

## Selected articles (July 04, 2019)

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1)

### **Demasking the Torture of Julian Assange**

By Nils Melzer, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

June 26, 2019

<https://medium.com/@njmelzer/demasking-the-torture-of-julian-assange-b252ffdcb768>

*„[...] Even so, you may say, why spend so much breath on Assange, when countless others are tortured worldwide? Because this is not only about protecting Assange, but about preventing a precedent likely to seal the fate of Western democracy. For once telling the truth has become a crime, while the powerful enjoy impunity, it will be too late to correct the course. We will have surrendered our voice to censorship and our fate to unrestrained tyranny. [...]“*

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2a)

### **CIA finances another group of fraudsters: the Venezuelan „Opposition“**

By Wayne Madsen

June 27, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/06/27/cia-finances-another-group-of-fraudsters-venezuelan-opposition/>

2b)

### **U.S. and Canada are backing an elite white minority in Venezuela**

June 28, 2019

<https://mronline.org/2019/06/28/u-s-and-canada-are-backing-an-elite-white-minority-in-venezuela/>

2c)

### **Venezuelan Government Claims New Coup, Maduro Assassination Plot Foiled**

By Ricardo Vaz

June 28, 2019

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/venezuela-new-coup-maduro-assassination-plot-foiled/260077/>

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3)

### **Life Among the Rubble: Mosul 18 Months after “Liberation”**

By T.J. Coles

July 4, 2019

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2019/07/04/life-among-the-rubble-mosul-18-months-after-liberation/>

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4a)

### **Voices from Syria’s Rukban Refugee Camp Belie Corporate Media Reporting**

Eva Bartlett visited refugees in Syria escaping the horrid conditions in the Rukban Refugee Camp, a desolate outpost in the US administered deconfliction zone. What she found was very different than the ‘reality’ depicted by the Western press.

July 4, 2019

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/voices-syria-rukban-refugee-camp-media-reporting/260197/>

*[...] Eva Bartlett is a Canadian independent journalist and activist. She has spent years on the ground covering conflict zones in the Middle East, especially in Syria and occupied Palestine, where she lived for nearly four years. She is a recipient of the 2017 International Journalism Award for International Reporting, granted by the Mexican Journalists' Press Club (founded in 1951), was the first recipient of the Serena Shim Award for Uncompromised Integrity in Journalism, and was short-listed in 2017 for the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism.[...]"*

**4b)**

### **Debunking the Rumors About Russia Caving in to Israel**

By The Saker

July 4, 2019

<http://www.unz.com/tsaker/debunking-the-rumors-about-russia-caving-in-to-israel/>

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**5)**

### **We Won't Load Your Ships of Death – Italian dockers against Saudi war machine**

By David Broder and Giacomo Marchetti

25 June 2019,

<http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?article49445>

*"Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen relies on lucrative weapons deals with the West. But the arms shipments can't happen if dockers refuse to load the ships — and in France and Italy, they've already taken strike action to stop the Saudi war machine.[...]"*

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**6a)**

### **The Lie Of The Century**

By Jafar M. Ramini

June 30, 2019<https://imemc.org/article/the-lie-of-the-century/>

**6b)**

### **Trump's Underwhelming Deal for Palestine and the Gulf Monarchies' Complicated Ties with Israel**

By Giorgio Cafiero

June 27, 2019

<https://consortiumnews.com/2019/06/27/trumps-underwhelming-deal-for-palestine-and-the-gulf-monarchies-complicated-ties-with-israel/>

**6c)**

**Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks and answers to questions during a joint news conference following talks with Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Yousef Al-Othaimeen, Moscow, July 3, 2019**

[http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3709117](http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3709117)

*[...] I can tell you provisionally that the economic component stipulates some \$50 billion in investments, half of it in Palestine and the rest in the infrastructure of the countries that have for years given shelter to Palestinian refugees. If the idea is to keep the refugees there forever, as you can perceive from the planned investments in these countries, this provision contradicts the UNSC decisions, which stipulate the establishment of an effective Palestinian state that will be able to receive refugees from the countries where they have taken refuge, primarily Lebanon, Egypt and several other countries. [...]*

**6d)**

#### **How the Third Temple Movement in Israel Rebranded Theocracy as “Civil Rights”**

The Temple Activist movement is now more mainstream than ever before and its effort to destroy the Al-Aqsa mosque compound, the third holiest site in Islam, has advanced with great rapidity since the year began and has picked up precipitously in recent weeks.

By Whitney Webb

July 3, 2019

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/third-temple-activist-movement-israel-theocracy-civil-rights/260142/>

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**7a)**

#### **On Eve Of 4th Of July Parade U.S. Attempts To Lure Iran Into Shooting Down Another U.S. Plane**

By Moon of Alabama

July 03, 2019

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2019/07/on-eve-of-4th-of-july-parade-us-attempts-to-lure-iran-into-shooting-down-another-us-plane.html#more>

*[...] This morning the U.S. spy plane willingly penetrated Iranian airspace. It squawked a fake code which showed ill intention. This happened on the 31st anniversary of Flight 655. The Iranian military would certainly still like to take revenge for that mass murder. It was a huge provocation likely intended to lure Iran into shooting it down. [...]*

**7b)**

#### **The Iran Nuclear Deal: Letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres**

Signed by Prominent Academics and Activists

July 01, 2019

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/letter-to-un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres-on-iran-nuclear-deal/5682367>

**7c)**

#### **Imperial Overreach in Iran**

By Suvrat Raju

June 27, 2019

<https://rupeindia.wordpress.com/2019/06/27/imperial-overreach-in-iran/#raju>

*[...] In this article, I will review the history of the Iranian nuclear issue from this perspective. This history is instructive because it sheds light on political trends both within the United States and Iran; it also reveals how arms-control issues have been used by Western nations to destabilize governments that they view unfavourably. I will conclude with some comments on the positions adopted by the Indian government, and a brief outlook on where these events might lead.[...]*

**7d)**

#### **‘We Can Prevent JCPOA From Total Collapse’ - Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif**

July 05, 2019

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201907051076151626-we-can-prevent-jcpoa-from-total-collapse---iranian-fm-mohammad-javad-zarif/>

**7e)**

### **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action**

Vienna, 14 July 2015

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/122460/full-text-of-the-iran-nuclear-deal.pdf>

*„[...] DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM 36. If Iran believed that any or all of the E3/EU+3 were not meeting their commitments under this JCPOA, Iran could refer the issue to the Joint Commission for resolution; similarly, if any of the E3/EU+3 believed that Iran was not meeting its commitments under this JCPOA, any of the E3/EU+3 could do the same. The Joint Commission would have 15 days to resolve the issue, unless the time period was extended by consensus. After Joint Commission consideration, any participant could refer the issue to Ministers of Foreign Affairs, if it believed the compliance issue had not been resolved. Ministers would have 15 days to resolve the issue, unless the time period was extended by consensus. After Joint Commission consideration – in parallel with (or in lieu of) review at the Ministerial level - either the complaining participant or the participant whose performance is in question could request that the issue be considered by an Advisory Board, which would consist of three members (one each appointed by the participants in the dispute and a third independent member). The Advisory Board should provide a non-binding opinion on the compliance issue within 15 days. If, after this 30-day process the issue is not resolved, the Joint Commission would consider the opinion of the Advisory Board for no more than 5 days in order to resolve the issue. If the issue still has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the complaining participant, and if the complaining participant deems the issue to constitute significant non-performance, then that participant could treat the unresolved issue as grounds to cease performing its commitments under this JCPOA in whole or in part and/or notify the UN Security Council that it believes the issue constitutes significant non-performance. [...].”*

**7f)**

### **Statement from the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action**

Vienna, 6 July 2018

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage\\_en/48076/Statement%20from%20the%20Joint%20Commission%20of%20the%20Joint%20Comprehensive%20Plan%20of%20Action](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/48076/Statement%20from%20the%20Joint%20Commission%20of%20the%20Joint%20Comprehensive%20Plan%20of%20Action)

*“[...]*

*6. The participants recognised that, in return for the implementation by Iran of its nuclear-related commitments, the lifting of sanctions, including the economic dividends arising from it, constitutes an essential part of the JCPOA. They also noted that economic operators pursuing legitimate business with Iran have been acting in good faith based on the commitments contained in the JCPOA and endorsed at the highest level by the UN Security Council.*

*7. The participants discussed their recent efforts aimed at providing practical solutions in order to maintain the normalisation of trade and economic relations with Iran. They welcomed the extensive work undertaken to-date, the intensification of technical dialogues and the mobilisation of considerable resources by all.*

*8. The participants affirmed their commitment regarding the following objectives in good faith and in a constructive atmosphere:*

- the maintenance and promotion of wider economic and sectoral relations with Iran;*
- the preservation and maintenance of effective financial channels with Iran;*
- the continuation of Iran's export of oil and gas condensate, petroleum products and petrochemicals;*
- the continuation of sea (including shipping and insurance), land, air and rail transportation relations;*
- the promotion of export credit cover;*

- clear and effective support for economic operators trading with Iran, particularly small and medium sized enterprises which are the backbone of many economies;
- the encouragement of further investments in Iran;
- the protection of economic operators for their investment and other commercial and financial activities in or in relation to Iran;
- the bringing together of private and public sector experts, including through the promotion of Business Councils;
- the practical support for trade with and investment in Iran;
- the protection of companies from the extraterritorial effects of US sanctions.

*The participants noted that the EU is in the process of updating the EU “Blocking Statute” in order to protect EU Member States’ companies and of updating the European Investment Bank’s external lending mandate to cover Iran.*

*The participants will work on the above issues through direct bilateral efforts and through engagement with international partners in order to encourage them to follow the same policies and to establish similar mechanisms in their economic relations with Iran.[...]*

**7g)**

### **Where Does Trump Go From Here With Iran?**

By Tom Luongo

July 1, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/07/01/where-does-trump-go-from-here-with-iran/>

*„[...] It is in Russia’s long-term best interest to keep Iran stable and relatively prosperous. They cannot afford a failed state and chaos in Iran. Note the timing of violent uprisings in Georgia. Don’t think these things are related? Think again.*

*Keeping the Russians busy with multiple hotspots is the plan here. But Russia isn’t confused about this strategy. Expect in the coming weeks to see more direct support from Russia to Iran. I wouldn’t be surprised if the Goods-for-Oil program hasn’t already been expanded and that Iran is one of those countries the Bank of Russia mentioned wanting access to Russia’s version of SWIFT, SPFS, to clear transactions sanctioned by the US. [...]“*

**7h)**

### **Trump’s Iran Policy: Dangerously Flawed Assumptions, With No Plan ‘B’**

By Alastair Crooke

July 1, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/07/01/trumps-iran-policy-dangerously-flawed-assumptions-with-no-plan-b/>

**7i)**

### **No, Iran Does Not Break The Nuclear Deal**

By Moon of Alabama

July 01, 2019

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2019/07/no-iran-does-not-break-the-nuclear-deal.html#more>

**7j)**

### **No, Iran Is Not Rushing To Build A Nuclear Weapon**

By Moon of Alabama

July 03, 2019

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2019/07/no-iran-is-not-rushing-to-build-a-nuclear-weapon.html#more>

*„[...] Iran will not go nuclear and it will not start a war. It is Israel that is threatening to do that over Iran's slightly increased stockpile of low enriched Uranium. Two days ago it launched an extensive air attack on Syria and hit several military and civilian sites. 16 people died, including kids, and over 60 were wounded. It might have been in preparation for an attack on Iran. [...]“*

**7k)**

### **The un-submersible US-Iran stalemate**

July 04, 2019

By Pepe Escobar

<http://thesaker.is/the-un-submersible-us-iran-stalemate/>

*“[...]The Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX), the mechanism set up by the EU-3 (France, UK and Germany) to bypass the US dollar for trade between Iran and the EU after the US unilaterally abandoned the nuclear deal, or JCPOA, may finally be in place. But there's no evidence INSTEX will be adopted by myriad European companies, as it essentially covers Iranian purchases of food and medicine.*

*Plan B would be for the Russian Central Bank to extend access to Iran as one the nations possibly adopting SPFS (System for Transfer of Financial Messages), the Russian mechanism for trade sanctioned by the US that bypasses SWIFT. Moscow has been working on the SPFS since 2014, when the threat to expel Russia from SWIFT became a distinct possibility.*

*As for Iran being accused – by the US – of “breaching” the JCPOA, that's absolute nonsense. To start with, Tehran cannot possibly “breach” a multinational deal that was declared null and void by one of the signatories, the US.*

*In fact the alleged “breach” is due to the fact the EU-3 were not buying Iran's low-enriched uranium, as promised, because of the US embargo. Washington has de facto forced the EU-3 not to buy it. Tehran duly notified all JCPOA parties that, as they are not buying it, Iran will have to store more low enriched uranium than the JCPOA allows for. If the EU-3 resumes buying it that automatically means Iran is not “breaching” anything. [...]”*

**7l)**

### **For Iranians, the War Has Already Begun**

By Elham Pourtaher

May 13, 2019

<https://lobelog.com/for-iranians-the-war-has-already-begun/>

*“[...] Those who feel relieved by thinking that Trump will not engage in an actual war and is merely interested in making threats should realize that the war has already begun. U.S. sanctions are producing a level of suffering comparable to that of wartime. Sanctions in fact are a war waged by the United States against the Iranian working- and middle-classes. These groups struggle to make ends meet as unemployment dramatically increases even as the inflation rate skyrockets. The same people that the Trump administration is pretending to want to set free are the ones that are hit hardest by current U.S. policies in the Middle East. [...]”*

**7m)**

### **United States Is in No Position to Lecture Iran**

The greatest outlier in terms of possessing nuclear weapons is the United States.

By Kathy Kelly

June 25, 2019

<https://progressive.org/dispatches/an-honorable-course-for-the-us-in-iran-kelly-190625/>

*[...] Rather than punish Iran, the United States should immediately return to the Iran nuclear agreement and support proposals regularly advanced at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty conferences for a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East.*

*The U.S. government claims it is threatened by Iran. Yet, according to David Stockman writing in Antiwar.com, the United States surrounds Iran with forty-five U.S. bases, and Iran's defense budget of less than \$15 billion amounts to just seven days of money spent by the Pentagon.*

*The United States, which claims Iran is supporting terrorism, continues to enable Saudi Arabia's aerial terrorism as it regularly bombs civilians in Yemen. On June 24th, a ship bound for Saudi Arabia departed from Wilmington, North Carolina carrying bombs, grenades, cartridges and defense-related aircraft. The United States also supplies weapons to Bahrain, the UAE, Sudan and other countries which actively participate in the Saudi-led Coalition making war against Yemen. The Saudi government directly supports the military government in Sudan, which recently killed at least 100 peaceful protesters who were part of Sudan's Democratic Uprising.[...]"*

**7n)**

**Iran 'violates' nuclear deal, after U.S. 'withdraws'**

By Joshua Cho

June 25, 2019

by Joshua Cho

<https://mronline.org/2019/06/25/iran-violates-nuclear-deal-after-u-s-withdraws/>

*[...] Iran is often accused of sneakily plotting to develop nuclear weapons, the way U.S. ally Israel actually did when it built the only nuclear weapons arsenal in the Middle East (Guardian, 1/15/14).*

*This is ironic, because Iran has actually been a consistent leader in the nuclear disarmament movement. Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, when Iran was the chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, critiqued the JCPOA because it didn't go far enough to ensure peace in the Middle East by not establishing a Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone there. Iran was also one of the first countries to propose making the Middle East a NWFZ, bringing up the proposal to the UN General Assembly in 1974 (CounterPunch, 12/13/13).*

*Journalist Gareth Porter (Foreign Policy, 10/16/14), reporting on Iran's little-understood theocratic system, noted that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's fatwa against building any kind of WMDs in the 1990s is a formal ruling on Islamic jurisprudence, holding a legal status above mere legislation. He also pointed to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's refusal to develop WMDs when up to 20,000 Iranians were killed by chemical weapons by then-U.S. ally Saddam Hussein in the 1980s (Reuters, 9/16/13)—with an additional 100,000 survivors developing chronic diseases. Current U.S. sanctions aiming to bring Iran's "oil exports to zero" are exacerbating those chronic diseases, in addition to further strangling Iran's economy, by restricting access to necessary medicine (Guardian, 9/2/13). [...]"*

**7o)**

**The U.S. Killed 300 Iranian Citizens. Americans Don't Remember This - But Iranians Do**

By Tom O'Connor

July 3, 2019

<https://www.newsweek.com/iran-remembers-killed-americans-should-1445104>

**7p)**

**Washington's Infatuation with the MEK**

By Soraya Sepahpour-Ulrich

June 30, 2019

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/51849.htm>

