

'Tool of Genocide'

# Israeli Author Renounces Citizenship, Calls on Others to Follow Suit

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Avi Steinberg, an Israeli-born author, has announced that he had formally renounced his 'Israeli citizenship'.

Justifying his decision in an article for the left-leaning news publication Truthout, Steinberg said that the Zionist regime's citizenship had "always been a tool of genocide" that legitimized settlers colonialism.

"Israeli citizenship is predicated on the worst kinds of violent crimes we know of, and on a deepening litany of lies intended to whitewash those crimes," he wrote in the op-ed.

The author was born in Al-Quds to American parents and raised in an ultra-Orthodox setting. In 1993, his family moved back to the U.S., first to Cleveland and then to Boston, where his father got a job as a director at Harvard University.

Steinberg cited a number of laws



Activists with Jewish Voice for Peace gather to protest the Zionist regime's war in Gaza and chain themselves to the fence outside the White House on Dec. 11, 2023.

passed following the occupying regime's founding that legitimized colonialism and discrimination, including the 1948 so-called Declaration of Independence, the Law of Return in 1950, and the 1952 Citizenship Law.

He argued that this paper trail was shaped by the 1948 Nakba, when Zionist troops expelled approxi-

mately 80 percent of the Palestinian population from their homeland, and the subsequent efforts by the settlers to secure international recognition.

"These are forged documents," Steinberg said. "The look of officialdom... [is] nothing other than this state's slippery effort to conceal its fundamental unlawfulness."

Explaining his parents' migration, Steinberg described the cognitive dissonance that allowed his parents "to become both American liberals who opposed the U.S. invasion of Vietnam, while also acting as armed settlers of another people's land".

Steinberg was later to discover that the house he grew up in was owned by a Palestinian family who were violently expelled to Jordan and barred from returning.

"This 1-to-1 replacement was not a secret," Steinberg explained. Rather, it was a selling point to Israeli settlers drawn to the picturesque "native Arab charm" of these villages bereft from "actual native Arabs".

Steinberg's comments come as an increasing number of Jewish Americans have criticized the Zionist regime's actions, with many joining or founding Jewish-led Palestinian organizations.

## U.S.... (Continued From Page One)

Meanwhile, the naval force, missile force, and the drone unit of the Yemeni military carried out a multi-pronged operation against USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier of the United States Navy. Saree explained that the attack involved a large number of kamikaze drones as well as cruise missiles, and was conducted as American forces were preparing to launch a major airstrike against Yemen.

Yemeni forces, he said, have raised their combat readiness to confront any potential threats from the U.S. and Israeli enemies.

He said the Yemeni forces will continue their retaliatory operations against the Israeli enemy as long as the ongoing aggression on Gaza continues and the siege is not lifted.

## World... (Continued From Page One)

between leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in a reminder of growing closeness between two leaders who face tensions with the West.

Xi told Putin that their countries will "always move forward hand in hand," the official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday.

China has maintained ties and robust trade with Russia since the latter invaded Ukraine in 2022, helping to offset Western sanctions and attempts to isolate Putin.

China's leader in his prerecorded New Year's Eve address said the country has "deepened solidarity and cooperation with the global South" while praising the "responsible" role it has played with "the world in turmoil."

Xi also said China's economy, which has slowed down in recent years, was "improving and recovering."

He also addressed Taiwan, the self-ruled island claimed by Beijing. "We Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one and the same family. No one can ever sever the bond of kinship between us," Xi said.

In his address to the nation, Putin said that Russia has responded to the most difficult challenges and will be moving forward next year.

"We set big goals for ourselves and achieved them, and we overcame difficulties more than once because we were together. This is how our unity and our faith in ourselves and our strengths and capabilities grew stronger," he said.

Putin praised troops fighting in Ukraine as "the true heroes who have taken on the great task of defending Russia and providing the solid guarantees of peace and security for our people."

Hours before Germany rings in the new year, Chancellor Olaf Scholz called on the country's 84 million residents to stick together despite the many global crises and wars, the country's ailing economy and a deadly Christmas market attack that shocked the nation.

"We are a country of togetherness. And we can draw strength from this — especially in difficult times like these," Scholz said in his prerecorded speech.

With a storm bringing bitter weather to other parts of the United Kingdom, festivities in Edinburgh, Scotland — including the Hogmanay Street party, garden concert and castle pyrotechnics show — were already canceled.

Celebrations will echo around the globe as the New Year arrives in different time zones, with American Samoa among the last to welcome 2025 a full 24 hours after New Zealand.

## U.S. ... (Continued From Page One)

acknowledged that blocking Damascus's access to its oil resources is part of a deliberate pressure campaign, preventing the Syrian government from obtaining revenue needed for reconstruction.

While some Kurdish militants regarded as U.S. proxies have been permitted to sell oil locally, the majority of Syrians have been cut off from their country's own resources. This has contributed to a devastating economic crisis, with severe fuel shortages affecting civilian life, heating, transportation and essential services.

The new regime led by Abu Muhammad al-Julani faces multiple challenges in its plans. Beyond the U.S. occupation of vital oil infrastructure, the country continues to endure Israeli airstrikes and international sanctions.

Diab appealed for the lifting of sanctions, arguing that "there is no point in maintaining the sanctions imposed on

Syria".

Syria's oil resources are primarily concentrated in two regions: the north east, particularly in Hasakah, and the east along the River Euphrates to the Iraqi border near Dayr al-Zawr, with additional small fields south of Raqqa. Gas resources extend to Palmyra in central Syria, although access to these resources remains complicated by foreign military presence.

In a 2023 vote the U.S. Senate reinforced its position, voting 84-13 against withdrawing troops from Syria, suggesting that American forces will continue to maintain their grip on Syria's oil infrastructure for the foreseeable future, despite the country's desperate need for resources to rebuild after years of devastating conflict.

## President... (Continued From Page 2)

Pezeshkian emphasized that instead of relying on general prescriptions, it is essential to focus on solving specific problems and to avoid vague statements. He highlighted that social welfare is currently one of the most pressing matters faced by the government, which is discussed in weekly council meetings.

Pezeshkian urged that these discussions should prioritize concrete solutions rather than generalizations, particularly concerning issues such as housing and the livelihoods of the underprivileged.

The president also announced a plan to address the shortage of classrooms and schools in remote areas, which would be implemented with the participation of the public, philanthropists, and a nationwide mobilization aimed at reducing educational inequality. Pezeshkian expressed optimism that this issue will be completely resolved within the next year.

At the conclusion of this interview, the president emphasized the significance of unity and cohesion inside the country. "If the people believe that the government is working hard to address their problems, no enemy will be able to harm the country. Unity among the branches of government and adherence to the policies of the Leader can effectively manage all the challenges ahead," he stated.

## UN... (Continued From Page 2)

"Therefore, Iran categorically denies any violation of arms embargoes or any involvement in fueling the conflict in Yemen or elsewhere," he stated.

Iran's UN ambassador went on to describe it as both deeply troubling and highly ironic that the U.S. and Britain, instead of upholding their responsibilities as permanent members of the Security Council to maintain international peace and security, persist in providing political cover and military support for Israel's reckless actions and violations while fabricating baseless accusations against Iran. "This blatant complicity has emboldened Israel to act with impunity, fueling regional conflicts and undermining any prospects for lasting peace in Yemen under UN leadership," he noted.

Iravani emphasized that Iran's position on Yemen has been consistent and unwavering. From the very onset of the crisis in 2015, Tehran has supported a political resolution to the conflict and called for a comprehensive ceasefire, inclusive dialogue, and a peaceful process that respects the Arab nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Regarding the situation in the Red Sea, Iran reiterates its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of international shipping lanes. Accusations of Iranian interference in the Red Sea are baseless fabrications designed to inflame tensions and serve as a pretext for further destabilization of the region by the United States and its allies," he stated.

The senior Iranian diplomat then called upon the Security Council not to be swayed by Israel's propaganda, which seeks to divert attention from the ongoing atrocities and ethnic cleansing by the apartheid regime in Gaza.

Instead, the Security Council must confront the root causes of instability in the region, foremost among them Israel's illegal occupation, aggression, systematic and widespread violations of international law, and blatant disregard for the Council's resolutions, Iravani highlighted.

Iran's UN ambassador finally urged the Security Council to live up to its responsibility under the UN Charter and act decisively to hold the occupying regime of Israel and its supporters accountable for grave violations of international law.

"Failure to do so will only erode trust in the United Nations and its ability to fulfill its mandate to maintain international peace and security," Iravani concluded.

# Report: Advisors Wanted Blair to Rein in Bush in Iraq

LONDON (Guardian) -- Tony Blair's advisers privately questioned if the U.S. had "proper political control" of military operations in Iraq after a senior U.S. official confessed that George W Bush believed he was on a "mission from God" against Iraqi insurgents, newly released documents reveal.

Blair needed to "deliver some difficult messages" to the then U.S. president for a "more measured approach" in April 2004, following a U.S. military operation to suppress a major uprising in the city of Falluja, according to papers released to the National Archives in Kew, west London.

In a surprisingly candid conversation, recorded in a document marked "please protect very carefully", Richard "Rich" Armitage, then U.S. deputy secretary of state, told Sir David Manning, then UK ambassador, that Bush had needed a "dose of reality" after demanding U.S. forces "kick ass" in Falluja, where U.S. troops were engaged in a bloody battle with Iraqi militants after four private military contractors were ambushed and killed.

Armitage appealed to Blair to use his influence in a forthcoming visit to Washington on April 16 to urge Bush to deal with Falluja "as part of a carefully judged political process".

The U.S. had launched Operation Vigilant Resolve in Falluja after the mutilated bodies of the U.S. contractors were hung from a bridge over the Euphrates River less than one year after the May 2003 overthrow of

the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Bush had initially been influenced by his military generals and "wanted to kick ass" with U.S. marines occupying the city. But politicians on the coalition provisional authority, set up after Saddam's fall, feared the U.S. military response could damage hopes of establishing an independent Iraqi administration.

Bush backed off after being "faced with this 'dose of reality'", Manning reported back to No 10.

"Rich summed it all up by saying Bush still thought he was on some sort of mission from God. But that recent events had made him 'rather more sober'."

Bush had famously declared "mission accomplished" after the overthrow of Hussein by U.S. and UK coalition forces. But the White House has previously dismissed as "absurd" reports that Bush privately told a Palestinian delegation in 2003 that God spoke to him and said: "George, go fight these terrorists in Afghanistan" and "George, go and end the tyranny in Iraq."

Armitage dismissed claims by the overall U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen John Abizaid, that he could put down the Falluja uprising within days as "bullshit" and "politically crass". Armitage believed the U.S. was "gradually losing on the battlefield" and that it was "inevitable" the administration would have to send more troops, which would be "politically ugly" for Bush, Manning reported.

No 10 was nervous about the U.S. military response. A briefing document, ahead of Blair's Washington visit in April 2004, said events in Falluja had "used up a great deal of the coalition's political capital".

"Publicly we will want to underline our continued commitment to seeing the task through, but privately we will need to deliver some difficult messages to Bush about the need for a more measured approach by the US military, under proper political oversight, and the need for a clear end to the occupation on July 1," it said.

It added: "The prime minister might question Bush on whether there is proper political control of military operations," and concluded: "In short, too many military officers talking tough to a U.S. audience, with little attention to the effect on an Iraqi or regional audience."

Blair's foreign policy adviser, Sir Nigel Sheinwald, described the UK's main concerns in a memo to the prime minister as "clumsy U.S. handling", "disproportionate U.S. military tactics — what they did in Falluja looked on Iraqi TV screens to be a form of collective punishment" and "apocalyptic media treatment".

The U.S. lost 27 troops, while about 200 insurgents and 600 Iraqi civilians were thought to have been killed in Falluja at that time. Coalition forces took the city in a second offensive launched in November 2004. U.S. troops remained in Iraq until 2011.

# Hamas Slams House Demolitions in Al-Quds as 'Displacement Plan'

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Islamic resistance movement Hamas says that the Zionist regime's escalation of the demolition of Palestinian homes and facilities in the West Bank and Al-Quds is part of its "displacement plan" to Judaize the territory, the Palestinian Information Centre has reported.

Hamas added that the issue of orders to demolish 13 homes in the town of Anata, east of Al-Quds, is part of this plan and a settlement expansion policy that threatens the existence of

the Palestinian people on their land. The plan includes the forced displacement and abuse of citizens in both the West Bank and Gaza.

The movement called on the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank to challenge the occupation regime and confront its aggressive plans to Judaize the city of Al-Quds and destroy the religious sanctities therein. It also called on the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to take immediate action to protect

Al-Quds and Al-Qsa Mosque from the dangers of the occupying regime's Judaization.

Palestinians in Al-Quds are subjected to repressive and racist policies aimed at forcing them to leave their homes and properties in their home city. The purpose of this is to allow the occupation regime to seize their properties and use them for illegal settlement projects. All of Israel's settlements and the settlers who live in them are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

According to data from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Israeli occupation authorities demolished 1,787 Palestinian facilities between October 7, 2023, and October 15, 2024, including 800 inhabited homes.

The demolitions resulted in the displacement of 4,498 Palestinians, in addition to affecting 532,000 others as a result of the demolition of their homes or their commercial, industrial and agricultural facilities.