

## Opinion

## Zionist Terrorism Lingers

By Davoud Ahmadsadeh

An examination of 60 years of occupation of the Palestinian territories by the Zionist regime can teach us a few lessons.

The most immediate point that occurs to one's mind is that Israel has been shamelessly resorting to violence—a notion that has been institutionalized throughout the year—to advance its ill intentions. What is worse, despite blatantly violating international norms and standards, Israel is still very safe and secure. In its 60th year of "miserable existence", Israel admits that it has military supremacy in the region and has called for disarming Hezbollah, fall of Syria and complete isolation of Iran in light of the unconditional western support.

Zionist leaders and theoreticians, from the early decades of the 19th century and long before the establishment of Israel in Palestinian lands, described the strategy of settlement as the ultimate guideline for Zionism and Jews. The important factor in institutionalizing aggression is using the rule of law.

Zionists have ratified legislations such as the Law of Return that gives Jews from all over the world the right to migrate and settle in occupied Palestine.

This is while Palestinians do not have the right to return to their motherland. Furthermore, Zionists have passed other inhumane laws legitimizing occupation of Palestinian lands. Over five million Palestinians have become homeless in the wake of Israeli violence and pressures.

The biased and racist legislations of the Zionist regime consider Jews as first class citizens and essentially deprive Palestinians of their legitimate rights.

The logic behind Zionist claims and slogans before the illegal occupation of Palestine was that nowhere in the world is safe for Jews who are subject to violence and harm worldwide. Based on this assumption, the only way to rescue Jews and overcome anti-Semitism was establishment of a Zionist regime.

In various eras, Zionist leaders deployed tactics to give the impression that Jews are victims of prejudice thus facilitating their ominous objective of establishing a Zionist modus operandi.

A glance at regional developments of the past few decades makes it clear that the Israeli stratagem of confronting anti-Semitism as well as Muslim and Arab threats has been efficacious for Zionists.

Israelis have constantly relied on the pretexts of security and avoiding another Holocaust to appeal to the international community.

One more point. In order to justify their expansionist policy and looting the lands of Palestinians, Zionists even rely on flaky interpretations of the Old Testament. Islamic thinkers and anti-Zionist circles worldwide believe that the target of Israel's militant policies is not just to uphold the Zionist regime but also to destroy regional Arab and Muslim states. Israelis impudently resort to the Old Testament to legitimize their state terrorism.

It cannot and should not be doubted that the main reason behind continuation of the Zionist state terrorism is the unconditional support of the West, especially the US.

Today everybody in the region knows that CIA and Mossad cooperate for assassinating Palestinian and Lebanese leaders. The latest act of terrorism of Israel is assassination of the Hezbollah commander, Imad Mughniyah, in Syria.

The good case in point for displaying the close collaboration of American and Israeli intelligence services is the former US President Richard Nixon's comment that the "US commitment toward survival and security of Israel is deeply rooted in ethical and ideological considerations."

Another important parameter for the endurance of Zionist terrorism is absence of unity among the Muslim world to counter Israeli expansionist policies and crimes and the willingness of some Arab leaders to join the Zionist economic club. Until this dilemma is resolved, Israeli terrorism will linger.

## US, Arabs in Air Drill

The United States, other western countries and the Persian Gulf littoral Arab states have conducted a joint aerial drill on Sunday.

According to Bahrain's official news agency BNA, the exact location and duration of the exercise were kept secret, but it said that Bahrain's armed forces chief of staff, Sheikh Duaj bin Salman al-Khalifa, also participated in part of the wargame.

The drill which has been conducted almost regularly since 1988, includes the United States, France, Italy, Australia, Egypt, Jordan and the six Persian Gulf Cooperation Council members.

BNA said that the two tiny Persian Gulf states of Bahrain and Kuwait also plan to begin joint drills in Bahrain on Monday.

## Olmert Can't Make Peace

According to a new poll, six out of 10 Israelis think Prime Minister Ehud Olmert cannot promote peacemaking with the Palestinians because of the latest police investigation into his conduct.

The same number think Olmert should resign, AP reported.

The poll published on Monday is the first since police confirmed last week that they are investigating suspicions Olmert illicitly took hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash from a Jewish American businessman.

According to the Dahaf Research Institute poll, 60 percent of the 500 people questioned do not believe Olmert's assertion that no money went into his own pocket.

The survey had a margin of error of 4.5 percentage points.

## Key Al-Qaeda Militant Killed

A prominent member of Al-Qaeda was killed in fighting with US-led forces in Afghanistan, the group said in a statement posted on an Islamist website on Sunday.

According to Reuters, Abu Suleiman Al-Otaibi, formerly one of the group's leaders in Iraq, was killed in a "fierce battle with the worshippers of the cross" in Paktia, it said without giving the date of the battle.

Another Al-Qaeda member, identified as Abu Dejana Al-Qahtani, also died in the fighting, it added.

Afghan officials said they had no information on the report. But the government earlier said in a statement that "five opposition" fighters were killed on Saturday in Paktia during an operation involving Afghan and US-led troops.

The leader of Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan Mustafa Abu Al-Yazid said Qahtani left Iraq about six months ago without giving further details.

## News Diary

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

■ **NAPLES, Italy** - Trial starts of Antonio Basolino, a center-left politician who is governor of the Campania region, and 27 other people in connection with the garbage crisis around the southern city of Naples. They are charged with offences, including defrauding the state and abuse of office.



■ **BANGKOK** - The Supreme Court will decide whether to hear corruption charges against former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and 46 Cabinet ministers and bureaucrats.



## Lebanese Dialogue Underlined



File photo shows Lebanese deputies discussing the election of parliament committees.

Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said talks among Lebanese leaders will begin whenever the government officially rescinds its two decisions.

"I am waiting for Fouad Siniora's agreement to the voiding of the two controversial decisions taken by the government", Lebanese daily "Al-Akhabar" quoted the Lebanese parliament speaker Nabih Berri as saying.

Berri said that the moment Siniora agrees to the repealing of the two decisions and a consensus is reached by all political leaders to engage in negotiations, then the talks will continue without any deadline to reach an agreement. Berri said that talks would play a key role in ending the country's current crisis.

On Saturday, the Lebanese Army Commander, General Michel Suleiman, rescinded the two anti-opposition decisions by the government, which were the initial cause for the escalation of tensions in Lebanon, and called on the government to officially void both decisions.

Suleiman reinstated the Beirut International Airport's security chief and lifted a government-ordered ban on Hezbollah's telecommunications network.

## Heavy Fighting

Lebanese security officials said heavy fighting had erupted for a second time in the northern city of Tripoli on Monday on the same day that Lebanon's Army were deployed across Beirut and the central mountains overlooking the capital.

Officials said heavy machine gun fire and rockets were being used in battles between government supporters and gunmen in the northern city. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations, AFP reported.

Earlier fighting in Tripoli stopped on Sunday morning but broke out again on Monday after Lebanese troops pulled out of the area.

Meanwhile, at least 11 people were killed in fierce clashes between pro- and anti-government supporters entrenched in the hilly plateaus of the central Mount Lebanon, security officials and paramedics said.

At least 59 people have been killed in six days of violence across Lebanon between government and opposition supporters, the worst sectarian fighting since the 1975-1990 civil war.

## Arabs Want Truce

Arab foreign ministers met in Egypt on Sunday and pledged to send a delegation to Beirut to help find a solution.

The delegation, headed by Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa and Qatari Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassim Al-Thani was expected in Beirut later on Monday.

Arab ministers also in a communiqué called on Lebanese groups to reach a truce and end shooting.

They also expressed their support for the Lebanese Army for reinstating the chief of Lebanon's airport security and restoring the tel-

communications network of Hezbollah.

The Arab League, moreover, called for the opening of the airport.

## Internal Dialogue

But many Lebanese believe the crisis can only be resolved through internal dialogue.

"If they (Lebanese politicians) can't reach a consensus, then not Arabs nor anybody else can make it happen," Jack Badoun, a Beirut resident told AP.

Shops began opening in the capital and more civilians were seen emerging from their homes, though traffic was lighter than usual in Beirut. Many schools and universities were still closed. Major roads in Beirut, including the main airport highway, were still blocked on Monday with huge sand barriers.

Despite the relative calm in Beirut, a minor clash broke out at dawn on Monday between government supporters and gunmen in the busy Hamra district, security officials said on condition of anonymity.

Fighting in the central Aaley region of Mount Lebanon, a stronghold of Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, lulled late on Sunday.

Violence erupted last week when Lebanon's government decided to sack the chief of airport security for alleged ties to Hezbollah, and also declared the group's private telephone network illegal.

Hezbollah leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah said the decisions amounted to a declaration of war.