second, on the international stage, they placed the US Treasury Secretary in a position where he now has to explain to Wall Street and his critics why, after the expiration of the two-week ultimatum, Iran’s economy has not collapsed and has instead managed to maintain its core functions.

its existing deterrent capabilities but also continue strengthening them. He argued that a combination of military advances and the capacity to respond decisively would discourage any attempt to threaten the country’s territory, resources or national interests.

He also linked defense capabilities to broader national development, saying security was essential to economic growth, scientific advancement and stronger domestic production. Without adequate security, he warned that other areas of national life would also face serious risks.

Addressing the differing and sometimes contradictory statements made by US officials about Iran, Goudarzi said the discrepancies could reflect divisions within the United States over how to pursue its Iran policy. They could also, he added, be part of an effort to complicate the calculations of Iranian decision-makers.

He argued that the failure of Washington’s anti-Iran policies to achieve their intended goals may have contributed to competing views within the United States about how best to deal with Tehran.

Goudarzi said Iran should remain alert to such developments without abandoning its principles or allowing uncertainty to undermine its resolve.

He concluded by stressing the importance of national unity and social cohesion, urging officials and the public to avoid division and remain focused on the country’s strategic priorities.

More than 50 Iranian army units deployed along borders, commander says

From page 1 ▶ In remarks reported by Mehr News Agency, Jahanshahi said the post-war reforms had prioritized the introduction of precision-strike, smart and network-enabled weapons systems, alongside expanded training programs to enhance personnel proficiency and operational effectiveness.

He added that measures to reduce personnel casualties, protect military assets and sustain operational readiness included the construction of extensive tunnel networks, trenches, firing positions and defensive fortifications at military installations.

Large-scale force deployment across Iran

Jahanshahi said that, following the outbreak of the Ramadan War, more than 50 combat and support units had been deployed to border areas across the country.

The deployments extended from Iran’s northwestern and western frontiers to the southwest, east and southeast, as well as the Makran coastline. According to the commander, the redeployment effort involved more than nine million kilometers of road movements, alongside the transport of substantial quantities of ammunition



tion and military equipment by heavy vehicles.

He said the movements were conducted under the surveillance and potential threat of hostile drones and aircraft, with forces repositioned at night to reduce their exposure. Jahanshahi said the deployment had strengthened Iran’s deterrence posture and helped prevent enemy forces from crossing the country’s borders.

He added that Ground Force units remained deployed along the frontiers and maintained operational readiness despite temperatures exceeding 50 degrees Celsius, high humidity and limited logistical facilities.

ounter-infiltration measures and continued weapons production

Pezeshkian, Qalibaf vow pursuit of justice after terrorist bombing kills senior female police official

TEHRAN — Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Police Chief Brigadier General Ahmadreza Radan have condemned the killing of a senior female police official in a terrorist bombing in southeastern Iran, vowing that the attack will not weaken the country’s resolve to safeguard security and public order.

Nosrat Eftekhari, deputy for cultural and social affairs at the Sistan and Baluchestan provincial police command, was killed on Friday when a bomb struck her vehicle on the road to Cheshmeh Ziarat village near Zahedan, the provincial capital. Several other police officers were injured in the attack.

Eftekhari was visiting the village during Police Week as part of efforts to address local communities’ concerns, according to a condolence message issued by Radan on Saturday.

Pezeshkian: Terrorist attacks will not undermine security forces

In a message of condolence on Saturday, Pezeshkian said “blind terrorist acts” would not shake the determination of Iran’s security forces.

He said such attacks were intended to create insecurity, spread violence and disrupt public peace, adding that the killing of innocent people exposed the criminal nature of those responsible.

The president called on the authorities in charge to investigate all aspects of the bombing with urgency and seriousness, identify those responsible and bring them to justice as swiftly as possible.

He stressed that attacks of this nature would not deter security personnel from pro-

tecting the lives, safety and well-being of the public, reaffirming the government’s determination to continue confronting terrorism and those seeking to destabilize the country.

Qalibaf calls for full investigation and accountability

Qalibaf also vowed that those who carried out or ordered the attack would face justice, describing Eftekhari as a dedicated public servant who had worked to address the concerns of local communities, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

In his condolence message, the parliament speaker praised her educational background, commitment to public service and efforts to strengthen trust and solidarity among ethnic groups in Sistan and Baluchestan.

He said the targeting of an official engaged in resolving public grievances and strengthening social cohesion underscored the importance of maintaining direct contact with communities and addressing the challenges they face.

Qalibaf urged the authorities to pursue the case until all those involved had been identified and brought to justice. He also emphasized the need to tackle deprivation and reinforce unity among Iran’s ethnic and religious communities, saying these efforts were essential to honoring Eftekhari’s work.

He extended condolences to her family, colleagues, fellow police officers and the people of Sistan and Baluchestan and Iran.

Police chief vows retaliation

Radan, in his own message of condolence, pledged a determined response to Eftekhari’s

sociated with Israel during the war.

Passive defense measures limit personnel losses

The commander said several Ground Force installations had been struck during the conflict, with military buildings and personnel accommodation among the targets. At one base, he said, 10 barracks buildings were hit. Attacks also caused extensive damage to military infrastructure, destroying hundreds of thousands of square meters of buildings, according to his account.

Jahanshahi attributed the comparatively limited loss of life to the dispersal of personnel and the implementation of passive defense measures. Without those precautions, he said, the number of fatalities could have reached thousands.

Despite the damage, he added, personnel had maintained their positions and continued their missions.

Jahanshahi concluded that the Ground Force’s operational readiness and capabilities had improved significantly compared with the period before the conflict, with equipment production continuing and units maintaining their preparedness for potential threats.

killing and vowed that efforts to establish lasting security and preserve national unity would continue.

He highlighted her commitment to public service, saying her death reflected the sacrifices made by both male and female security personnel in maintaining public safety.

The police chief said the authorities would remain committed to ensuring security, while the killing would not halt efforts to serve local communities.

Security and community engagement in S. Iran

Sistan and Baluchestan, which borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, is a strategically important southeastern province where Iranian security forces have repeatedly confronted armed groups and cross-border security threats. Iran has long stressed the importance of strengthening border security alongside development, public services and engagement with local communities.

Eftekhari’s responsibilities in cultural and social affairs placed her in direct contact with residents and community groups. Iranian officials have highlighted such engagement as an important part of efforts to strengthen public trust and social cohesion, particularly in remote areas.

The bombing has prompted senior Iranian officials to call for a thorough investigation and accountability for those responsible. Their messages also underscored that attacks on security personnel and public servants would not deter the authorities from pursuing security measures or efforts to address local communities’ concerns.

Iran’s seven conditions remain non-negotiable under seven-day proposal, says MP

TEHRAN — Hassan Qashqavi, spokesman for the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said Iran’s seven conditions under its seven-day proposal remain unchanged, stressing that they were set by the country’s highest authorities and cannot be revised or abandoned at lower levels of decision-making.

In an interview with Mehr News Agency, Qashqavi said the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz would follow the fulfillment of all seven conditions, rejecting the idea that Iran should take that step before the agreed requirements are met.

He said Qatar, acting as an intermediary, had conveyed Washington’s response to Iran’s proposal while Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was in New

York and even before his return to Iran.

Qashqavi argued that Iran had compelling reasons to insist on all seven conditions, citing Washington’s record of withdrawing from negotiations and failing to honor commitments. He said Iran would not accept taking action before the conditions were fulfilled, adding that the two countries’ presidents had previously signed up to the conditions, although the US president subsequently retreated from that position.

Qashqavi said the main difference between the current seven-day proposal and the framework discussed in Islamabad concerned the timetable rather than the substance of the proposed arrangement.

Under the earlier framework,

he said, periods of 30 and 60 days had been discussed. The new proposal would compress the timetable into seven days without changing the underlying terms.

He added that the other side’s response called for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz first, with the seven conditions to be implemented gradually afterward. That sequence differs from Iran’s stated position that the conditions must be fulfilled before the strait is reopened.

Qashqavi also questioned Washington’s request for negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program, arguing that it appeared inconsistent with US statements that military strikes had destroyed Iran’s nuclear facilities.

The lawmaker said Iran want-

ed greater clarity on what, precisely, the United States intended to discuss, describing the request as ambiguous.

Qashqavi said responsibility for the next move rested with Washington, which must decide whether to honor its commitments or withdraw from them again.

He pointed to domestic political pressures in the United States, including the approaching midterm elections and widening divisions within the Republican Party. Citing polling trends, he said Republican prospects had weakened in several states where the party traditionally performs well, adding that some US analysts were now raising the possibility that Republicans could lose control of both chambers of Congress.

From Athens to Anger

Why Rubio's history lesson backfired in Iran

From Page 1 ► Baghaei added that Rubio had detached the Greek concept of thumos from its historical and philosophical context and redefined it as praise of power, competition and national will: "What he offers is not philosophy of history; but a manipulated and distorted version of history designed to justify the combative and warmongering policies of the US administration."

"The danger of this deviant narrative of history lies not merely in misreading past events, but in appropriating the past to legitimize naked force and sanctify it in the present," he said.

Ali Akbar Velayati, senior adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, focused on the "cult of death" remark:

"There is a glaring contradiction in Rubio's recent speech: Standing firm 'to the last man' is praised in the context of ancient Greece, yet the steadfastness of the great Iranian nation is disparaged with the label of a 'death cult'."

"Mr. Rubio, your problem is not with the Islamic Revolution; it is with a strong and independent Iranian civilisation," Velayati added. "Glorifying resistance in the 'self' and despising it in the 'other' is not civilisation, but philosophy in service of domination."

Ebrahim Azizi, head of the Parliament's National Security Commission, wrote on X: "A country whose history began with the massacre of indigenous peoples and has never ceased from colonialism and bloodshed accuses the Achaemenids – who wrote the world's first declaration of human rights – of crimes! Your vile nature has a problem with Iran and Iranians."

Mohsen Rezaei, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf both responded by recalling the



capture of the Roman Emperor Valerian by Sassanid King Shapur I in 260 CE, warning: "Anyone who brings history into this must be prepared for its repetition."

Minister of Cultural Heritage Reza Salehi Amiri said: "Iran cannot be defined by one war, one king or one government. Iran's civilizational roots are deeper and more enduring than the lifespan of many of today's powers. Iran must be spoken to in the language of respect."

Former foreign ministers: Recycling Huntington

Former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif reacted twice. In one post, sharing a photo of the IRDEXPO exhibition of rural and nomadic capabilities, he wrote that it offers "a glimpse of Iranian civilization; a country with a rich cultural and artistic heritage spanning several thousand years," and added that "Rubio is so ignorant and blinded by power that he cannot understand how Iran absorbed invaders into its rich culture."

In remarks on Rubio's objectives, Zarif said: "This is an attempt at narrative-building that presents the Western world's enmity with Iran as a civilizational enmity. In fact, they are recycling

what Mr. Huntington put forward in the 1990s, but at a very vulgar and unscientific level. As I said, not only Mr. Rubio, even his speechwriter did not understand what he said."

Former Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said briefly: "Mr. Rubio! What do you think about Trump's threats? The land of Cyrus has no enmity with civilization."

Vali Nasr, professor at Johns Hopkins University, wrote on X that Rubio is presenting a second version of Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations" theory. "Instead of a confrontation between Islam and the West, he draws a civilizational confrontation between Iran and the West. In this way, the era of Islamophobia gives way to 'Iranophobia'."

Diplomatic mockery and social media anger

The Iranian Embassy in Bosnia joined the backlash on X, posting a photo of an ancient Iranian ewer and writing: "The Iranian ewer is 10 times older than your country."

On social media, reactions have been extensive, with Iranian users mocking and criticizing Rubio in different forms.

One user wrote about the

speech: "Rubio recalls ancient Iranians as the enemy of the cradle of Western civilization, ancient Greece, and calls Xerxes, the Achaemenid king, an invader and aggressor. But the backward, regressive Iranian still thinks that by saying 'I am Persian, not Muslim' he can whitewash himself and pose as Western."

Another user wrote: "Rubio in Athens began his speech with Xerxes' and the Achaemenids' attack on Greece. 25 centuries have passed, but the US Secretary of State still uses Iran's war with ancient Greece to explain 'today's threats against the West.'"

Front pages in Tehran

The controversy dominated Iran's Saturday press. Three national dailies — Jam-e Jam, Farhikhtegan and Vatan-e Emrooz — devoted their front pages to the speech, publishing reports and commentaries criticizing Rubio's remarks.

Vatan-e Emrooz ran a symbolic front page depicting Rubio in ancient Roman military dress with shield and sword, arguing he is trying to build a historical-ideological justification for America's war against Iran.

lami said Iran had continued to cooperate with the agency's regulatory framework while advancing its nuclear capabilities.

He maintained that the country's progress in nuclear science and technology demonstrated its determination to develop the peaceful applications of the field despite external pressure and restrictions.

Eslami also highlighted Iran's advances in nuclear technology, saying the country produces and regularly distributes more than 72 radiopharmaceutical products, which are exported to 19 countries. He added that another 20 radiopharmaceuticals are at the research and development phase, and that Iran has joined the ranks of the world's leading countries in producing certain alpha-emitting radiopharmaceuticals.

Eslami's remarks come amid longstanding disputes over Iran's nuclear program, the scope and implementation of international safeguards, and the role of the IAEA in addressing so-called nuclear proliferation concerns. Tehran has consistently maintained that its nuclear activities are peaceful and that access to nuclear technology for civilian purposes should be governed by international rules rather than political pressure.

Iran has also repeatedly called for a consistent approach to nuclear issues, arguing that the international non-proliferation system can retain its credibility only if its principles are applied without double standards.

Iran nuclear chief accuses IAEA of yielding to US and Israeli Pressure

TEHRAN — Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for its 'submission to pressure from the United States and Israel,' saying the UN nuclear watchdog has failed to uphold its responsibility to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and ensure equal access to the technology for all nations.

Speaking on Saturday, Eslami said the agency's approach to Iran had departed from its legal and professional obligations under the influence of Washington and the Israeli regime. He argued that discriminatory approaches to nuclear issues, particularly the treatment of nuclear weapons and peaceful nuclear activities, had weakened international law and eroded confidence in the international system.

Referring to President Masoud Pezeshkian's remark that "the bomb is in Israel, while the inspectors are in Iran," Eslami said the statement highlighted a 'fundamental contradiction' in the international handling of nuclear issues: Iran's peaceful nuclear program remains under international scrutiny, while Israel's nuclear arsenal is not subject to comparable safeguards and inspections.

Eslami argued that such double standards, alongside 'unlawful conduct by powerful states,' had undermined the principles of the UN Charter and contributed to the erosion of international legal norms. He said the credi-



bility of international institutions depended on their ability to apply established rules consistently, without political discrimination or pressure from influential countries.

Unilateralism and the Erosion of International Law

The AEOI chief also criticized the post-Second World War international legal order, saying unilateral policies and excessive demands by the United States had weakened the institutions and arrangements established to promote international cooperation.

According to Eslami, Washington has withdrawn from international organizations and cooperative frameworks when their decisions or rules have conflicted with its interests, while seeking to preserve a global order shaped around US preferences. He said such an approach had impaired multilateral mechanisms and made it more difficult

to uphold international law on an equal basis.

Peaceful Nuclear Energy as a Universal Right

Eslami stressed that the peaceful use of nuclear energy is not the exclusive privilege of a limited group of countries, but an entitlement that should be available to all nations in accordance with international law and relevant safeguards.

He said the IAEA was established to encourage and facilitate the peaceful application of nuclear technology and to help countries benefit from its scientific, medical, agricultural, industrial and energy-related uses. In his view, the agency has failed for years to fulfil this mandate fairly in its dealings with Iran, instead adopting an approach that has impeded the country's nuclear development under US and Israeli pressure.

Despite a 'sustained maximum-pressure campaign,' Es-

From burning Sardis to bombing Tehran: What Rubio got wrong about Persia

Tehran Times speaks with Touraj Daryaei, historian of ancient Iran and editor of encyclopaedia Iranica

TEHRAN – U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's October 7 speech in Athens invoked ancient Greece as the foundation of Western civilization, linking the Persian invasion under Xerxes in 480 BCE to a broader call for Western ambition, national sovereignty and renewed American power. Speaking at the historic Pnyx, Rubio also criticized Iran's leadership, contrasting his portrayal of Western heroism with what he described as Iran's "cult of death."

In this interview with the Tehran Times, Touraj Daryaei, historian of ancient Iran and editor of Encyclopaedia Iranica, challenges Rubio's historical narrative and examines its political implications.

The following is the text of the interview:

You noted that the Athenians helped burn Sardis, an important Achaemenid administrative center, in 489 BCE, before Xerxes invaded Greece in 480 BCE. How does this episode change our understanding of the history Rubio presents?

I think the entire premise of Secretary Rubio's speech is false. This was not a battle between East and West, but rather a conflict between a world empire spanning three continents and a number of Greek city-states on the other side of the sea. From this perspective, the entire premise is wrong.

However, the Athenians and their allies did come in 489 BCE and burn the center of the Lydian satrapy of the Persian Empire. They set it on fire, looted it, and completely destroyed it, along with the Temple of Cybele. An empire obviously does not sit still in response to such an attack; it has to take revenge. The burning of the Acropolis in 480 BCE was, in effect, retaliation for what had happened nine years earlier.

Rubio cites figures such as Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar and Hernán Cortés as symbols of ambition and expanding power. What does this reveal about his definition of Western civilization?

Empires do what they do when they have the power to do so. Of course, the nature of empires differs. In antiquity, we see figures who sought to conquer the world, such as Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar.

I think Hernán Cortés was a different kind of figure. He belongs to the early modern period, when Europeans systematically set out to plunder the American, African and Asian continents, enrich themselves, enslave people to provide free labor, and build a capitalist economy. Their economy advanced beyond those of other continents partly because their natural resources had been taken.

This was different from the campaigns of Alexander or Julius Caesar, which sought to bring glory to Greece and Rome.

Rubio delivered his speech at the Pnyx, where ancient Athenians gathered for their democratic assembly. Why did he choose this historic site, and what message does it convey?

Rubio smartly chose this location because the United States is engaged in a war with Iran. By going to Greece, he can effectively say, "Look, the Iranians were doing the same thing 2,500 years ago," as if nothing has changed. He is trying to use history as an ideological tactic against Iran and, more broadly, against those on the other side of the current conflict.

It is a perfect spot if you want to invoke history, but I think he is doing so in an awkward way. In Iran, we do not go to Persepolis and say, "Alexander burned Persepolis, and that is why the Americans want to do the same."

Rubio traces Western civilization from ancient Greece and Rome through Christianity and Europe to the United States. How accurate is this narrative, and what does it overlook about cultural exchanges between Persia, Greece and other ancient civilizations?

Mr. Rubio is really reaching for the stars here. The idea that the United States, represented by Mr. Rubio, whose family comes from Cuba, is an inheritor of Western civilization is not entirely accurate.

In fact, the idea that the West's heritage is directly connected to Greece is a relative-

ly recent phenomenon, dating back only two or three centuries. A bridge was constructed between antiquity and the modern age, bypassing much of what happened in the medieval world and overlooking important historical developments. This is, indeed, a fallacy.

Greece and Iran, by contrast, have had extensive contact with one another. They have borrowed from each other and share many similarities in their traditions, from antiquity to the present day. The United States and Germany, by comparison, are far removed from what Greece was and is.

He opens with the Achaemenid invasion of Athens and later criticizes Iran's current leadership. Is this a deliberate link between ancient Persia and modern Iran, or would that interpretation go beyond his speech?

Yes, absolutely. Secretary Rubio is trying to link the past to the present, however false that connection may be. He is essentially saying, "Look at what is happening in our dealings with Iran, and what we are doing against Iran. This is what you had to face in 480 BCE."

The fallacy here is that the United States has military bases throughout the Middle East. It is the United States and Israel that have bombed Iran. Iranians have not gone to Europe or the United States to wage war against Europeans or Americans.

You have highlighted Western interventions in the East over the past two centuries. Which historical events best illustrate the gap between the West's image as a defender of freedom and its record of foreign intervention?

I think Rubio had several things in mind. One was to argue that the West should not apologize for its past. However, while talking about Greece as a great civilization, he did not address the experiences of people around the world over the past two or three centuries: people whose countries have been attacked, whose communities have been bombed and looted, and whose populations have been enslaved.

These actions helped build Western nations, particularly the United States, into what they are today. To ignore this history is quite dishonest.

The U.S. Secretary of State delivered this speech amid the war involving the United States and Iran. How should this context shape our reading of his references to ancient Persia and Western civilization?

The context is that the United States and the West have been in conflict with Iran, a power that acted as a superpower in Asia and the East, for what Rubio presents as an enduring historical struggle spanning millennia.

This is how he has framed the issue to make his argument more persuasive. He is doing so in Athens, beside the Acropolis, to drive home his point.

Rubio used ancient history to frame his vision of Western civilization and American power. Is he seeking to establish a distinct political doctrine of his own and lay the groundwork for a potential 2028 presidential campaign?

I think his speech generally went over well with a European audience concerned about immigration and changes in the demographic and religious composition of both Europe and the United States.

His central message is that Western civilization is a noble civilization that made the West a superpower. He presents it as an enduring, unchanging civilization with a history stretching back thousands of years.

What he does not describe is what this civilization has done to the rest of the world over the past two or three centuries in order to reach its current position.

No one is against Western civilization, but we should always remain mindful of the atrocities that have also been committed. You cannot vindicate yourself before history simply by standing beside an ancient monument such as the Acropolis to make your point.

Iran’s energy minister meets head of Afghan State Companies in Kabul to boost bilateral ties

TEHRAN- Minister of Energy met and held talks with Mawlawi Ahmad Jan Bilal, the head of Afghan state companies, on the second day of his trip to Kabul.

According to Mehr News Agency, Ahmad Jan Bilal, while welcoming the Minister of Energy and the accompanying Iranian delegation, stated: “The enemies of Islam, headed by the former Soviet Union and America, tried for several decades to confront the jihadi actions of the mujahideen of Afghanistan and occupied our country and committed crimes for years, but we frustrated them and disgraced them.”

He said: “America is still seeking a presence in the region, and we and you will not allow them to interfere.”

Ahmad Jan Bilal referred to the commonalities between Iran and Afghanistan in confronting oppression and said: “America’s months-long aggressions against Iran have no justification, and we have repeatedly declared and again say that we stand shoulder to shoulder with you, and Muslims must be a unified hand against the oppression of aggressors.”

The Minister of Energy of Iran also thanked the hospitality of Afghan officials and stated: “I have been tasked with promoting the relations between the two countries as much as possible on this trip.”

Abbas Aliabadi added: “We fully believe in the pioneering role of the Afghan people in the fight against imperialism, and we see ourselves alongside the people of Afghanistan, and we must work together.”

According to a report by the Ministry of Energy, he said: “Regarding electricity, we are aware of your problems and are ready to solve your problems by sending experts and delegations.”

Based on this report, 44 companies operate under the supervision of the Afghanistan State Companies Organization, and in this meeting, a number of the heads of these companies spoke about their performance and needs in the field of water and energy.

On October 7, upon arrival in Afghanistan, Aliabadi, referring to the goals of his trip to Afghanistan, listed the expansion of technical and engineering cooperation with neighbors and said: Currently, there are good interactions between the two countries.

He also referred to the historical, linguistic, and cultural commonalities of the two nations, and stated: Iran and Afghanistan are two countries with a common language and shared culture, and these commonalities provide a suitable ground for developing cooperation in various fields.

The Minister of Energy, explaining the goals of his trip, said: It was necessary to make a trip to Kabul to negotiate and meet with officials in the water and energy sector; on the other hand, visiting the fifth Abu Hanifa Afghanistan International Exhibition and expanding technical and engineering cooperation with neighboring countries, including Afghanistan, are among the most important goals of this trip.

Aliabadi, referring to the state of exchanges between the two countries, announced: Currently, there is the possibility of exporting technical and engineering services between the two countries, and we are seeking to increase it, and a good opportunity has been provided to expand these cooperations.

Afghan media reported the arrival of a 180-member trade delegation from Iran’s private sector to participate in the Kabul International Exhibition and discuss expanding exchanges and investment between the two countries.

According to IRNA, a 180-member trade delegation from Iran’s private sector, headed by Mahmoud Siadat, head of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, entered Kabul on October 6.

Meanwhile, during the trip of the trade delegation from the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), led by Ghadir Qiyafeh, Vice President of the Chamber, to Kabul, the capacities for Iran-Afghanistan cooperation in mining and mineral industries, agriculture and conversion industries, technology transfer, and the creation



of production and processing chains were examined.

Meetings with Nooruddin Azizi, Afghanistan’s Minister of Industry and Commerce, and Haji Akhtar Mohammad Mohammadi, First Deputy of Afghanistan’s Chamber of Agricultural and Livestock Production, along with participation in the Fifth Abu Hanifa International Exhibition and B2B negotiations between Iranian and Afghan traders, formed the main axes of this trip.

Ghadir Qiyafeh, Vice President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, during the trip to Kabul at the head of a trade delegation, in a meeting with Nooruddin Azizi, Afghanistan’s Minister of Industry and Commerce, referred to Afghanistan’s mineral capacities and emphasized the development of Iran-Afghanistan cooperation in mining and mineral industries.

Azizi, referring to the issue of mining machinery, welcomed the expansion of relations and economic cooperation with Iran.

In this meeting, attended by Hamed Asgari, Deputy for International Affairs of the Iran Chamber; Mahmoud Omati, Vice President of the Mashhad Chamber; Hossein Beykzadeh, Vice President of the Karaj Chamber; Arash Alavi, member of the Board of Representatives of the Iran and Kerman Chamber; and Mohsen Amini, member of the Food Industry Committee and member of the Board of Representatives of the Iran Chamber, the capacities for economic cooperation between the two countries were examined.

Ghadir Qiyafeh, Vice President of the Iran Chamber, considering Afghanistan’s mineral capacities, emphasized the necessity of strengthening interactions and developing cooperation between the economic actors of the two countries in mining and mineral industries, and considered the existing capacities in this sector as a basis for expanding Iran-Afghanistan economic cooperation.

Then Nooruddin Azizi, Afghanistan’s Minister of Industry and Commerce, referring to the issue of mining machinery, emphasized the importance of cooperation in this area and welcomed the development of relations and expansion of economic cooperation between Afghanistan and Iran.

Qiyafeh, on the sidelines of the Fifth Abu Hanifa International Exhibition of Afghanistan and at the B2B negotiations ceremony of traders and economic actors of Iran and Afghanistan, emphasizing the extensive economic capacities of the two countries, said: “Iran’s view of Afghanistan should not be merely as a market for supplying Iranian goods; rather, it should move toward joint investments.”

At this ceremony, Ghadir Qiyafeh, Vice President of the Iran Chamber, referring to the extensive presence of Iranian companies and firms in this year’s exhibition, stated: “Last year, when I came to Afghanistan to attend the Abu Hanifa Exhibition, I did not witness such a crowd and welcome from the economic actors of the two countries, but this year, with the efforts of the Iranian chambers and the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, the presence of Iranian companies and firms has increased, and the level of the exhibition has significantly differed from last year.”Qiyafeh, referring to the presence of Iranian companies at the Fifth Abu Hanifa International Exhibition of Afghanistan, said: “Among the Iranian companies present at this exhibition, more than 10 groups are interested and ready to invest in Afghanistan, and some of them have announced their readiness to invest in conversion industries.”

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

South Pars pressure boosting project to accelerate

TEHRAN- The deputy chairman of the Energy Committee of the Parliament, referring to the oil industry’s efforts to advance the South Pars pressure enhancement project, said: The recent approval issued by the Economic Council paves the way for accelerating the implementation of this national project.

Farhad Shahraki, in an interview with Shana, called attributing the delays in implementing the project to the oil industry illogical and added: The Parliament Energy Committee, with full information, continuously monitors the project’s implementation process, and in this regard, the continuous and diligent efforts of the oil industry, especially Pars Oil and Gas Company, have been evident.

Referring to the appropriate interaction between the Ministry of Oil and the Parliament in answering questions and addressing the concerns of Energy Committee members and holding numerous meetings between the two sides, he stressed using existing capacities to compensate



for past delays: It is expected that the recent approval of the pressure enhancement project in the Economic Council will mark the starting point for accelerating its executive operations.

The deputy chairman of the Parliament Energy Committee, regarding the South Pars pressure enhancement project, stated: In recent weeks, proper synergy has formed among contractors, Pars Oil and Gas Company, the Ministry of Oil, and the

Parliament, and with the cooperation of other influential bodies, it can be hoped that part of the delays will be compensated and the project implementation process will be pursued more rapidly.

Shahraki, on the necessity of countering the pressure decline in the South Pars reservoir, added: The Parliament Energy Committee will stand alongside the executive body of the pressure enhancement project, and it is hoped that the project’s imple-

CNG consumption increases by 12%

TEHRAN- The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, regarding the impact of implementing the third-tier gasoline rate on the fuel consumption pattern, said: The implementation of this plan has had two effects; in the CNG sector, we have witnessed about a 12% growth in consumption, and the willingness to use this fuel, especially in public transportation and online platforms, has increased.

According to a Shana, Mohammad Sadeq Azimifar said: Gasoline consumption during the implementation period of the plan has also decreased by about 3% compared with the same period last year.

He added: This shows that by applying gradual and step-by-step reforms, we can both gradually correct consumption and steer consumers’ behavior toward using alternative fuels.

The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, stating that a set of plans has been designed to manage and make fuel consumption transparent, said: These plans are implemented in different phases, feedback is taken from them, and in accordance with the feedback received, flaws are fixed and then the plan is extended to a larger statistical population. This is a scientific procedure in the world.

Azimifar, regarding emergency cards at fuel stations, stated: Currently, about 40% of the country’s gasoline consumption is done with

emergency cards at stations, which has two fundamental flaws.

About the condition of power plant fuel tanks, he said: Given the intensification of the gas imbalance this winter due to the damage inflicted on gas facilities in the war, supplying liquid fuel to power plants is among the solutions for stabilizing the country’s electricity grid in the cold season.

Emphasizing synergy between the Ministry of Oil and the Ministry of Energy, he added: Stored power plant diesel is considered a suitable backup for entering the cold season.

The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company continued: We hope that with the total measures designed in various sectors and the guidance of the optimization working group of the Ministry of Interior, we can successfully pass this winter as well.

Azimifar, emphasizing the role of consumption management in passing the cold season, stated: Achieving this goal depends on all sectors, including the household and industrial sectors, taking optimization and consumption management seriously in the field of gas consumption. Our estimate is that with only 10% optimization and consumption management, sustainable gas supply for various sectors can be achieved.

Regarding measures to address these challenges, he said: To solve the issue of gatekeeping in station cards, which has taken authority away from people and given it to the station

operator, and also to resolve the problem of lack of transparency in fueling, various plans are being implemented and pursued on a pilot basis. One of these plans is assigning identifiers to emergency cards at stations, which of course has one or two flaws and is being fixed in the pilot stage.

The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company emphasized: If a plan in the field of fueling at stations is to be implemented and extended to the entire country, consumer satisfaction and user experience will undoubtedly be taken into account, and we will try to make fueling easier for people.

Azimifar continued: At the same time, these plans help fueling be transparent and related data be collected, so that if there is diversion, it can be identified and countered.

The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company emphasized: Therefore, if subsidized fuel is diverted, these resources leave people’s pockets and go to the abuser.

Azimifar, referring to measures taken to combat smuggling and fuel diversion, said: The Headquarters for Combating Smuggling of Goods and Currency has announced that most fuel diversion is in the diesel sector, and with the measures we have taken, we have been able to reduce diesel consumption by about 6% compared with 2024, and the country has turned from an importer into an exporter of diesel.

Hormozgan non-oil trade stands at \$8b in H1

TEHRAN- The supervisor of customs in Hormozgan Province, citing a 97% increase in the province’s customs revenues, said that in the first half of the current year, more than 14,370,000 tons of goods worth over \$8 billion were exported and imported through the province’s customs.

Hossein Saeedi, in an interview with IRNA, stated: In the first six months of the current Iranian calendar 1405 (March 21-September 21), 13,073,000 tons of goods worth \$4.066 billion were exported from Hormozgan customs, while in the import sector, 1,298,000 tons of goods worth \$3.988 billion entered the country.

He added: Accordingly, the total foreign trade of Hormozgan customs in the first half of this year exceeded 14,370,000 tons, and the value of these exchanges reached more than \$8 billion.

The supervisor of Hormozgan Province customs continued: This volume of trade was recorded under conditions in which, during recent months, part of the province’s customs buildings and infrastructure was damaged during wartime conditions, but the process of customs formalities and service provision to economic actors was not halted.

Saeedi said: Customs staff in the province continued customs processes by using alternative spaces and maintaining field activities, so that infrastructure damage would not interrupt the flow of goods in and out.

Referring to the importance of continuity in customs activity under difficult conditions, he said: In addition to carrying out legal formalities, customs is one of the important links in the foreign trade chain, and maintaining the flow of goods and supporting economic activities becomes even more important in crisis conditions.

The supervisor of Hormozgan Province customs also announced a 97% increase in customs revenues in the first half of this year and said: The province’s customs revenue in this period reached 1,124,992 billion rials, while the figure in the same period last year was 571,615 billion rials.

Saeedi added: This revenue increase, alongside the high volume of foreign trade, is the result of continued customs processes, expert and appraisal work, collection of duties and tolls, and the continuous activity of the province’s customs staff.

Referring to the conditions of customs activity in recent months,

he said: The experience of this period showed that the continuity of customs activity does not depend only on physical infrastructure, and specialized and responsible human resources play an important role in maintaining trade flow under difficult conditions.

Saeedi emphasized: Relying on the experience gained, Hormozgan customs continues to pursue trade facilitation, support for production, and supply of goods, and efforts are being made for foreign trade through the province’s customs to continue with the least interruption.

According to IRNA, Hormozgan Province customs, by recording a share of nearly one-third of the country’s total non-oil exchanges, plays a key role in Iran’s foreign trade and economic prosperity, and the outstanding performance of the province’s ports has turned the region into the country’s export springboard.

Hormozgan has been a leader in both export and import sectors and has consolidated its position as the forefront of Iran’s maritime trade.

The composition of Hormozgan Province’s import and export goods shows its diversity and economic importance; imports

mentation will become a successful and effective experience for the country’s industry.

According to him, one of the important points in this project is the suitable capacity to benefit from the capabilities of various industrial sectors of the country, such that small, medium, and large industries can participate in supplying equipment and implementing different parts of the project by injecting financial resources, and benefit from the experience of participating in a national project.

The deputy chairman of the Parliament Energy Commission continued: In addition to its economic effects and creating added value in the production chain, the implementation of this project can pave the way for job creation and entrepreneurship development, create suitable capacity for the formation and development of new knowledge and technologies in the country, and provide an opportunity to enhance the country’s technical and engineering capabilities in this field.

of new passenger cars, trucks, gold bullion, mobile phones, petrochemical products, and basic goods are among the major import items. On the other hand, exports of industrial, petrochemical, and mineral goods, carpet exports, and foreign transit have an important share in the province’s economy.

Shahid Rajaee Port, the most important customs point in the province, accounts for more than 89% of Hormozgan’s customs activities and nearly 47% of the total revenue of the country’s customs; access to open waters, advanced loading and unloading facilities, and connection to the rail and road network have made this port a key point in the country’s foreign trade.

Statistics from Iran Customs and the assessment of the province’s customs supervisor show that Hormozgan, with exports of more than 25 million tons of goods, a one-third share of total non-oil exchanges, and outstanding port performance, has consolidated its capability in the axis of Iran’s sea-based economy.

Focus on reforming customs processes and developing infrastructure can turn Hormozgan into Iran’s leader in regional and international trade.

Trump seethes that no one knows her; Navi Pillay has rattled US and Israel anyway

By staff writer
TEHRAN — Within hours of Navi Pillay being named the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the American president had shared a post calling her a hater of America and Israel, and his secretary of state had sanctioned an entire international court. Israel summoned Joseph Goebbels.

Nobody had to explain what the 85-year-old South African jurist did to earn this. The reactions did it for her.

The Nobel deserves no reverence here. Oslo handed its peace medal to Henry Kissinger in 1973 while American bombers pounded Indochina, to Barack Obama in 2009 before drone strikes became his signature, and to Aung San Suu Kyi, who later stood before the ICJ to defend Myanmar's generals against a genocide charge.

The prize launders power so reliably that a laureate who prosecutes it is the anomaly. Pillay needed no committee to vouch for her.

From Clairwood to Rwanda

Pillay was born in 1941 in Clairwood, a working-class Indian neighborhood of Durban, South Africa. Her father drove a bus. Neighbors raised the money for her law degree at the University of Natal. She clerked for ANC lawyer N.T. Naicker, whose house arrests pushed her into court early.

White firms refused to hire her, so in 1967 she opened her own practice, the first non-white woman in Natal to do so, in a profession that barred her from judges' chambers and white-only law libraries.

In 1973 she won Robben Island prisoners, Nelson Mandela among them, access to lawyers and law books. When police detained her husband, she won an order forbidding his torture and sent sworn affidavits to anti-apartheid groups at the UN, which pushed the world toward a Convention Against Torture.

Then came Rwanda. She was the only woman on the tribunal's bench for its first four years, lat-



er its president, and co-authored the 1998 Akayesu judgment, the first to hold that rape can be an act of genocide and that propaganda alone can amount to incitement.

The ICC followed, then the UN human rights office from 2008 to 2014. She now sits as an ad hoc ICJ judge in the same Myanmar genocide case.

The verdict on Gaza

In 2021 she took over the UN commission of inquiry on the occupied Palestinian territory. Its September 2025 report found Israel had committed four of the five acts listed in the Genocide Convention, with intent to destroy Palestinians in Gaza, and that President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former war minister Yoav Gallant had incited it.

It asked whether genocidal intent was the only reasonable inference from the pattern of conduct, the standard the ICJ applies, and found that it was.

Israel's stated aims of "self-defense, defeating Hamas and recovering hostages" explained little of what it documented, she told Middle East Eye, because most of those acts had no military objective she could see. Gaza's Health Ministry now counts more than 74,000 dead.

Pillay made a point Western governments dislike hearing. Nobody has to wait for The Hague. The Genocide Convention binds every state to prevent the crime, she argued, and those still ship-



ping weapons and jet fuel to Israel risk complicity.

She also warned that Trump's Gaza plan, which sidelines Palestinians and leaves Israel in security control, ignores the ICJ's ruling that the occupation must end.

Trump rants, Israel smears, Washington sanctions

Trump did not congratulate her. Hours after the announcement he reposted a message saying the committee had "shamed itself beyond repair" and calling Pillay "an unabashed hater of America and Israel."

Late Friday, after a rally in Syracuse, he posted her photograph and wrote that she got the prize "over the Great United States of America, whose Representative, ME, settled eight Wars." No one had ever heard of her, he added, except that she "hates Israel." It was an "indelible stain" on Norway.

In a follow-up he insisted, "I settled 8 WARS, am close to ending or settling 2 more." His tally counts the June 2025 war on Iran, which U.S. bombers joined in illegal strikes on civilian sites. In July he told reporters 15 million people had been beheaded in the Congo war, roughly four times the usual death estimate.

He has also launched an illegal campaign of aggression against Iran, beginning on February 28. The war has killed civilians in repeated attacks, including at least 155 people, mostly children, in the Minab school massacre; at least 21 in U.S. strikes on Lamerd; and five more

near a wedding in Kuhestak, where 67 were wounded.

He also invaded Venezuela earlier this year. Last year's laureate, the Venezuelan Maria Corina Machado, handed Trump her medal, a gesture the Nobel Institute says does not change the official award.

Washington's real answer to Pillay winning the prize came the same day. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced sanctions on the International Criminal Court itself, the next step in a campaign to dismantle it "brick by brick."

The U.S. had already sanctioned its president in August. The goal is no secret. Officials want the arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant dropped. The ICC condemned the move and welcomed her prize.

Israel's Foreign Ministry called the prize "the grotesque weaponization of an award to legitimize anti-Israel hatred and prejudice" and said Goebbels was "applauding from hell." Netanyahu, himself wanted by the court, issued his own rebuke.

Support came quickly elsewhere. UN chief António Guterres, rights chief Volker Turk, ICC President Tomoko Akane and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa all hailed her. Hamas's Bassem Naim called the prize a message that "humanity still resists the forces of evil targeting international justice." Amnesty's Agnès Callamard, beside her in Nuremberg, noted she is a former ICC judge while Washington tries to destroy the court.

Pillay learned the news at the Nuremberg Forum and told applauding supporters that if they kept clapping, she "may share this prize with Trump." Then she turned serious, warning of a world where "power rather than law determines whose suffering matters."

Washington and Tel Aviv have spent two years trying to bury her report. The prize has handed it a bigger stage, whatever the committee's record.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Three elections on the horizon

By Ali Minabi
TEHRAN – Three elections loom: Israeli Knesset elections, the U.S. midterms, and Palestinian legislative elections.

Each will unfold amid ongoing wars, domestic crises, shifting public opinion, and mounting international pressure. But not every election can reshape the political landscape in a region burdened by wars, divisions, and international shifts.

As for the Israeli regime, the contest appears to be between Benjamin Netanyahu and Gadi Eisenkot. In the United States, the focus is increasingly on President Trump's ability to pursue his agenda without greater constraints from Congress. In Palestine, the question is whether the Zionist regime will allow Palestinians a democratic choice and strong international representation.

The Israeli elections scheduled for October 27 are taking place, for the first time, after three years of genocidal war in Gaza. Those three years have been marked by major security, political, social, and economic crises within the Zionist regime. All of these issues pose challenges for Netanyahu, making it difficult for him to secure another government.

However, the opposition camp may also face a major challenge in successfully forming a stable government. The equation within the regime's political landscape remains uncertain for either side, despite opinion polls favoring Eisenkot. Leading a political camp in terms of votes does not, by itself, give it the ability to determine the outcome. What matters is the ability to form a bloc of 61 seats in the Knesset.

Netanyahu could lose the election without losing his grip on power if he succeeds in forming a new coalition. Likewise, his political opponents could emerge on top without possessing the keys to forming a cohesive and strong alternative government.

The failures of Netanyahu's coalition are also substantial: the cost of the illegal wars he has waged against Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran; the internal divisions over judicial issues and military conscription; and the damage to the regime's image internationally.

One important aspect remains at the forefront: if Netanyahu leaves the political scene, that does not mean the regime will abandon a right-wing fascist ideology. The region is facing an extremely quasi-Nazi Israeli right giving way, perhaps, to a camp that is only marginally less extreme. Netanyahu may be replaced as prime minister, while the political and security structures that produced the same policies remain in place, with Eisenkot, another criminal, taking center stage.

In the United States, the real electoral battle will be over the limits of presidential power. The congressional midterm elections are approaching on November 3 and will determine all seats in the House of Representatives and one-third of the seats in the Senate. If the Democratic Party regains control of either chamber, or both, Trump will face a Congress with greater capacity to exert influence and oversight in two important areas: federal spending and legislation.

Here, an important issue arises: If the Democratic Party succeeds, how will it deal with the Zionist regime amid the shift taking place within the party's supporters? Observers argue that reducing the matter to the assumption that a Republican defeat would automatically mean a decline in U.S. support for the regime would be a superficial reading.

U.S. foreign policy is not made by Congress alone. The president and lobby groups retain broad political powers and tools for managing America's relations with the regime.

Yet what could realistically change? Analysts believe a change in the composition of Congress may raise the political cost of certain U.S. policies relating to the regime. This would come on the backdrop of public opinion shifting amid the U.S.-backed genocide in Gaza.

Such a shift has already begun, particularly among younger people, university students, and other segments of American voters. At that point, the elections would not represent a sudden turning point, but rather one stage in a longer process that could redefine the boundaries of the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

In the Palestinian case, the ballot box is the most important and sensitive of the three. Legislative elections, originally scheduled for November 28, 2026, have now been postponed until September 11, 2027, when presidential elections are also set to take place. The delay extends an electoral freeze that has left Palestinians without legislative elections since 2006 and presidential elections since 2005. The two votes would mark a significant moment in Palestinian political life, offering a long-overdue opportunity to renew the leadership's mandate amid deep divisions and mounting public frustration.

Palestinian elections face a fundamental question that goes beyond who will win and who will lose, particularly amid reports of political challenges and alliances now taking shape. The more important question is: Can Palestinians conduct an electoral process in a political geography that is enduring a genocidal war, settler terrorism, and Zionist occupation?

The success of any Palestinian election should not be measured by opening polling stations and announcing the results. It begins with ensuring that elections are held free of Zionist terror and occupation. The reason cited for the reported delay is "that the anticipated political, security and economic conditions, on which the scheduling of the legislative elections for 28 November, 2027 was based, have not materialized." This is hardly surprising.

Some analysts argue that there is an opportunity for Palestinians that goes beyond simply electing a new legislative council. It is an opportunity to rebuild a new political compact based on reforming the institutions of the Palestine Liberation Organization, redefining the role of the Palestinian Authority, uniting Palestinians at home and abroad, and developing a clear national strategy for confronting the occupying regime.

US sanctions the entire ICC to shield American and Israeli war criminals

From page 1 ► Rubio called the tribunal a "rogue court" and promised to "ban transactions" with it, "cutting off their resources and crippling its ability to operate."

He said Trump "will never allow the International Criminal Court to prosecute Americans," then told allies who sit on the court while relying on American troops for their defense to "rein in the court."

A blacklist with a clock attached

The Treasury Department added the court to its list of Specially Designated Nationals. All property the ICC holds in the United States is blocked, and no one under American jurisdiction may supply it with funds, goods, or services.

The court has about 900 staff. Banks,

insurers, and software vendors that keep serving it now risk penalties, and since banks tend to over-comply with sanctions, the real damage could exceed the legal text, up to exclusion from dollar transactions.

Washington attached a 180-day general license covering maintenance of operations, with narrower carve-outs for cloud and software services, the pension plan and detainees.

The State Department says the window exists so member states can show "meaningful progress" on "fundamental U.S. concerns," and that it can be adjusted if they fail. Critics see an ultimatum with a calendar.

The court prepared for this, swapping Mi-

crosoft for Germany's openDesk, dropping insurer Axa and paying staff months ahead. More than 90 percent of its processes had relied on U.S. technology. Mark Kersten of the University of the Fraser Valley warned that "the worst-case scenario has come about."

Diplomats at the court's annual assembly said in December that the administration had pressed it to drop its investigations in Palestine and Afghanistan, and to amend the Rome Statute so nationals of non-members, meaning Americans and Israelis, could never be prosecuted. The assembly refused, though it did not name Washington.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](#))

Yemen hits Riyadh airport again as Saudi flights collapse

From page 1 ► Brigadier General Yahya Saree said Yemeni forces also fired on Najran airport and a Saudi air base. Earlier strikes on Abha and Riyadh airports had already killed three and wounded 36, by Riyadh's own count.

The commercial damage came fast. Cirium counted 169 of 378 scheduled Riyadh departures cancelled or not operating by late Thursday afternoon, nearly 45 percent.

Lufthansa grounded its Riyadh service through October 16. Turkish Airlines dropped all four departures. Air India, IndiGo and Philippine Airlines followed, and European regulators extended their warnings to Riyadh, Tabuk, Medina and Yanbu.

Saree told airlines, for the last time, that Saudi airspace

outside the holy cities is a theater of operations.

Sanaa describes all this as reciprocity. Saudi jets bombed Sanaa International Airport on July 13, after Riyadh threatened Yemen over a flight to Tehran. Human Rights Watch found three munitions on the only working runway, the first coalition strikes since the 2022 truce.

Sanaa declared a blockade of Saudi ports a week later. On Saturday Al Masirah reported four more raids on it. Al Jazeera's Yousef Mawry, reporting from Sanaa, called it an "airport-for-airport equation."

Riyadh's answer is "Dawn of Yemen," the offensive its Yemeni clients launched last Sunday with a stated aim of retaking every area Ansarallah holds,



Sanaa included. Its government claims 2,750 strikes in a day and 1,400 fighters "neutralized," and the coalition says it hit 136 targets.

The same camp claimed Mocha on Tuesday, and Ansarallah answered with video of its fighters inside the city. Saree

says Saudi F-15s and Typhoons flew 129 raids in 48 hours in mid-September.

The International Organization for Migration counts more than 200,000 people displaced since September, and UN envoy Hans Grundberg now speaks of full-scale war.



Indian security personnel forcibly detain a demonstrator on a street in New Delhi on Oct. 10, 2026, during a major security crackdown on youth-led "Cockroach" movement protests (AP).

Iran’s cycling continues downward slide in Nagoya

TEHRAN - Iran's cycling team continued their disappointing decline at the Nagoya Asian Games, failing to deliver any encouraging results. A review of the past five editions of the Asian Games highlights a steady deterioration in the country's performance, raising serious questions about the development and future direction of the sport in Iran.

The 2006 Asian Games in Doha marked one of the most successful campaigns in Iran's cycling history.

The national team collected four medals, including three silver and one bronze. Mehdi Sohrabi claimed silver in the men's road race, while Iranian cyclists also secured podium finishes in various road and track events.

Four years later, at the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games, Iran's medal tally declined. Hossein Askari won bronze in the individual road time trial, while Iranian riders secured two additional bronze medals in team track events, bringing the country's total to three medals.

At the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, Arvin Moazemi Goudarzi delivered another significant result by winning silver in the men's road race.

In a closely contested competition against some of Asia's leading riders, he secured second place and kept Iran competitive in road cycling.

However, despite that silver medal, Iran's overall performance across other disciplines was not strong enough to suggest sustained progress.

In track cycling, mountain biking and other events, the country's representatives struggled to establish themselves among Asia's leading contenders.

Iran's decline became more pronounced at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, where the cycling team failed to win a medal despite competing in road, track and mountain bike events.

Farzad Shokri and Faranak Partoazar finished fourth in mountain bike cross-country, while Mohammad Ganjkanlou also placed fourth in the track omnium.

Hossein Zanjanian finished fifth in the men's downhill, and Iran's road cyclists were unable to reach the podium.

After several editions in which Iranian cyclists had won medals, Jakarta marked a disappointing campaign, with fourth-place finishes representing the team's best results.

At the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, Iran managed to return to the podium, but only once. Ali Labib finished fourth in both the men's road race and the track omnium, narrowly missing out on medals in both events. Partoazar, however, won bronze in the women's mountain bike cross-country, securing Iran's only cycling medal of the Games.

Although the overall medal haul remained modest, the fourth-place finishes in Jakarta and Hangzhou suggested that some Iranian cyclists were still capable of competing closely with their Asian rivals.

At the Nagoya Asian Games, however, the results in road cycling offered little cause for optimism. Mandana Dehghan finished 13th in the women's individual time trial and 14th in the women's road race. In the men's individual time trial, Nabi Mirbagheri placed eighth.

Mirbagheri, Iran's sole representative in the track omnium, also endured a difficult campaign, finishing 12th.

Ali Labib, who represented Iran at the Olympic Games, was left out of the squad for Nagoya following disagreements, resulting in Iran forfeiting one of its allocated places.

A review of Iran's performances across five Asian Games editions, from Doha to Nagoya, reveals a troubling downward trajectory.

The country won four medals in 2006, three in 2010, and a silver medal in Incheon.

Iran then finished without a medal in Jakarta before claiming just one bronze in Hangzhou. In Nagoya, the cyclists remained well off the pace for a podium finish.

Iran to send 29 athletes to 2026 Youth Olympics

TEHRAN - Iran will compete with a 29-athlete delegation across 14 sports at the fourth edition of the Youth Olympic Games, set to take place in Dakar, Senegal, from Oct. 31 to Nov. 13, following a four-year postponement.

The final composition of Iran's team has grown from the initial quota after additional places were secured in judo and fencing. However, Senegal's hosting of the Games and a reduced sports program compared with the previous edition are expected to make the medal race more challenging for the Iranian delegation.

The 13-day event will mark the first time the Youth Olympic Games are held on the African continent, with athletes competing across 25 sports for medals.

Iran will be represented in two team events: girls' futsal, featuring 10 athletes, and boys' beach volleyball, with two competitors.

In individual sports, the country will field four athletes in beach wrestling; two each in taekwondo and badminton; and one athlete apiece in swimming, wushu taolu, triathlon, table tennis, boxing, road cycling, athletics, judo and épée fencing.

Iran has competed in all three previous editions of the Youth Olympic Games and won medals at each one.

At the inaugural Games in Singapore in 2010, Iran claimed two gold, two silver and one bronze medal. Four years later in China, the team secured three golds and three bronzes.

Iran recorded its best-ever result at the 2018 Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, winning seven gold, three silver and four bronze medals.

Repeating that performance in Dakar, however, will be a difficult task. The number of sports and athletes has been reduced for this edition, limiting medal opportunities. One notable absence is weightlifting, traditionally a major source of medals for Iranian sport. According to the current program, the sport will not feature in Dakar, with Senegal lacking a national weightlifting federation.

Despite the challenges, Iran's performance at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain has raised hopes for the country's emerging athletes. Dakar will also provide a valuable opportunity to assess the potential of different sports and give young competitors important international experience as they progress toward senior-level competition.

With 23 medals won across the three previous editions, Iran will arrive in Dakar aiming to maintain its record of reaching the podium. Although the narrower range of medal opportunities makes another record-breaking campaign less likely, the performances of the participating athletes could offer important indications of the next generation's prospects in international sport.

Persepolis move into second place: 2026/27 PGPL

TEHRAN - Persepolis football team defeated Sanat Naft 3-1 on Friday in Match-week 8 of the 2026/27 Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL), climbing to second place in the standings.

Thievy Bifouma opened the scoring for Persepolis just five minutes into the match, giving the hosts an early lead. Ali Alipour doubled their advantage in the 52nd minute, converting a penalty.

Sanat Naft pulled a goal back in the 66th minute when Mohammadhossein Baseri headed home, but Oston Urunov sealed the victory for Persepolis with a right-footed finish five minutes from time.

Earlier on Friday, Chadormalou and Kheybar played out a 2-2 draw.

The victory lifted Persepolis to second place with 16 points, just one point behind league leaders Tractor.

Pezeshkian visits Tehran exhibition showcasing rural and nomadic achievements

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday visited the sixth exhibition of rural and nomadic achievements in Tehran, praising rural residents and nomadic communities for their contribution to the country's production and supply of essential goods.

During a two-hour visit, Pezeshkian toured booths showcasing products, crafts and economic capacities from Iran's 31 provinces, meeting exhibitors and learning about their activities.

Rural residents and nomads are invaluable assets of the country and play an important role in meeting the needs of the people and the country by producing a variety of goods, the president said in a brief interview on the sidelines of the exhibition.

Asked about his feelings on meeting rural and nomadic producers, Pezeshkian said being among them represented "the essence of life."

He also said the active and energetic presence of visitors and exhibitors sent a clear message to those threatening Iran.

Their presence at this exhibition sends a clear message to the enemies that they are not afraid of threats, the President said.

Pezeshkian also reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting the public, particu-



larly rural residents and nomadic communities, saying it would stand alongside them to address their problems and needs.

At the end of his visit, the president wrote in the exhibition's commemorative book that he would continue serving the Iranian people for as long as he lived, extending greetings to the nation and praising rural residents and nomads for their dedication, entrepreneurship and commitment.

The four-day exhibition opened on Thursday at the Tehran International Permanent Fairground, bringing together participants

from across the country to showcase rural production, traditional lifestyles and regional cultural heritage.

More than 400 booths have been arranged to present provincial products and capabilities, while another 50 focus on start-ups and technology-related activities.

Traditional black tents, known as siah-chadors, are among the exhibition's main attractions. Woven typically from black goat hair, these portable dwellings have long served some of Iran's nomadic pastoral communities, providing shelter as families

move between seasonal grazing grounds.

Visitors can also explore local foods, handicrafts, regional music and traditional practices, while nomadic producers have an opportunity to introduce and sell their products directly to the public.

The exhibition brings together traditional rural livelihoods and emerging businesses, highlighting the economic and cultural contributions of communities whose lives remain closely connected to agriculture, livestock raising and seasonal migration.

Tehran tourism needs coordinated policies, not more infrastructure: council member

TEHRAN - Tehran's main tourism challenge is not a shortage of infrastructure but fragmented policymaking and limited public awareness of the capital's existing attractions, a city council member said.

Seyyed Ahmad Alavi, head of the Tehran City Council's Tourism and Cultural Heritage Committee, said better coordination among municipal bodies and stronger promotion of the city's historical, recreational and tourism facilities were essential to expanding domestic tourism.

Alavi said responsibility for tourism and leisure facilities had been divided among several municipal organizations, resulting in separate decision-making processes and a lack of integrated planning.

He said the council had pursued the establishment of a municipal tourism company to address the problem, a proposal that was eventually approved after years of discussion.

Under the previous arrangement, different organizations oversaw various aspects of tourism and recreation, including amuse-



ment parks, cultural facilities and urban beautification projects. A unified structure could help coordinate their activities and make better use of existing assets, Alavi said.

He also highlighted a significant increase in the budget allocated to tourism tours and sightseeing buses, adding that further funding could be considered if the proposed tourism company presented viable plans that could be incorporated into the municipal budget.

Reviving neglected recreational facilities has been another priority, he said. The Basij amusement park, which had remained closed

for about six years despite previous investment, was among the facilities targeted for reopening. The amusement park at the Abbasabad cultural and recreational complex had also been completed during the current council's term, while plans were being developed for six additional amusement parks.

Alavi said the city was also expanding sightseeing bus services and establishing dedicated routes connecting historical landmarks and sites associated with Tehran's cultural identity.

These services could help residents discover attractions they might otherwise overlook, he added.

He acknowledged that reorganizing the sector was complicated by competing interests among municipal bodies. Nevertheless, he said the council aimed to improve coordination, public access and promotion of existing attractions rather than focusing solely on building new infrastructure.

The broader objective, he said, is to enable more residents to benefit from Tehran's historical, cultural and recreational resources.

Book on history of vehicle license plates in Iran unveiled



TEHRAN - A book tracing the history of vehicle license plates in Iran, from the arrival of automobiles to the introduction of the country's national registration system, was unveiled on Saturday at the Mostazafan Foundation's headquarters in Tehran.

Titled Nomreh Aval (First Number), the book was prepared through a joint initiative involving the Applied Research Center of Iran's Traffic Police, the Historical Car Museum of Iran and the Dafineh Museum Institute, which is operated by the Mostazafan Foundation.

Hamidreza Soleimani, managing director of the Foundation's

Museum Institute, said the publication was the culmination of at least 12 years of research by the institute and its research team.

"The technology that entered Iran also changed our social contracts," Soleimani said, explaining how the introduction of automobiles and traffic regulations reshaped public behavior. Street signs, for example, now guide how vehicles should move and interact on roads, he noted.

He described the book as the first comprehensive reference on the history of vehicle license plates in Iran, saying it could serve researchers and automobile enthusiasts.

Soleimani also highlighted the research potential of the Historical Car Museum of Iran, which houses 320 historic vehicles, each with its own story and historical significance.

The book examines the evolution of vehicle registration plates in Iran, beginning with the arrival of automobiles and the establishment of the first numbering systems, and continuing through the introduction and adoption of national license plates.

According to its publishers, the work draws on historical research, documentary evidence and reliable sources, particularly archival materials held by Iran's classic car museum. It brings together information that, in many cases, had not previously been compiled in a single publication, aiming to provide a documented account of how vehicle plates developed over time.

Reza Sakhaei, head of the Applied Research Center of the Law Enforcement Command's Traffic Police, said vehicle license plates might initially appear to be a simple administrative matter, but they also reflect aspects of Iran's modern history.

He added that vehicle registration and identification systems now serve purposes beyond their original function.

Sakhaei also discussed plans to develop smart glasses for traffic police officers, saying the technology could help officers monitor vehicles and drivers. The proposed device would incorporate a camera similar to those worn on police uniforms, with additional functions allowing users to move menus to the palm of their hand, he said.

Sakhaei described the newly unveiled book as a contribution to preserving Iran's historical identity and collective memory.

Ainollah Jahani, the book's technical supervisor, said the research had also brought to light unusual old vehicles, some of which could be used for museum displays and, in certain cases, might still be operational.

The publication adds to the research potential of Iran's historic automobile collections, documenting how a practical system of vehicle identification evolved alongside the country's transportation infrastructure and changing social practices.

‘Makan’s Mission’: environmental storytelling project wrapped up honoring martyred students

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) has held the closing ceremony of an environmental storytelling project, titled ‘Makan’s Mission’, to honor students martyred in the US-Israeli war against the country.

Launched in May in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the initiative was named after Makan Nasiri, one of the 168 schoolchildren killed in a deadly US strike on Shajareh Tayyebbeh Elementary School on February 28, the first day of the imposed war.

The project portrayed Makan as a young environmental advocate whose mission was left unfinished following his martyrdom, encouraging other students to carry on his path and continue his efforts to protect the environment.

The project is actually a sub-category of an earlier project that aims to train eco-friendly students, or environmental helpers. Both projects aim to enhance the students’ environmental literacy.

Addressing the ceremony, Hadi Kiadaliri, the deputy head of the DOE for education and public participation affairs, highlighted the profound importance of environmental education at an early age, saying that environmental education for children is an investment in the country’s future, IRNA reported.

The cultivation of good environmental habits has to commence at a very young age; in addition to fostering awareness and knowledge among children, it is essential to strengthen their emotional affinity with nature, he added.

Referring to environmental challenges in the country, Kaidaliri said a significant part of our country is located within an arid and semi-arid climate, with low vegetation. Nevertheless, Iran boasts valuable biodiversity, including species unique to the country, and ecosystems that date back to millions of years ago. Therefore, protecting Iran’s environment is of particular im-



portance.

Highlighting the role of children in bringing about lasting changes in society, Kiadaliri noted that one reason for the persistence of environmentally damaging behaviors is that many are bound by habits. Therefore, good habits have to be developed from childhood.

To teach children appropriate habits, giving mere advice is insufficient; instead, establish environments in which proper behavior is reinforced by positive outcomes and improper conduct leads to negative consequences. This way, children learn to make sound decisions and take on greater responsibility for their choices in the future.

Education is not merely about acquiring knowledge. Many may possess extensive environmental knowledge, but it does not necessarily result in appropriate environmental behavior. Children have to recognize their role in tackling environmental issues.

The official went on to say that investing in environmental education and the upbringing of children is not an expenditure, but an investment in the future.

The more we invest in educating the younger generation today, the less we will have to spend on improving environmental damage and correcting improper conduct in the future.

Accordingly, cooperation among the DOE, the Ministry of Education, and the Institute for Intellectual Development of

Children and Young Adults (IID-CYA) is a critical necessity for the development of a broad educational movement and engaging students in environmental conservation.

Addressing the unveiling ceremony of the environmental storytelling project in May, Kiadaliri said the project to train eco-friendly students kicked off in the Iranian year 1375 (1996). Back then, it was limited to a few provinces. However, the project faced some challenges that highlighted the need for its revision.

In January 2023, the DOE and the Ministry of Education unveiled the logo and the poster of the national plan for the project.

Highlighting the role of education in developing values such as responsibility, the official said teaching environmental issues to children will contribute to instilling eco-friendly behaviors in them, which will later turn into sustainable habits. Investing in children will enhance lifelong social outcomes.

If adults are responsible for current changes, children will play the same role in the future. The training needs to be constant and accessible, he added.

For his part, Education Minister Alireza Kazemi noted that the integration of environmental teachings into textbooks, from preschool to high school, is on the agenda to help promote the culture of preserving the environment.

The educational courses will

not be limited to students; they have the capacity to train parents and teachers, as well.

Apart from textbooks that involve formal training, the Ministry of Education focuses on informal training that would promote students’ social participation in practice.

The official also announced the ministry’s readiness to expand training by establishing a vocational training center to provide practical skills in the environment sector, and even utilize available capacities to organize educational courses.

Education is the key to bringing about any change in the economy, culture, and social life; therefore, providing skills and training and proper behaviors will play a key role in improving the current situation, Kazemi highlighted.

The official went on to say that students who are environmental helpers have to be introduced and lauded; they should be allowed to have a more influential role, and feel more responsible for participating in environmental conservation programs.

In February, DOE and the Education Ministry discussed the possibility of developing a national education curriculum to promote environmental responsibility and awareness among children.

Referring to the inefficiency of short-term and incoherent teaching, Mohammad Medadi, an official with the DOE, said that achieving sustainable development and boosting the country’s resilience are not possible without institutionalizing an environmentally friendly attitude and lifestyle in society. So, educational approaches need to be reviewed, he added.

Environmental protection education should be taught from preschool to high school. In addition to scientific training, it should focus on ethical aspects based on cultural, religious, and social teachings.

The initiative also aims to train and empower parents and teachers, the official further noted.

Iran to raise US attacks’ environmental toll on Kharg Island at international forums

TEHRAN – A comprehensive report is being prepared on the environmental damage caused by US attacks on Kharg Island, southern Bushehr Province, with the aim of pursuing the matter through legal and international channels, including the United Nations.

Abdollahman Moradzadeh, director general of Bushehr Province’s Department of Environment, said protecting the island’s natural habitats and wildlife species was part of the responsibility to safeguard the country’s national assets.

He added that documenting the damage could play an effective role in pursuing the issue through legal and international mechanisms.

At least 25 deer have been confirmed dead on Kharg Island following attacks during US-Israeli aggression against Iran, with environmental officials warning the actual toll is likely significantly higher.

The deaths represent one of the most visible impacts of the war on Iran’s wildlife, highlighting the often-overlooked environmental consequences of armed conflicts beyond human casualties.

“The latest reports indicate that at least 25 deer have died on Kharg Island,” Press TV quoted Masoumeh Safaei, deputy director of Iran’s Office for Wildlife Protection and Management, as saying.

“This figure only covers areas outside military zones, and the real number of casualties is higher than what has been recorded so far,” Safaei added.

Environmental experts warn that the effects of warfare on wildlife extend far beyond direct fatalities.

Explosions, habitat destruction, and prolonged exposure to intense noise can leave lasting physical and psychological scars on animal populations.

According to Safaei, severe stress caused by nearby blasts also affected animals held in captivity.

Shina Ansari, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), has highlighted that remaining silent in the face of environmental destruction caused by warmongers is the same as accepting a threat that will, sooner or later, impact everyone.



“The environment is the first silent victim of war and the last to recover from its consequences. Nature does not recognize the end of armed conflict. Environmental destruction may continue to undermine human health, food security, water resources, and biodiversity for decades after the guns fall silent,” the official noted.

She made the remarks while addressing the ninth session of the Committee on Environment and Development (CED9) held from July 1-3 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Elaborating on transboundary environmental challenges such as climate change, air and marine pollution, biodiversity loss, land degradation, dust and sand storms, and waste management challenges, Ansari underlined that environmental destruction resulting from war and military aggression is the most severe and inhumane damage to the environment, as the impacts of these brutal attacks trigger a profound threat to the entire planet.

“When war targets the environment, the victim is not merely one nation—it is the shared heritage of humanity. Therefore, protecting the environment must become a common global responsibility; the aggressors must be held accountable for their crimes and provide full compensation for the environmental damage they have caused. Effective implementation of this principle not only serves justice for the affected State but also plays an essential role in preventing the recurrence of such devastation.”

Referring to some of the gravest war crimes and environmental catastrophes caused by the warmongering of major powers in the region in the past decades, she said that over the past year, the US-Israel coalition has imposed two illegal wars against Iran.

Iran proposes BRICS intl. network of photonics labs

TEHRAN – Iran has proposed the establishment of an international network of photonics laboratories among BRICS member states to strengthen scientific cooperation and facilitate access to advanced research infrastructure.

The proposed network would enable researchers across member countries to access laboratory equipment and specialized services, while making better use of existing capacities in fabrication, characterization, testing, and calibration, as well as other specialized infrastructure essential to photonics research.

Vahid Jan-Nesari, an official with the Headquarters for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, presented the proposal during the sixth meeting of the Photonics Working Group, held online from October 3 to 6 in Bengaluru, India.

He also highlighted the need for the promotion of interactions among researchers and scientific centers of BRICS member states, the expansion of collaborations through the exchange of professors, researchers, and students, the transformation of scientific cooperation into joint technological and industrial projects, and the development of targeted collaborative efforts.

Holding periodic meetings, establishing specific plans, and concentrating on a limited number of actionable and measurable objectives to be achieved by the next meeting were among Iran’s other proposals put forward at the meeting.

The 6th BRICS Working Group Meeting on Photonics convened BRICS delegates to advance photonics in communication, computing, and sensing.

The key outcomes focused on joint re-

search, shared research infrastructure, human resource development, and stronger industry-academia partnerships across member nations.

National document on quantum science, technology put into effect

In 2025, President Masoud Pezeshkian declared the implementation of the ‘national document on quantum science and technology’.

The document is a comprehensive set of main objectives, assessment indicators, national strategies, implementing and monitoring mechanisms, IRNA quoted Abdolhassan Bahrami, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, as saying.

It has been formulated as a roadmap for the progress of research, expansion of technology, and commercialization of quantum technologies, the official added.

In this line, quantum science and technology headquarters will be established to enhance coordination among relevant organizations, develop an implementation roadmap, pursue the development of regulations, observe national and global advancements, as well as propose amendments to revise the document.

To implement the document, the vice-presidency, in cooperation with other relevant institutions, will initially provide a national plan for division of labor in the quantum science and technology sector. It will be followed by providing support for the development of applications, commercialization, and participation of knowledge-based companies to make the best use of domestic innovative capacities.

Iranian researchers win gold at INOVA International Invention Show

TEHRAN – A team of five Iranian researchers won a gold medal at the 50th International Invention Show, INOVA Golden Jubilee, held in Zagreb, Croatia, from October 1 to 4.

The team earned the award for its project, titled CryptoMind AI: An Explainable Autonomous Cryptocurrency Investment Decision System Using Multimodal Deep Learning, Sentiment Analysis, Blockchain Intelligence, Multi-Criteria Decision-Making Techniques, and Adaptive Risk Optimization.

The project was jointly presented by Mohammad AzadFallah, Hamed Mohabbati, Mohammad-Mehdi Darehzereshki, and Ebrahim Safarinejad-Meybodi from Islamic Azad University, along with Moazameh Bahramnejad from the University of Tehran.

This year’s event brought together representatives from 57 countries, featuring more than 600 innovative projects.

Established in 1971, INOVA is one of Croatia’s longstanding invention exhibitions, providing a platform for presenting and promoting innovative technical achievements. What began as a small regional exhibition at the Zagreb Technical Museum has grown into an international event that has showcased thousands of domestic and international inventions over five decades.

Iran’s presence in world’s top 2% of scientists nearly doubles

The number of Iranian researchers included in the world’s top 2% of scientists has nearly doubled, rising from 1,154 in 2020 to 2,678 in 2026, according to Scopus data provided by Elsevier.

An analysis of the rankings shows a steady

upward trend in the number of Iranian researchers recognized among the world’s top 2% of scientists over the past several years.

The number rose to 1,701 in 2021 and 1,941 in 2022, before increasing to 2,137 in 2023 and 2,514 in 2024. The figure reached 2,678 in 2026, ISNA reported.

The majority of Iranian researchers are from 30 universities and scientific centers; the University of Tehran, with 123 researchers, is placed first. Followed by Tehran University of Medical Sciences (112), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (75), and Iran University of Science and Technology (74).

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences with 66 researchers, Iran University of Medical Sciences with 64 researchers, University of Tabriz with 61 researchers, and Tarbiat Modares University with 56 researchers are placed fifth to eighth.

Also, the number of highly cited Iranian researchers in the career-long index has experienced threefold growth, rising from 433 in 2020 to 1,380 in 2026.

Some 794 out of 1,380 researchers, amounting to 57.5 percent, are from 30 universities and scientific centers. University of Tehran (with 91 researchers), Sharif University of Technology (53), Amirkabir University of Technology and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (each with 48 researchers), and Iran University of Science and Technology (45), University of Tabriz and Tarbiat Modares University (each with 40 researchers) rank first to fifth.

Stanford University’s list of “World’s Top



2%” scientists is based on a 2 percent or above percentile rank, or the top 100,000 by c-score (with and without self-citations). This prestigious list identifies the world’s leading researchers, representing approximately 2 percent of all scientists worldwide.

It encompasses standardized data on citations, h-index, and a wide range of bibliometric indicators. Researchers are classified into 22 scientific fields and 174 sub-fields, drawing from Scopus data provided by Elsevier through ICSR Lab.

The esteemed ranking, derived from Scopus database data, highlights researchers whose work has had a significant impact across various scientific disciplines.

The ranking is based on a composite indicator (c-score) calculated from six citation metrics: Total citations (NC), H-index (H), Hm-index (H-index adjusted for the number of authors), Citations to single-author papers (NCS), Citations to single or first-author papers (NCSF), Citations to single, first, or last-author papers (NCSFL).



OCTOBER 11, 2026

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:53 Dawn: 4:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:08 (tomorrow)

“Shootinga” takes top honors at 38th Isfahan children’s film festival

TEHRAN- The film “Shootinga” emerged as one of the leading winners at the 38th edition of the International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan, receiving awards for best children’s film, best director and technical achievements at the closing ceremony on Thursday.

Directed by Arash Moayerian, “Shootinga” won the Golden Butterfly for best direction, while Amir Rahimzadeh received the award for best children’s film as its producer. The film also earned Golden Butterfly awards for visual effects, presented to Amir Valikhani and Reza Mahmoudian, and cinematography, awarded to Davoud Rahmani. Hassan Ayyubi received an honorary diploma for editing the film.

“Guardians of the Sun”, directed by Emad Rahmani and Mehrdad Mehrabi, received the festival’s special award, along with the prize for best animated feature.

The award for best teenage actor went to Danial Jafari for his performance in “Bride of the Spring”, while Amir-Reza Rahmani was named best child actor for his role in “Kooch.” The award for best teenage film went to “Bride of the Spring,” produced by Fereydoun Najafi.

The jury did not select any screenplay as deserving the award for best screenplay.

The Shahid Behnam Mohammadi Peace Award went to Mohammad Esfandiari for directing “Kooch.”

The special Minab Award in the children’s category was presented to Seyyed Javad Hashemi for directing “Someone Will Come for Me,” while the award in the teenage category went to “Verkana,” with Meysam Sajjadi recognized for direction and Seyyed Mohammad-Ali Davoudi for production.

The Children and Young Adults Cinema Mirror Award in the television series category was presented to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting’s Center for Children and Young Adults for “Small Detectives” and “The Very,



Director Arash Moayerian holds his award at the closing ceremony of the 38th International Film Festival for Children and Youth in Isfahan on October 8, 2026. He received the Golden Butterfly for best director for “Shootinga.”

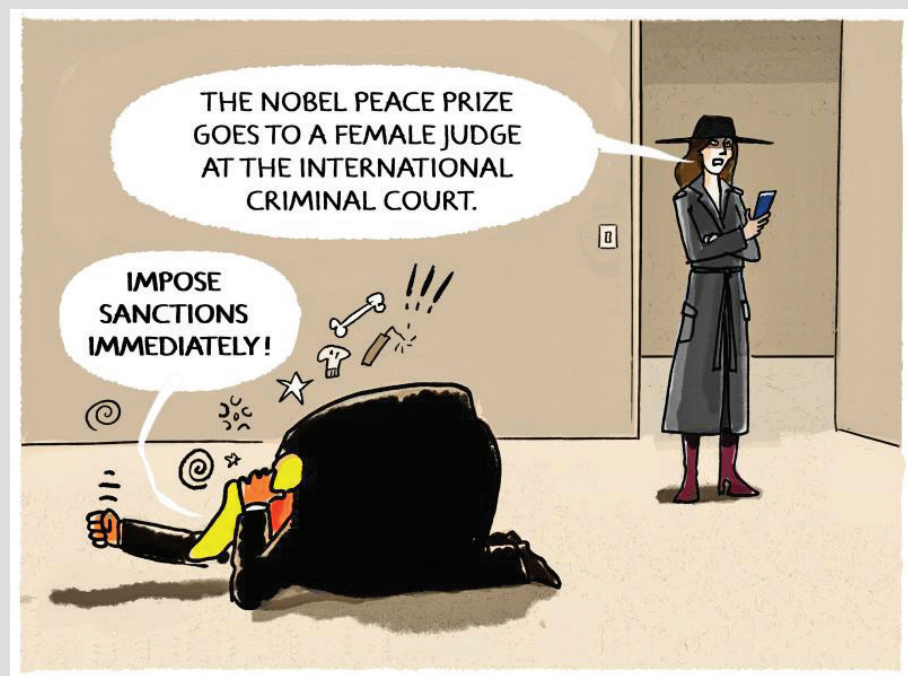
Very Strange Hotel.” In the film category, the award went to “Yooz,” an animation produced by Soureh Cinema Organization.

The children and teenage jury selected “Uncle of the Kids”, directed by Ahmad Darvishali-Pour, for its award.

At the ceremony, Darvishali-Pour, who has worked in film and television for children for more than 25 years, expressed his appreciation for being recognized by young audiences. Actors and members of the production team joined him on stage to receive the award.

The International Film Festival for Children and Youth is one of Iran’s longstanding cinematic events dedicated to young audiences. Held in the central Iranian city of Isfahan, the festival provides a platform for filmmakers working in children’s and youth cinema, recognizing achievements in filmmaking, acting, animation and technical production. It also seeks to encourage the development of films that address the experiences, imagination and concerns of younger generations.

Cartoon of Day



Missed Out Again

Cartoonist: Markus Grolik from Germany

Martyr Leader’s “Cell No. 14” published in Armenian

TEHRAN – The Armenian translation of the book “Cell No. 14,” which is the autobiographical memoir of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was unveiled at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Yerevan State University in Armenia on Friday.

Translated by Maryam Zazian, an Iranologist and translator, the book recounts Ayatollah Khamenei’s memoirs from his years of struggle and imprisonment before the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, ISNA reported.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, Iran’s Minister of Sports and Youth, Ahmad Donyamali, said that the book is an account of a journey that begins in a simple home and reaches the days when the history of Iran enters a new phase.

He noted that the significance of the book lies in its account of the distance between Ayatollah Khamenei’s youth and the figure who later played a decisive role in Iran’s political developments, and the years marked by “patience, solitude, choices, and paying the price.”

“The book takes readers back to a period when Ayatollah Khamenei’s future political standing had not yet taken shape; a time when study, literature, teaching, engagement with the people, and gradual involvement in social and political issues constituted a significant part of his life,” he added.

Donyamali also described “resistance to foreign domination”



as one of the prominent themes in Martyr Leader’s political thought, saying that confronting global arrogance and supporting resistance movements had occupied a central place in his international policy.

In another part of his remarks, the minister said that within this framework of thought, acceptance of social, religious, and political differences within the country finds meaning alongside preserving independence and confronting attempts by foreign powers to impose their will.

In conclusion, Donyamali stressed the importance of expanding cultural relations between Iran and Armenia, expressing hope that the publication of the Armenian translation of this book would pave the way for greater mutual understand-

ing between the two nations and the development of cooperation between universities and young people in the two countries.

In the book, the author skillfully transports readers to a tangible and realized space through simple yet comprehensive literature. The book’s narrative is devoid of imposing or imaginative elements, resulting in a striking sense of concreteness and realization.

It is a remarkable saga of a young cleric blessed with an indomitable spirit who fights a dictatorial regime with his sermons and speeches as well as with his organizational abilities. He never loses hope despite being sent to prison and exile and finally emerges victorious against all odds.

The book serves as a source of

inspiration to all activists around the globe who are trying to bring about social and political change.

It also contains unpublished photos of the Leader, his father, and his children, in addition to a photo collection of paintings related to the topics in the book.

The book was first published in Arabic under the title “Indeed, with Patience Comes Victory” and was published in Persian as “The Heart’s Blood That Turned to Ruby” in 2019.

Since then, the book has been translated into several languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Urdu, Bengali, and Chinese.

Ayatollah Khamenei was martyred during US-Israeli airstrikes that targeted his office in central Tehran on February 28.

Tehran Theater to host Francis Veber’s comedy “The Dinner of Fools”

TEHRAN – Tehran’s Sahne-ye Abi (Blue Stage) Theater will host the comedy play “The Dinner of Fools” by Francis Veber from October 15 to 24.

Kourosh Heydari has directed the 70-minute play. The cast includes Ahura Ghanbari, Mahbod Mirzadeh, Mohsen Oliasani, Raheleh Heydari, Sajad Abedi, Shabnam Shahrashi, and Mahvash Rahmani.

The comedy was written in 1991. The play invites the audience to see the strange ways of Pier Broshan, Parisian publisher, and his friends. They are collectors. They collect idiots. Every Wednesday the company of young aristocrats organizes a dinner, to which the members have to bring one idiot. A person, whose idiot turns out to be the most believable wins the game.

With the help of an idiot scout, Brochant manages to find a gem, François Pignon, a Finance Ministry employee whose passion is building replicas of landmarks with matchsticks. After Brochant starts to suffer from lower back pain, his wife, Christine, leaves him shortly before Pignon arrives at his apartment. Brochant initially wants Pignon to leave, but instead becomes reliant on him, because of his back problem, and his need to resolve his relationship problems. He solicits Pignon’s assistance in making a series of

telephone calls to locate his wife, but Pignon gaffes each time, including revealing the existence of Brochant’s mistress, Marlene Sas-seur, to his wife, Christine.

Brochant is also able to make amends with an old friend, Juste LeBlanc, from whom he stole Christine. Arriving at the apartment, LeBlanc switches between assisting Brochant, and laughing uncontrollably at his discomfiture. Brochant believes Christine has gone to Pascal Meneaux, a notorious philanderer. Brochant does not know how to locate Meneaux, so Pignon tries to help by bringing in a friend, Lucien Cheval, a civil servant who has Meneaux’s details on his files. Cheval arrives, but turns out to be a tax inspector, to the further distress of the wealthy Brochant, who has been evading tax, and is forced to quickly hide most of his valuables. In the act of calling the womanizer Meneaux, the tax auditor makes an unpleasant discovery about his own wife and leaves, threatening to audit Meneaux and possibly Brochant as well.

Pignon eventually discovers the truth behind the dinner that Brochant wanted to take him to. His feeling is hurt, but, well-intentioned as ever, he tries to make up for all his mistakes by calling Brochant’s wife, who had been involved in a car accident after leaving the apartment for the second time (the first

time being when Pignon had sent her away thinking she was really Brochant’s mistress). For once he makes no mistakes in this conversation, speaking emotionally and sincerely about his own marital breakup (in response to which he took up his hobby), and making up almost perfect excuses on the spot.

However, after encouraging Christine to return home, Pignon makes a final gaffe: he picks up the telephone when she calls to talk to Brochant despite having previously told her he was in a phone booth, thus arousing her suspicions that he has simply been repeating lines fed to him by Brochant (as he indeed had been in previous conversations).

Francis Veber, 89, is a French film director, screenwriter, producer, and playwright. He has written and directed both French and American films. Nine French-language films with which he has been involved, as either writer or director or both, have been remade as English-language Hollywood films.

Some of his screenplays started as theater plays. “The Dinner of Fools” was turned into a movie by Veber in 1998 titled “The Dinner Game”. In 2010, a Hollywood remake of the film was made under the title “Dinner for Schmucks,” starring Steve Carell and Paul Rudd.

Palestinian arts workers call for solidarity

Palestinian cultural workers living through apartheid, occupation, and genocide are calling for solidarity from their counterparts abroad.

Not every artist has as large a platform as rapper Macklemore, children’s TV star Miss Rachel, or country singer Zach Bryan—who wore a “Free Palestine” shirt last weekend while playing a packed show at the same stadium where billionaire Robert Kraft had barred Macklemore for saying those words—but there’s plenty that artists and art workers can do to end complicity in Israel’s ongoing atrocities.

We as Palestinians have long decried Israel’s war crimes and crimes against humanity. Now the Palestinian Performing Arts Network (PPAN), representing hundreds of Palestinian dancers, actors, musicians, playwrights, and circus performers, has out-

lined four ways that U.S. arts unions can lend solidarity:

1. Reject the blacklisting and censorship of members who speak out on behalf of Palestinian rights.

For example, British Actors’ Equity passed a motion in the UK’s Trade Union Congress, representing 5 million workers, affirming the right of artists to “critique institutions and bring attention to issues through overtly political art without fear of censorship or losing their public funding.”

In the U.S., over 700 entertainment industry union members signed a 2024 open letter calling on SAG-AFTRA to back a ceasefire, protect members from blacklisting, and condemn the targeting of journalists.

2. Refuse to work with institutions and corporations—such

as venues, festivals, publishers, broadcasters, and foundations—that are verifiably complicit in Israel’s crimes against Palestinians, and divest union funds from such corporations.

In fall 2025, over 5,500 film industry workers signed such a pledge. Earlier that year, Norway’s actors union Norsk Skuespillerforbund (NSF) recommended that its members “reject work and collaboration with Israeli cultural institutions that operate in violation of the Palestinian cultural boycott.”

3. Exclude Israel from international labor federations such as the International Federation of Actors (FIA) and International Federation of Musicians (FIM).

4. Pressure governments to compel Israel to end its genocide and apartheid through lawful sanctions.

“Historically, including in the struggle that ended apartheid in South Africa, organized labor has been the working person’s leverage,” the PPAN said. “[Unions are] a powerful force for peace and justice when governments fail.”

Drawing inspiration from the global movement to end South African apartheid, Palestinian unions and workers have consistently called on unions worldwide to use sanctions, boycotts, and divestment (BDS) campaigns as pressure points to end Israel’s genocide and occupation.

The United Auto Workers has endorsed divestment from Israel bonds and acted on it. Since 2023, a smattering of Palestine solidarity groups across unions have pushed for pension fund divestment, joined other unions abroad to block arms to Israel at international docks, and protested complicit corporations.