

TANZEEM-E-ISLAMI



Striving for the Law of Allah, on the Land of Allah

PERSPECTIVE

The official online newsletter of Tanzeem-e-Islami

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'PERSPECTIVE' is a trend-setting newsletter issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami that focuses on a candid commentary on the current national and international issues, in the light of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

A blend that gives Muslims an insight into the events of the past, those happenings at present and the Signs of things to come...

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From the Qur'an:

“O children of Adam, let not Satan tempt you as he removed your parents from Paradise, stripping them of their clothing to show them their private parts (and experience shame). Indeed, he sees you, he and his tribe (of devils), (keep watching you) from (such positions) where you do not see them. Indeed, We have made the devils allies to those who do not believe.”

“A group (of people from you) He guided, and a group deserved (to be in) error. (Because) Indeed, they had taken the devils as allies instead of Allah while they (wrongly) thought that they were guided.

(*Surah Al-A'araf: Verses 27 & 30*)

Selected Hadith:

The Messenger of Allah (SAAW) is reported to have said:

“It is enough lying for a man to speak of everything that he hears (without confirming its validity first).”

(*Sahih Muslim*)

EDITORIAL

All praise is due to Allah (SWT), and peace & blessing on his noble Messengers (AS), in particular, on the last of them all the blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAAW).

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made headlines around the world during November by announcing that the US had shifted its position, and no longer viewed Israeli settlements as a violation of international law.

In one of the stupider public statements of our time, Pompeo explained that “arguments about who is right and wrong as a matter of international law will not bring peace”.

It is senseless, first, because there is no genuine argument about the unlawfulness of the settlements; until the US spoke out of turn, Israel was alone in defending their legality.

More definitively, the role of international law is to regulate the proper behavior of sovereign states – not to make peace by negating the law's relevance, which truly seems a cheer for the law of the jungle.

Pompeo removed any doubt about this when he justified the shift by admitting that the US “recognized the reality on the ground”.

In plainer language, lawless behavior can become lawful if sustained long enough by force – a logic that not only defies international law, but is contrary to the core legal commitments of the UN Charter.

Particularly in the area of peace and security, international law can be somewhat ambiguous. Opposing positions can be reasonably maintained, resolved by either an authorized tribunal or by practice sustained over time.

The establishment of settlements on occupied Palestinian territory, however, is an example of an issue upon which it is not possible to make a responsible argument in support of legality. The unlawfulness of the settler encroachment has been pointed out repeatedly by informed observers as the biggest single obstacle to peace, and the most vivid and unabashed Israeli defiance of international law.

So, has Washington given Israel its blessing to do whatever it wants in the future regarding settlements – and for that matter, in the entirety of the occupied West Bank? After all, if the White House now endorses Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights in Syrian sovereign territory, the West Bank may be thought of as small potatoes.

The clarity of international law on the issue of Israeli settlements arises in part from the unusual fact that they have been formally declared illegal by the most authoritative sources of international law and guidance. Several key examples illustrate this international consensus.

Firstly, Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention states that an occupying power “shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies”.

This important provision of international humanitarian law is universally understood as prohibiting the establishment of Israeli settlements on any part of the occupied Palestinian territories. If Israel was complying with international law, it should have ceased settlement activity and dismantled what had been built in the years after the 1967 war. Instead, Israel continued building,

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at an accelerated pace, advancing the lame rationale that Israelis should be able to live wherever they wish in Palestine. Israel does not even view the areas of Jerusalem and the West Bank where settlements exist as being “occupied” in a legal sense, viewing this as part of the “promised land”.

Secondly, the International Court of Justice in 2004 strongly reaffirmed the unlawfulness of Israel’s settlement construction in occupied territory – and with a 14-1 ruling, the court showed a highly unusual degree of unity. The court pointed out that the separation wall was built so as to put on the Israeli side 80 percent of the settler population, noting in passing that the settlements were established in violation of applicable law. Israel refused to comply with this conclusive judgment, emphasizing its “advisory” character.

Thirdly, in December 2016, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2334, deeming by a vote of 14-0 that the settlements had no legal validity. The US abstained from the vote. The resolution noted that the settlements constituted “a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace”. It stressed exactly the opposite point to the one made by Pompeo. No country can, by its decree, influence the legal status of Israeli settlement activity. What Pompeo declared was a shift in the political position of the US government. It is legally insignificant, but geopolitically significant.

The Trump spin room sought to minimize the shift by recalling that Ronald Reagan, while president, once indicated off-the-cuff that he didn’t think the settlements were illegal – but as is not so often noted, he went on to suggest that settlement expansion was “unnecessarily provocative”.

More relevant was the exchange of letters by former US President George W Bush and former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in 2004, in which they agreed that any viable peace deal with the Palestinians would allow the settlement blocs along the border to be incorporated into Israel.

Again, such a side agreement was without legal legs, representing nothing more than a geopolitical pat on Israel’s back – but it was a good indicator of what Israel and the US would demand in future peace negotiations. What makes the Pompeo statement different is its positioning in relation to other controversial Trump moves and its whitewashing language, which gives Israel an incentive to move ahead with annexation. This is another instance of US overreach.

Palestinian resistance remains strong, as the Great March of Return along the Gaza-Israel fence illustrates, and global solidarity initiatives are gathering strength – a reality that Israel seems to acknowledge, by defaming its nonviolent opponents as anti-Semites.

The new settlements rhetoric continues the pattern established by the Trump administration: repudiating the international consensus on key issues bearing on the rights and duties of states. The highlights of this pattern in the Palestinian context have included moving the US embassy to Jerusalem, endorsing Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights, and now, sidelining as irrelevant the illegality of Israel’s settlements.

This step has been condemned in diplomatic circles as a final nail in the coffin of the two-state solution. It moves the political compass towards a one-state outcome, with the likelihood being Jewish dominance and Palestinian subjugation in a state structure that increasingly looks and behaves like an apartheid regime.

The 50th anniversary celebrations of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have started in Jeddah. As the Zionist State’s premeditated state terror against defenseless Palestinians continues, the entire world, particularly the Muslim countries and organizations, including the OIC, are totally silent. Unfortunately, many Muslim states and organizations have become partners of Israel in the genocide of Palestinians.

In our opinion, the only way to counter the evil designs of the West, including Israel, is for all Muslim countries to forsake their petty differences, stand united and make it their foremost priority to work together towards solving the problems of the Muslim Ummah. It is also imperative to make the OIC functional. It ought to be a body that safeguards the Muslim Ummah, not merely a ceremonial and defunct organization. The Muslim World cannot afford such inaction and apathy from its premier forum.

We pray to Allah (SWT) to grant the Palestinian resistance and the global solidarity movement success against the evil designs of the Zionist State and all its allies.

Aameen!

Signing Off...

Dr. Absar Ahmad (Chief Editor)



Press Releases issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami

Date: 23 November 2019

Lahore (PR): “The incident of burning the Holy Qur’an in Norway has unveiled the real ghastly face of the West.”

While vehemently condemning the incident of desecration of the Holy Qur’an in Norway, the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Hafiz Aakif Saeed**, remarked that the West that gives sermons of ‘religious tolerance’ and ‘moderate enlightenment’ to the entire world has proven beyond doubt that it is bent on bigotry and extremism when it comes to enmity against Islam and this malevolent behavior is not just limited to the public but also prevalent in the rulers of the West too. That is why the Norwegian police proceeded to protect the blasphemer rather than stopping him from committing this gruesome act.

While praising the young Muslim man, **Umer Ilyas**, who tried to protect the Holy Qur’an from being burnt, the Ameer said that the young Muslim man has reminded the West through his action that the religious passion and honor of Muslims is still alive and a Muslim would go to any extent in order to protect the Deen and every religious sacrosanctity. The Ameer said that this young Muslim man who tried to prevent the Holy Qur’an from being desecrated is the hero of the Muslim World. The fact of the matter is, the Ameer asserted, that when it comes to matters pertaining faith, personal gains and losses ought not to take priority and one ought to be willing and able to sacrifice everything to protect one’s faith instead. The Ameer concluded by stating that would that the religious passion and honor of our rulers become revived too, then the enemies of Islam would never dare to show malicious intent towards our esteemed personalities and the revered Book.

Date: 22 November 2019

Lahore (PR): “Israel and India are employing the same evil policy of oppression, cruelty and brutality in Palestine and Kashmir, respectively.”

This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, **Hafiz Aakif Saeed**, in a statement. The Ameer remarked that the advocacy by a retired Major General of the Indian Army, SP Sinha, on an Indian News Channel that the rape of Kashmiri women and the murder of Kashmiri men should be used as a weapon in Occupied Kashmir is the worst kind of terrorist narrative. This statement has further unmasked the real wicked and spiteful face of extremist Hindus. The retired Major General of the Indian Army has disgraced humanity at large and crossed all limits of immorality by giving such an atrocious statement.

The Ameer said that Israel, using similar inhumane policy, has martyred at least 32 Palestinians and injured hundreds more in attacks on Gaza during the last few days. The Ameer lamented that the rulers and the masses of Arab countries and Pakistan are shamefully mum and silently witnessing the brutality being perpetrated against their Muslim brethren and have all become coldhearted and indifferent like stones to their plight and predicament. The US, too, has reached a new moral and legal low by declaring the illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank as ‘legal’, thus outlining its roadmap of the future, the Ameer bemoaned.

While commenting on the situation in Pakistan, the Ameer noted that political instability is increasing precipitously in our country. Political plots, intrigues and conspiracies in the corridors of power are at their peak according to news reports, he remarked. The situation still does not appear to have calmed even after the end of the recent sit-in. Rumors of the present government not being on the same page with their coalition partners and the powers that be are circulating widely. He queried that in these circumstances how would Pakistan be able to help and support the Kashmiris?

The Ameer criticized the use of examples from the Prophetic era to justify the political motives of the sit-in. He remarked that neither the government is willing to take even a single step towards Riyasat-e-Madinah, nor the Islamic parties are ready to initiate a mass public movement for the establishment of the Shariah System in the country, instead, each assemblage is sacrificing wealth and energies only to gain petty political and ‘democratic’ benefits for itself. Unfortunately, no one is willing to contemplate on the real meaning and essence of the Ideology of Pakistan and how to practically implement it in the country, while the tug-of-war for mere power and dominion is rampant, he concluded.