

Leader Underlines Role of Media in Resistance

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday underscored the unparalleled role of media amid ongoing conflicts worldwide, calling for more innovative work to improve the national outlets. In a message to a media conference here, Ayatollah Khamenei said the ability to properly convey a message and tell the truth played a more influential role than military means in determining the victor of the battlefield. "You are well aware of the unparalleled role of the media and publicity in the existing global conflicts - which is more than any time," the Leader stated. "Today, one's victory is determined by the ability to convey one's message and narrative of reality," Ayatollah Khamenei said. "We must double down on precision and innovation in this crucial arena."

Kayhan International

Official: Iran to Unveil Pars 2 Satellite

TEHRAN -- Iran's "Pars 2" satellite, which has a two-meter imaging accuracy, is set to be unveiled during the ten-day Fajr festivities, commemorating the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution's victory, head of the Iranian Space Agency Hassan Salariyeh said Tuesday. Salariyeh also said the "Nahid 1" and "Nahid 2" satellites, whose flight prototypes were revealed last year, are scheduled for launch soon and will operate with Q-bandwidth capabilities.

VOL NO: LV 12433 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Tuesday, January 1, 2025, Dey 12, 1403, Jamadi as-Sani 30, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Start of Another Gloomy Gregorian Year

Day of the Depraved

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"Jesus, many were the nations I destroyed for their committing of sins."

This is what God Almighty told His humble servant, the Virgin-born Messiah, sent to the "lost sheep of Israel", which remains perpetually lost, as is evident by the horrifying crimes the racist/terrorist Zionist entity continues to commit against humanity with the criminal support of the supposedly Christian regimes of North America and West Europe.

Today, as Christians in West mark January 1 as the First Day of the year 2025, it is worth recalling the gist of the message of Prophet Jesus (peace upon him), who left no stone unturned to try to guide the Israelites - a nation of ingrates who always disobey God Almighty.

He campaigned against oppression and injustice. He forbade fornication, adultery, promiscuity, sodomy, lesbianism, cheating, telling lies, usury, occupying others' houses and homelands, stealing, coveting, vandalism, murder, genocide, desecration of sanctities, hypocrisy, unveiling of women, associating partners with the One and Only God, and all evil acts, which are unfortunately widely prevalent in the western societies, despite their claim to be Christian.

This means, the West is alienated from the message of the Son of Mary in whose name the Gregorian calendar starts, although it is linked to the heathen heritage of ancient Rome with no connection to either Jesus or his Virgin Mother (peace upon them) - who are venerated by Muslims but slandered by the Zionists whom today's Christians unwittingly support.

Wonder, how many of the officials in the West, especially of the supposedly big powers, have the soul and the mind to reflect on their strategic blunders of the past year that have worsened the misery of mankind, especially in view of the adage that says:

"The object of a New Year is to have a new soul, and to prepare for the present requires proper pondering on incidents of the year gone by."

Unfortunately, last night the decadent western culture ushered in the New Year with the usual depravities - wild celebrations as revelers committed the oldest sins in the newest ways, as if the goal of life is sadism and pleasures of the flesh, without the least thought for the sufferings of fellow humans.

In view of these undeniable facts, the New Year of the Gregorian Calendar Year, whatever its origin and in whatever way the West and its client regimes in the Arab World and its former colonies in Asia and Africa celebrate it, is not expected to bring any relief to humanity.

It is for this reason January 1 is often called the Day of the Depraved because of its pagan Roman origins and the indulgence of the misled on this occasion in the most cardinal sins on which the Bible frowns upon.

The fact of the matter is that January 1 is not the New Year of the Jews, neither of the Christians, nor of the Muslims - or of the Zoroastrians, the Hindus, the Buddhists, the Shamaniists, the Animists, the Chinese, and the indigenous Amerindians.

In other words, none of the religious texts of the said creeds or their principle figures, including Prophet Jesus (AS), ever said anything about January 1. Then whose New Year is it? How did it find way into Christianity? Who imposed on world countries? What purpose does it serve?

Interesting questions indeed. History provides answers. It was in 45 BC that Julius Caesar ordered the change of the Roman calendar from the spring of March to the gloom of winter by fixing January 1 as the start of the New Year in order to commemorate one of his military exploits.

The origin of January 1 is thus a celebration of brutal military force in a part of central Europe that had resulted in such human misery as massacre of men, rape and enslavement of women, orphaning of children and destruction of homes and hearths.

Over three centuries later when Emperor Constantine imposed on the Roman Empire the polytheist concept of Trinity - coined by Paul the Hellenized Jew who had artfully emptied the message of Jesus of its monotheistic contents, the Church christianized the Julian calendar.

It renamed pagan festivals - e.g. Christmas for the day of the wild bacchanal festivities of Dionysius and Mithra - and changed the beginning of the New Year to various dates in the subsequent eras, ranging from December 25 to Easter in March-April, and finally to September.

A millennium later in 1582, Pope Gregory after some revisions of the Julian calendar launched a new calendar in his name (Gregorian) on February 24 of that year; but strangely, he neither chose the Spring Equinox nor the Autumnal Equinox, and decided to revert to the pagan practice of January 1 as the New Year.

This is how the wintry gloom of the pagan Roman New Year appeared for the first time amongst the Christians, though it took several more centuries for acceptance of January 1 as the start of the New Year for most European countries.

For instance, the Netherlands adopted the Gregorian or so-called Christian calendar in 1698; Britain and its colonies including what is now the US in 1752; Russia in 1918, a after the atheist Bolshevik Revolution, and Greece as late as 1923.

Interestingly, British history marks September 2, 1752 as the day of the 12-day sleep. That Wednesday night millions in England and the colonies went to sleep and when they woke up the next morning on Thursday, it was 14 of September instead of September 3.

At any rate, it was only in the 20th century between the Two World Wars that the neo imperialists in London imposed the Gregorian calendar, along with January 1 as New Year Day, upon the rest of the world in order to hold the globe in ransom to their hegemonic policies.

In other words, the neo colonialist regimes in North America and Western Europe pay only lip service to Christianity, while hating from the depth of their hearts the Virgin-born Messiah and his monotheistic message of peace, virtue, and social justice.

It is worth noting that none of the Orthodox Churches - Greece, Cyprus, Constantinople (Istanbul), Alexandria (Egypt), Antioch (Syria), Cyprus, Russia, Armenia, Georgia, etc. - have accepted the Vatican's imposition of the Gregorian calendar and January 1 as New Year Day.

To sum up, it is the path of the Prophets of God that ensures universal peace and fraternity, and not the devilish designs of the Zionists and the Americans, those avowed enemies of Jesus and the Virgin Mary (peace upon them).

Ammar Festival to Feature Works From 11 Countries



Israeli Bowlers Banned From World Indoor Championships



Yemen Targets Ben Gurion Airport With Hypersonic Missile

U.S., UK Begin New Year With Yemen Bombing



Smoke billows after an airstrike on Sana'a on December 31, 2024.

SANA'A (Dispatches) - U.S. and British warplanes on Tuesday conducted new airstrikes on the Yemeni capital Sana'a in response to the Arab country's operations against the occupying regime of Israel.

Reports said three aerial assaults targeted the September 21st Park, located in the northwestern part of Sana'a, which previously housed the First Armored Division.

U.S. and British military aircraft also targeted the Al-Ardi complex

in the Yemeni capital's Al-Safiyah District, as well as the May 22nd Military Industrial Complex in Al-Thawra District, with eight airstrikes.

The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) confirmed the aggression, saying its forces have conducted multiple "precision strikes" against targets in Sana'a and other regions across the Arab country over the last 24 hours.

Muhammad Abdul-Salam,

spokesman of Yemen's Ansarul-lah resistance movement, noted that the aggression against Yemen represents "a blatant violation of the sovereignty of an independent state and comes in support of Israel".

Yemen, he said, "will continue to defend itself against any aggression and remains steadfast in supporting Gaza."

Yemenis have declared their open support for Palestine's struggle against the Israeli occu-

pation since the regime launched its campaign of genocide in Gaza on October 7, 2023.

Yemenis have hit targets throughout the occupied territories, in addition to firing at Israeli ships or vessels heading to or departing Israeli-occupied ports, in the southern Red Sea, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the Gulf of Aden, and the Arabian Sea.

Earlier Tuesday, Yemeni armed forces claimed responsibility for a string of operations against Israeli and U.S. targets in the occupied territories and off the coast of the Arab nation.

Ministry spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree said the country's missile units targeted Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv with a Palestine-2 hypersonic ballistic missile.

Yemeni forces also targeted and struck a power station south of occupied Al-Quds, using a Zulfiqar ballistic missile.

The Zulfiqar missile, which is reportedly radar-evading and highly maneuverable, has a range of more than 2,000 kilometers.

Saree said both strikes attained their desired objectives successfully.

(Continued on Page 7)

World Rings in 2025 Amid Israeli Genocide, Wars

WELLINGTON (Dispatches) -- New Zealand's Auckland became the first major city to welcome 2025, with thousands of revelers counting down to the new year and cheering at colorful fireworks launched from the country's tallest structure, Sky Tower, and a spectacular downtown light show.

Thousands also thronged to downtown or climbed the city's ring of volcanic peaks for a fireworks vantage point, and a light display recognizing Auckland's Indigenous tribes. It followed a year marked by protests over Maori rights in the nation of 5 million.

Countries in the South Pacific Ocean were the first to ring in the New Year, with midnight in New Zealand striking 18 hours before the ball drop in Times Square in New York. Other cities around the world readied with celebrations highlighting local cultures and traditions, after a year roiled by ongoing conflict and political instability. In Australia, more than 1 million

people were expected at Sydney Harbor for the traditional fireworks.

New Year's celebrations in the Israeli occupied territories were subdued as the regime's genocide on Gaza continues through the 15th month.

As many as five babies froze to death in the recent days amid Israel's continuous blockade of humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Lebanon is in the grip of a severe economic crisis, and many areas were heavily damaged during the Israeli war which ended with a shaky ceasefire. Syrians are meanwhile expressing hope and uncertainty for the coming year after the overthrow of President Bashar Assad.

In South Korea, celebrations were cut back or canceled as the country observes a period of national mourning following the Sunday crash of a Jeju Air flight at Muan that killed 179 people. Chinese state media covered an exchange of New Year's greetings

(Continued on Page 7)

U.S. Troops Continue Occupation of Syrian Oil Fields

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - The HTS oil minister has highlighted the ongoing challenge of oil wells remaining outside the control of the new rulers in Syria, as U.S. forces continue their illegal occupation of Syrian oil fields which has been ongoing since 2014.

Ghiath Diab said several oil wells remain "outside the administration of the Syrian state", describing it as "one of the biggest and most prominent obstacles" facing the country's recovery.

While Diab did not identify the occupying forces explicitly, the U.S. military has maintained an illegal presence of approximately 900 troops in Syria's oil-rich regions since 2014, preventing Damascus from accessing its own resources. The latest estimate is that the U.S. has 2,000 troops in Syria.

The situation is particularly critical as Syria's new rulers attempt to fill their coffers following the fall of Bashar Al-Assad's government on December 8. In 2010,

prior to the conflict, Syria produced 390,000 barrels of oil per day, accounting for a fifth of its GDP and half of its exports. Current production has plummeted to merely 40,000 barrels per day as of 2023.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump openly acknowledged the occupation in 2020, stating: "I left troops to take the oil. I took the oil. The only troops I have [in Syria] are taking the oil." His candid 2019-2020 statements about "keeping the oil" sparked international criticism and raised questions about the legality of U.S. actions according to international law.

The U.S. actually controls 90 percent of Syrian oil. Its presence at the Syrian oil fields has been justified by Washington as necessary to prevent these resources falling into the hands of Daesh remnants. However, the true strategic aims appear more complex. A senior Pentagon official has

(Continued on Page 7)