

Selected articles (August 02, 2019)

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1)

Judge's ruling throws huge spanner into US extradition proceedings against Assange

August 01, 2019

By Tom Coburg

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/52021.htm>

"A US judge has ruled that WikiLeaks was fully entitled to publish the Democratic National Congress (DNC) emails, which means no law was broken. The ruling is highly significant as it could impact upon the US extradition proceedings against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, as well as the ongoing imprisonment of whistleblower Chelsea Manning.[...]"

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2)

New MH17 Documentary Proves Beyond a Doubt that a Cover-Up Took Place

By Andrew Korybko

July 25, 2019

The newly released documentary directed by Yana Yerlashova together with independent Dutch investigator Max van der Werff proves beyond a doubt that Ukraine and its Western partners did all that they could to cover up the true cause of MH17's tragic downing half a decade ago, introducing new evidence and testimonies that cast serious doubt on the "official" narrative of what really took place on that dreadful day.

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/new-mh17-documentary-proves-beyond-doubt-cover-up-took-place/5684604>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkDWwYk4-Ho>

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3a)

Economic Sanctions Will Kill Tens of Thousands of Innocent Iranians

By Muhammad Sahimi

July 30, 2019

(Muhammad Sahimi is a Professor at the University of Southern California.)

<https://lobelog.com/economic-sanctions-will-kill-tens-of-thousands-of-innocent-iranians/>

"[...] Officially, U.S. economic sanctions do not include medicine. But in practice, medicine is subject to sanctions. The reason is twofold: no pharmaceutical company producing critical medicines is willing to sell its products to Iran for fear that the Treasury Department might find some small technical or administrative errors in their applications and go after them with a vengeance. [...] The second reason is practical. Even if a pharmaceutical company was willing to export its medicines to Iran, Iran's banking system has been effectively cut off from the rest of the world. At present, there is no mechanism to pay for the imports except through the personal accounts of individuals in Europe or elsewhere. This avenue was used during the crippling sanctions that President Obama imposed on Iran in the early 2010s, but it resulted in incredible corruption, theft, and the importation of expired medicines. As a result, the Rouhani administration has so far avoided this route.[...]"

"[...] A shortage of medical devices is another factor. In this case, the problem is even more complex because some devices are perceived as having a dual use—that is, they could have military as well as medical purposes—and their export to Iran is banned under all circumstances. Asr-e Iran, a reformist website in Iran, reported a list of medical devices that thousands of cancer patients need and that are unavailable in northwest Iran. The list only goes to show the mind-boggling nature of such shortages.[...]"

"[...] Beyond the medical field, there are several other ways in which U.S. sanctions are hurting ordinary Iranians every day. Another aspect is the shortage of some foodstuffs. As with medicines, the export of wheat, barley, corn, and other food items to Iran is not officially sanctioned, but major global traders have halted their supply agreements with Iran because the sanctions have paralyzed the banking systems required to secure payment. Two Iranian ships contracted to carry corn, soybean and meat to Iran were stranded in Brazil because Petrobras, the Brazilian oil company, refuses to supply fuel to the ships, apparently in fear of running afoul of U.S. sanctions. After Brazil's Supreme Court ordered Petrobras to supply the ships with fuel, they finally left Brazil.[...]"

3b)

Iran Sanctions

Resource Center

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Last Updated: July 23, 2019

<https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/programs/pages/iran.aspx>

3c)

Economic Sanctions Against Iran (updated August 2019)

<https://amirmortasawi.wordpress.com/2013/07/26/economic-sanctions-against-iran-16268359/>

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4)

Nasrallah's Surprises for Israel

By Marwa Osman

July 21, 2019

<https://ahtribune.com/world/north-africa-south-west-asia/lebanon/3323-nasrallah-surprises-for-israel.html>

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5a)

Turkey threatens Syria invasion as US sanctions loom

By Ayla Jean Yackley

July 29, 2019

Article summary: A breakthrough in the diplomatic dispute sparked by Turkey's purchase of an advanced Russian missile system and Washington's support for Syrian Kurdish militia continues to elude the NATO allies.

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/07/turkey-threatens-syria-invasion-us-sanctions.html>

5b)

Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova

Moscow, August 1, 2019

Syria update

http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3746524

5c)

Has Turkey's policy on Syrian refugees started to backfire?

The Syrian refugee question is set to pose a major political headache for Erdogan in the coming period.

By Semih Idiz

August 1, 2019

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/07/turkey-syria-erdogans-refugee-policy-started-to-backfire.html>

5d)

Erdogan's control over Turkey is ending – what comes next?

By Gary M. Grossman

July 16, 2019

0 <http://foreignpolicynews.org/2019/07/16/erdogans-control-over-turkey-is-ending-what-comes-next/>

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6a)

The Ongoing Dread in Gaza: So Many Names, So Many Lives

By Kathy Kelly

August 1, 2019

<https://consortiumnews.com/2019/08/01/the-ongoing-dread-in-gaza-so-many-names-so-many-lives/>

6b)

Killing Tariq: Why We Must Rethink the Roots of Jewish Settlers Violence

85% of cases involving settler violence against Palestinians are never pursued by law. Of the remaining cases, only 1.9% led to a conviction.

By Ramzy Baroud

July 26th, 2019

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/killing-tariq-violence-racism-israel-society-jewish-settlers/260774/>

6c)

With Criticism Crushed in the West, Israel Can Enjoy Its Impunity

Recent events have shone a spotlight not only on how Israel is intensifying its abuse of Palestinians under its rule, but the utterly depraved complicity of western governments in its actions.

By Jonathan Cook

July 29, 2019

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/criticism-crushed-west-israel-can-enjoy-its-impunity/568497>

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7)

Bretton Woods Is Dead: What Next?

By Matthew Ehret

July 27, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/07/27/bretton-woods-dead-what-next/>

“French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire has publicly admitted something normally reserved for backroom discussion in the circles of Europe’s governing elite at an event honoring the 75th anniversary of Bretton Woods (the conference which created the foundations for the post WWII world order).

At this event, Le Maire stated ever-so candidly that “the Bretton Woods order has reached its limits. Unless we are able to re-invent Bretton Woods, the New Silk Road might become the New World Order”. [...]

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8a)

US grants 90-day waivers to nations participating in Iran’s civilian nuclear program – Bolton

August 1, 2019

<https://www.rt.com/news/465519-iran-sanctions-waivers-bolton/>

“[...] In addition to slashing the duration of the waivers by half, the US State Department in May discontinued two waivers that allowed Iran to exchange its enriched uranium for natural uranium and send excess heavy water for storage.

Five waivers were still extended and are set to stay in place at least for another 90 days. These concern the Islamic Republic’s Fordow enrichment facility, the Arak nuclear complex, the Bushehr nuclear plant, and the Tehran Research Reactor. [...]

8b)

Iran, UAE Sign MoU on Border Security

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation on common border security.

August, 01, 2019 - 16:44

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2019/08/01/2066966/iran-uae-sign-mou-on-border-security>

8c)

Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova

Moscow, August 1, 2019

US escalating tensions in the Gulf

http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3746524

“[...]The United States is deliberately making the situation worse partly by organising a pirate seizure of the Iranian tanker in Gibraltar to strengthen the US military presence in the Gulf area under the pretext of “ensuring freedom of navigation.” At the same time, other countries are being dragged into provocative schemes, even those that basically have nothing to do with this region. They are already being organised into some kind of “naval coalition.” This is a favourite device in recent years – instead of building up forces to ensure peace and stability based on international law, they are creating obscure coalitions with vague powers and rights that are not supported by any legitimate authority, that simply pursue the opportunistic interests of a certain group countries. This naval coalition is apparently aimed at exerting pressure on Iran rather than ensuring peace; unfortunately, as we understand it, the United States is playing the leading role here.

As a reminder, before the United States unilaterally withdrew from the agreement that ensured the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear programme, shipping and oil traffic through the Strait of Hormuz was smooth and stable. There was no need to form any coalitions to ensure security until the Americans began to artificially escalate tensions.[...]”

8d)

Why did the UK commander of HM Montrose refrain from firing on the IRGC? Who in Iran gave orders to capture the “Stena Impero”?

By Elijah J Magnier

July 31, 2019

<https://ejmagnier.com/2019/07/31/why-did-the-uk-commander-of-hm-montrose-refrain-from-firing-on-the-irgc-who-in-iran-gave-orders-to-capture-the-stena-impero/>

“[...] The arrival of a new UK Royal Navy ship, the HMS Duncan, will change nothing: it will add to the bank of objectives and list of Iranian targets available in the Persian Gulf in case of war. The US decision to revoke the nuclear deal not only made the Middle East less safe, but also has brought Russia further into the warm waters of the region: Iran has announced a joint naval exercise with Russia in the next months. Iran is bringing the Russians into what used to be the US’s “water playground”. Obviously, Washington’s “maximum pressure” is failing to produce the results the Americans predicted. [...]”

“[...] Iran is defying US hegemony and is ready for war, openly challenging the US and the UK. Tehran is welcoming Chinese and Russian support and is developing its missile capability to compensate for its lack of superiority in the sea and the air. [...]”

8e)

China Warns US to Stop 'Maximum Pressure' on Iran

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – China called on the US to stop its so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran and avoid creating new obstacles for parties to implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

July 30, 2019

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2019/07/30/2065247/china-warns-us-to-stop-maximum-pressure-on-iran>

8f)

Austrian Envoy Calls US Sanctions on Iran ‘Unjust’

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Austrian Ambassador to Iran Stefan Scholz on Sunday deplored the economic sanctions imposed against the Islamic Republic by the US government as “unjust”.

July 28, 2019

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2019/07/28/2064026/austrian-envoy-calls-us-sanctions-on-iran-unjust>

8g)

Coalition of Foreign Policy Experts Outline 8 Recommendations to Deescalate Tensions with Iran

July 30, 2019

<https://www.niacouncil.org/coalition-foreign-policy-experts-outline-8-recommendations-deescalate-tensions-iran/>

<https://www.niacouncil.org/expertletterdeescalation/>

“WASHINGTON DC – Today, an expert group of foreign policy practitioners published a letter underscoring the dangerous new phase that has put the U.S and Iran on the path toward war. The signatories include prominent academics, such as John Mearsheimer, Stephen Walt, and Andrew Bacevich; foreign policy analyst Rula Jebreal; former Member of Congress John F. Tierney; former ambassadors and diplomats, such as Thomas Pickering, François Nicoullaud, and Peter Jenkins; national security expert Edward Price; and Iran experts such as Jamal Abdi, Dina Esfandiary, and Farideh Farhi.[...]”

8h)

Iran simply won’t let itself be hemmed in by the U.S. and UK

By Vijay Prashad

July 30, 2019

<https://mronline.org/2019/07/30/iran-simply-wont-let-itself-be-hemmed-in-by-the-u-s-and-uk/>

8i)

Tanker Seizures & Resurgent Imperialism

By Craig Murray

(Craig Murray was British ambassador to Uzbekistan from August 2002 to October 2004 and rector of the University of Dundee from 2007 to 2010.)

July 30, 2019

<https://consortiumnews.com/2019/07/30/tanker-seizures-resurgent-imperialism/>

“[...] Even if the EU does have sanctions seeking to preclude an Iranian ship from delivering Venezuelan oil to Syria, the EU or its member states have absolutely no right to impede the passage of an Iranian ship through the Strait of Gibraltar in enforcement of those sanctions. Anymore than Iran could declare sanctions against Saudi oil being delivered to Europe and close the Straits of Hormuz to such shipping, or Indonesia could declare sanctions on EU goods going to Australia and close the Malacca Strait, or Russia could declare sanctions on goods going to Ukraine and close the Strait of Kerch.

There are two circumstances in which the U.K. could intercept the Iranian ship in the Strait of Gibraltar legally. One would be in pursuance of a resolution by the UN Security Council under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. There is no such resolution in force. The second would be in the case of a war between the U.K. and Iran or Syria. No such state of war exists (and even then, a naval blockade must be limited by the humanitarian measures of the San Remo Convention). [...]”

8j)

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982

https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf

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