

## Selected articles (August 09, 2019)

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1)

### A Global Appeal to Save International Law

Take action to tell your government to respect and uphold the United Nations Charter as a tool for maintaining peace, guaranteeing human rights and protecting the sovereignty of nations.

<http://globalappeal4peace.net/#newmode-embed-394-12514>

German: <http://globalappeal4peace.net/deutsch/>

French: <http://globalappeal4peace.net/francais/>

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2)

### New Fears for Julian Assange

August 7, 2019

<https://consortiumnews.com/2019/08/07/new-fears-for-julian-assange/>

*“Legendary journalist John Pilger has been to see Assange in Belmarsh Prison in London and his report is not encouraging.[...].”*

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3a)

### Were the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a War Crime and a Crime Against Humanity?

By Rossen Vassilev Jr.

August 03, 2019

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/were-atomic-bombings-hiroshima-nagasaki-war-crime-crime-against-humanity/5683441>

*“ [...] Even President Truman’s own Chief of Staff, the five-star Admiral William D. Leahy (the most senior U.S. military officer during the war) made no secret of his strong disapprobation of the atomic bombings: “It is my opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no*

*material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender because of the effective sea blockade and the successful bombing with conventional weapons.... My own feeling is that in being the first to use it, we had adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages.... I was not taught to make war in that fashion, and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children" (Claypool 86-87, emphasis added). [...]'*

**3b)**

### **Why The End Of The INF Treaty Will Not Start A New Arms Race**

Moon of Alabama

August 03, 2019

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2019/08/the-end-of-the-inf-treaty-will-not-create-a-new-arms-race.html>

*"[...] The U.S. also pressed NATO to deploy ABM systems in Europe. Iran was again cited as the main danger. Plans were developed to deploy Patriot and THAAD anti-missile system in Poland and Romania. These did not immediately endangered Russia. But in 2009 President Obama canceled the deployment and came up with a more devilish plan. The AEGIS system used on many U.S. war ships would be converted into a land based version and deployed in an alleged ABM role. AEGIS consist of radar, a battle management system and canister missiles launchers. The big issue is that these canisters can contain very different types of missiles. While the Standard Missile-2 or 3 can be launched from those canisters in an ABM role, the very same canisters can also hold nuclear armed cruise missile with a range of 2,400 kilometer.*

*Russia had no means to detect which type of missiles the U.S. would deploy on these sites. It had to assume that nuclear intermediate range nuclear missiles will be in those canisters. In 2016 the U.S. activated the first of these AEGIS ashore systems in Romania. It was that step that broke the INF treaty.[...]"*

*"[...] Russia urged the U.S. to negotiate about the issue but the U.S. rejected that. A year after the U.S. deployed its system in Romania it alleged that Russia itself was in breach of the INF treaty. It claimed that Russia deployed the 9M729 missile, an extended range version of a previous missile, with a range that exceeds the limits of the INF treaty. Russia says that the missile is just a technical upgrade of an older one and has a maximum range below 500 kilometers. The U.S. never provided evidence for its claim.*

*In January 2019 the U.S. rejected a Russian offer to inspect the new Russian missile and started to pull out of the INF treaty. It gave a six month notice on February 2 and yesterday the INF treaty terminated.*

*Neither the New York Times obituary of the treaty nor the CNN write-up mention the ABM system in Romania and Poland that were the first to breach of the treaty. Both repeat the unproven claim that Russia deployed new intermediate range systems as fact.[...]"*

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**4a)**

**Joint Statement by Iran, Russia and Turkey on the International Meeting on Syria in the Astana format, Nur-Sultan, 2 August 2019**

[http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3748560](http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3748560)

*[...] 1. Reaffirmed their strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; [...]"*

*[...] 4. Discussed the situation in the north-east of Syria and emphasized that long-term security and stability in this region can only be achieved on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country;*

*5. Rejected in this regard all attempts to create new realities on the ground under the pretext of combating terrorism, including illegitimate self-rule initiatives, and expressed their determination to stand against separatist agendas aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria as well as threatening the national security of neighboring countries; [...]"*

*[...] 9. Emphasized the need to increase humanitarian assistance to all Syrians throughout the country without preconditions. In order to support the improvement of the humanitarian situation in Syria and the progress in the process of the political settlement, they called upon the international community, the United Nations and its humanitarian agencies, to enhance the assistance to Syria, *inter alia* by developing early recovery projects, including the restoration of basic infrastructure assets - water and power supply facilities, schools and hospitals as well as the humanitarian mine action. They also discussed the idea and exchanged views on the perspectives of holding the International Conference on the Humanitarian Assistance to Syria; [...]"*

**4b)**

**Syrian forces seize US-made TOW missiles, drone in former terrorist hideout**

August 4, 2019

<https://www.presstv.com/Detail/2019/08/04/602654/syria-weapons-hideout>

**4c)**

**I am a Syrian Living in Syria: “It Was Never a Revolution nor a Civil War. The Terrorists Are Sent by Your Government”**

**American People, Please Help Us**

By Mark Taliano

August 6, 2019 (September 9, 2016)

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/i-am-a-syrian-living-in-syria-it-was-never-a-revolution-nor-a-civil-war-the-terrorists-are-sent-by-your-government/5544450>

**4d)**

### **Turkey, US agree to coordinate on Syrian buffer zone**

By Ayla Jean Yackley

August 8, 2019

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/08/turkey-us-agree-syria-buffer-zone.html>

*“Article Summary: A deal to jointly control a strip of territory now held by Syrian Kurds could reduce friction between Turkey and the United States after Ankara threatened a unilateral military intervention, but some human rights advocates say Turkey will use it to put Syrian refugees back in harm's way.”*

**4e)**

### **From 2006 to 2019: after failures in Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Yemen, war is no longer an option for Israel**

Posted on 04/08/2019 by Elijah J Magnier

<https://ejmagnier.com/2019/08/04/from-2006-to-2019-after-failures-in-syria-iraq-palestine-and-yemen-war-is-no-longer-an-option-for-israel/>

*“[...] The new war is essentially economic; it is a war of sanctions and limiting free movement of ship movements around the globe. It is a war of tankers and oil platforms. It is a starvation war where no one can threaten the enemy with a return to the “stone age” because the firepower is now universally available. Yemen is the best example: the threat of bombing Dubai forced the Emirates to seek Iranian mediation to prevent a missile attack against them. The Houthis, despite years of Saudi bombing of Yemen, have also managed to bomb Saudi airports, military bases and oil stations in the heart of Saudi Arabia, using cruise missiles and armed drones.[...].”*

**4f)**

### **A Syrian Leader Tells His Country's Story: An Interview with SAA General Hassan Hassan**

Eva Bartlett sits down for an exclusive interview with the head of the Syrian Arab Army's Political Administration, General Hassan Hassan.

By Eva Bartlett

August 05, 2019

<https://www.mintpressnews.com/syria-interview-with-syrian-arab-army-general-hassan-hassan/261146/>

**4g)**

### **EXCLUSIVE: Saudi Arabia's 'strategic plan' to take Turkey down**

In a confidential Emirati document seen by MEE, Mohammed bin Salman's scheme to confront Erdogan's government is outlined in full

By David Hearst and Ragip Soylu

August 5, 2019

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/exclusive-saudi-arabias-strategic-plan-take-turkey-down>

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**5)**

### **The Meaning of Israel's Massive Housing Demolitions in East Jerusalem**

Destruction at this scale and visibility cannot be understood without grasping its political message; in fact, the scale and visibility are the message.

By Jeff Halper

August 6, 2019

<https://www.thenation.com/article/israel-occupation-palestine-housing-east-jerusalem/>

*[...] The message from Israel goes further: If you think the international community will come to your aid, just watch the reactions to our in-your-face demolitions. The US government supports us totally. A UN Security Council resolution condemning the Wadi al-Hummus demolitions was struck down by an American veto. The reaction of the EU ("The continuation of this policy undermines the viability of the two-state solution and the prospect for a lasting peace") sounds almost computer-generated. China, Russia, India, Brazil, the Arab world, all traditional supporters of Palestinian rights? Far too indebted to Israeli arms and security technologies to ever impose sanctions.*

*This explains the scale, visibility, and violence of the Wadi al-Hummus demolitions. It is a gauntlet thrown in the face of civil society—us. What are you going to do about it? Unless we come up with a just political endgame (governments, preferring conflict management through an illusory "two-state solution," won't do it) and an effective strategy for mobilizing our forces, we will be left stewing in helpless outrage. Wadi al-Hummus screams: What are you going to do about it? [...]"*

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**6a)**

**China comes to the Rescue of Venezuela's Run-Down Oil Refineries**

By Business Reporting Desk

August 8, 2019

<https://www.beltandroad.news/2019/08/08/china-comes-to-the-rescue-of-venezuelas-run-down-oil-refineries/>

**6b)**

**Food Shipment Destined For Venezuela Seized Due to US Blockade**

August 7, 2019

<https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Food-Shipment-Destined-For-Venezuela-Seized-Due-to-US-Blockade-20190807-0012.html>

"[...] "Venezuela denounces before the world that a boat that holds 25 thousand tons of soy, for food production in our country, has been seized in the Panama Canal, due to the criminal blockade imposed by Donald Trump," the vice president said in a tweet.

"Venezuela calls on the UN to stop this serious aggression by Donald Trump's govt against our country, which constitutes a massive violation of the human rights of the entire Venezuelan people, by attempting to impede their right to food." [...]"

**6c)**

**In Venezuela, social, popular and communal unity is not an illusion**

August 08, 2019

<https://mronline.org/2019/08/08/in-venezuela-social-popular-and-communal-unity-is-not-an-illusion/>

**6d)**

**Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova's answer to a RIA Novosti question in connection with new anti-Venezuela sanctions imposed by the United States**

August 6, 2019

[http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3751304](http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3751304)

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**7a)**

**The Western Alliance Is Falling Apart**

By Peter Koenig

August 02, 2019

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/western-alliance-falling-apart/5685408>

*“Ever since Imran Khan became the 22nd Prime Minister of Pakistan in August 2018, the winds have changed. While his predecessors, though generally leaning eastwards, have often wavered between the US and the China orbit, Khan is in the process of clearly defining his alliances with the east, in particular China. This is for the good of his country, for the good of the Middle East, and eventually for the good of the world.*

*A few days ago, RT reported that China, in addition to the expansion of the new port in Gwadar, Balochistan, has entered agreements with Pakistan to build a military/air base in Pakistan, a new Chinese city for some half a million people, as well as several road and railway improvement projects, including a highway connecting the cities of Karachi and Lahore, reconstruction of the Karakoram Highway, linking Hasan Abdal to the Chinese border, as well as upgrading the Karachi-Peshwar main railway to be completed by the end of 2019, for trains to travel up to 160km / hour. [...]”*

**7b)**

**To Avoid a Collapse Means Restoring Glass-Steagall (Without the Green New Deal)**

By Matthew Ehret

August 7, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/07/avoid-collapse-means-restoring-glass-steagall-without-green-new-deal/>

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**8)**

**Saudi Arabia, China have established ‘Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’**

By Current Affairs Correspondent West Asia

August 4, 2019

<https://www.beltandroad.news/2019/08/04/saudi-arabia-china-have-established-comprehensive-strategic-partnership/>

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9a)

## More British Complicity Exposed in Latest 'CIA Torture Unredacted' Report

August 4, 2019

<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2019/08/04/more-british-complicity-exposed-in-latest-cia-torture-unredacted-report/>

*[...]The latest report about kidnappings, rendition, 'black sites' and torture is a remarkable piece of investigative work. It provides us with nothing less than a litany of shocking evidence and testimony and at 403 pages it makes for truly grim reading.[...]"*

*[...] European partners playing key logistical roles in the rendition network included the UK, Germany, Spain, Ireland, and Cyprus.[...]"*

9b)

## CIA TORTURE UNREDACTED

By Sam Raphael, Crofton Black and Ruth Blakeley

<https://www.therenditionproject.org.uk/documents/RDI/190710-TRP-TBIJ-CIA-Torture-Unredacted-Full.pdf>

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10a)

## Dossier 19: Iranians will not forget. The hybrid war against Iran

An Interview with Seyed Mohammad Marandi, University of Tehran.

Aug 07, 2019

<https://mronline.org/2019/08/07/dossier-19-iranians-will-not-forget-the-hybrid-war-against-iran/>

*[...] Frustration with the resilience of Iran and with its ties to China and Russia has pushed the regional allies of the U.S.—and the U.S. itself—to renew threats against Iran. The hybrid war against Iran has included economic sanctions, sabotage, and assassinations, as well as an information war. To break through the information barrier, Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research interviewed Professor Seyed Mohammad Marandi of the University of Tehran, where he teaches English Literature and Orientalism*

*and is the Dean of the Faculty of World Studies. This conversation focuses on the unilateral U.S. sanctions policy against Iran, on Iran's resilience, and on Iranian relations with China and Russia.[...]"*

**10b)**

### **Iran says US-led maritime coalition will create instability**

By Al-Monitor Staff

August 8, 2019

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/08/iran-us-led-gulf-maritime-coalition-create-instability.html>

*"Iran's Defense Minister Amir Hatami discussed the US-proposed coalition to monitor the Persian Gulf region in a phone conversation with defense officials from Kuwait, Qatar and Oman. Hatami said, "We are committed to the security of the Persian Gulf."*

*Hatami continued, "The Islamic Republic has spared no action in protecting navigation in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman." He added, "Regional security is a common interest of Iran and other neighbors in the Persian Gulf and therefore we believe security should be guaranteed by regional countries and regional countries should enter constructive talks in this field." [...]"*

*"[...]Regarding reports that Israel would join the US coalition, Hatami said, "Such an act would be extremely provocative and could have tragic consequences for the region." [...]"*

**10c)**

### **China Considers Protecting Its Ships From ... U.S. Piracy**

By Moon of Alabama

August 6, 2019

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2019/08/china-consider-to-protect-its-ships-from-us-piracy.html#more>

*" [...] China continues to buy Iranian oil. The New York Times just made big, hostile weekend splash about it:*

*China and other countries are receiving oil shipments from a larger number of Iranian tankers than was previously known, defying sanctions imposed by the United States to choke off Tehran's main source of income, an investigation by The New York Times has found.*

...

*The Trump administration is starting to intensify sanctions enforcement to try to end the exports to China, which continues to be the largest buyer of Iranian oil. On July 22, Secretary of State Mike*

*Pompeo announced sanctions against Zhuhai Zhenrong, a Chinese state-owned enterprise, and its top executive, Li Youmin, for “violating U.S. restrictions on Iran’s oil sector.” [...]”*

*“[...]China fears that the U.S. ‘coalition’ will confront its ships for breaking unilateral U.S. sanctions. The British did just that with the Iranian tanker they pirated at Gibraltar. There is also a historic precedence that demonstrates the necessity to protect Chinese ships against such U.S. schemes:*

*It is remembered much better in China than it is in the United States, that in 1993 the PRC was the most conspicuous victim of principled US piracy in the matter of the shipping vessel Yinhe. [...]”*

**10d)**

### **No, There Will Be No Russian Base In Iran**

By Moon of Alabama

August 8, 2019

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2019/08/no-there-will-be-no-russian-base-in-iran.html>

*“[...] Each of the five points above demonstrate that the report is nonsense and that its author is not the least familiar with military and strategic issues. It is no wonder then that the rest of the Oilprice piece is a shoddy as its first paragraph. Mysterious sources who are bad mouthing Iran, half baked knowledge of facts and speculative interpretations of those do not make a reliable story.*

*Iran and Russia had at times difficult relations. In 2010 then President Medvedev signed on to the U.S. driven UN Security Council sanctions against Iran. The relations went cold after that. The intense military cooperation between both countries during the war on Syria revived them. But the relations are certainly not deep enough to allow for a Russian base in Iran. [...]”*

**10e)**

### **Tehran issues deadline for bypass to US sanctions**

By Rohollah Faghihi

August 6, 2019

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/08/tehran-iran-issues-deadline-bypass-us-sanctions.html>

*“[...] French President Emmanuel Macron has attempted to trigger initiatives to preserve the JCPOA. On July 30, the Iranian and French presidents discussed in a 100-minute phone call the possibilities for saving the deal. According to two sources who spoke on condition of anonymity, Macron invited President Hassan Rouhani to attend the G-7 summit Aug. 24 at the coastal resort of Biarritz, France, to meet with US President Donald Trump. [...]”*

*[...] According to three sources speaking to Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity, in his conversation with Rouhani, Macron brought up the issue of establishing a \$15 billion credit line for Tehran as a way around US sanctions, in an effort to meet Iran's demand. [...]"*

**10f)**

### **Trump's 'diplomacy' in Iran is a cynical farce**

By Vijay Prashad

<https://mronline.org/2019/08/07/trumps-diplomacy-in-iran-is-a-cynical-farce/>

*[...] Zarif has been working hard to build various coalitions around the world to prevent the United States from controlling the narrative. At the recently concluded Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ministerial meeting in Caracas, Zarif held center stage. The NAM has long opposed unilateralism by the United States. There are 120 countries inside NAM, making it the largest political bloc inside the United Nations. They welcomed Zarif's call that the U.S. unilateral sanctions against Iran and Venezuela are a form of "economic terrorism."*

*A subset of the NAM members formed a group of 25 countries that have come together to oppose directly the U.S. unilateral sanctions, not only against Iran but also against Cuba, Venezuela, Russia, and elsewhere. This group has moved slowly to consolidate itself. [...]"*

**10g)**

### **Tinderbox: Israeli military attacks in Iraq could complicate US strategy in Middle East**

August 2, 2019

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2019/08/israel-military-attacks-iraq-complicate-us-strategy-mideast.html>

**10h)**

### **Iran's Interests in China's One Belt One Road Policy**

By Current Affairs Correspondent East Asia

August 4, 2019

<https://www.beltandroad.news/2019/08/04/irans-interests-in-chinas-one-belt-one-road-policy/>

*[...] With its massive oil and gas resources and its presence in the Hartland Energy project, Iran is in an excellent geographical location to take advantage of China's Silk Road project's benefits.*

*The geostrategic position of Iran, which is located on the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf border, is important for China, which is part of why it has encouraged Iran's serious engagement in the project.*

*If the conditions for investment and the presence of foreign companies to complete Iran's industrial, oil, gas, and energy projects are not provided, Iran will miss an important opportunity, and Iran's rivals and neighbors will be able to take advantage of it to increase political influence in the region, and gain substantial economic benefits in the meantime. [...]"*

*"[...] China was Iran's largest trading partner in 2018, trade between the two countries reached about \$35 billion. China is also the largest importer of Iranian oil.*

*The two countries plan to reach trade agreements worth \$600 billion over the next decade. China has allocated two credit facilities for \$4.2 billion, which is intended to finance high-speed rail lines and connecting major cities in Iran, including Tehran, Mashhad, and Isfahan.*

*The Mashhad-Tehran train will be an important step in completing the new China Silk Road project and will offer Iran major economic advantages.*

*China's \$40 billion investment in the Silk Road Investment Fund and the request from other countries to join the fund signify the importance of restoring the Silk Road from the Chinese perspective. [...]"*

**10i)**

### **Attack on Iran would be an attack on Russia**

By Pepe Escobar

August 5, 2019

<http://thesaker.is/attack-on-iran-would-be-an-attack-on-russia/>

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