



MIDDLE EAST WEEKLY

Month: Jul 09 | Issue 48 | CSSAME

Middle East in a Week

Regarding international relations and world politics, the Middle East may be the most controversial region in the current times. On the one hand it sits on most of the world's oil reserves, while on the other hand, it inhibits the followers of the most controversial religion in the world, Islam. These matters combined have created a region filled with drastic events. Every day, there are new wars erupting in the region and every day, there are new ways through which the west and the far east try to increase their influence in the region. This region inhibits 411 million people out of which 28 % are under the age of 25 years old. This newsletter tries to give weekly updates on the important issues in the Middle East and combining them with some analysis, hopes to have a role in changing the region's situation to the better.

Inside This Issue

**RE-DESTRUCTION OF THE DESTROYED
BOMBARDMENT IN IRAQ
GAZA AT THE END OF ITS ROPE
IRAN BACK TO THE BEGINNING
TALIBAN FORCING OUT LIFE**

RE-DESTRUCTION OF THE DESTRUCTED¹

As time keeps moving on, the Israel-Palestine conflict keeps getting worse. However, Israel seems to remain ahead of Palestine in terms of violent victory. Israeli forces demolished the Palestinian Bedouin community of Humsa al-Baqai'a in the Jordan Valley on Wednesday, including living and farming structures provided by the international community. At least 65 people, including 35 children, were displaced, said Christopher Holt of the West Bank Protection Consortium, a group of international aid agencies supported by the European Union that is assisting the residents. The demolitions left the villagers, who earn their livelihood primarily by herding some 4,000 sheep, homeless again. The EU in the past has helped residents rebuild after previous demolitions. Under the Oslo Accords, the Jordan Valley, which makes up 60 percent of the occupied West Bank, is classified as Area C – meaning it is under full Israeli military and civil control.



BOMBARDMENT IN IRAQ²

Iran aligned militia forces keep attacking US sites in Iraq. At least 14 rockets hit an airbase in western Iraq hosting US and other international forces on Wednesday, the latest in a series to tit-for-tat strikes with powerful Iran-aligned militias in the country. Colonel Wayne Marotto, spokesman for the US-led coalition, said that Al-Assad Air Base in western Iraq was attacked early in the afternoon by 14 rockets that landed on the base and its perimeter, prompting the activation of defensive measures. “Two personnel sustained minor injuries. Damage still be assessed,” Marotto said in a Twitter post. A statement from the Security Media Cell, affiliated with Iraq’s security forces, said a mobile rocket launcher hidden in a truck loaded with bags of flour and parked in the nearby village of Baghdadi was used in the attack. It added the 14 rockets were fired towards the base while the rest exploded on the truck, damaging some village homes and a mosque. A previously unknown group calling itself Brigades to Avenge al-Muhandis said its members fired 30 rockets towards the base “run by American occupiers”.



GAZA AT THE END OF ITS ROPE³

The recent conflict between Gaza and Israel forces was quite costly for the Gaza Strip. The global organizations estimate the damages to be between \$290m and \$380m. The Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) report published on Tuesday estimated that the damage caused by the 11-day bombardment was between \$290m and \$380m, while the recovery needs are projected at between \$345m and \$485m. “Following the hostilities, 62 percent of the population of Gaza is food insecure,” the report said, adding that unemployment was already at 48 percent and poverty rates above 50 percent before the escalation. The offensive killed at least 260 Palestinians, including 66 children, and caused widespread damage to infrastructure and residential areas. On the Israeli side, 13 people were killed by rockets fired from Palestinian armed groups in the coastal enclave, including two children.



IRAN BACK TO THE BEGINNING⁵

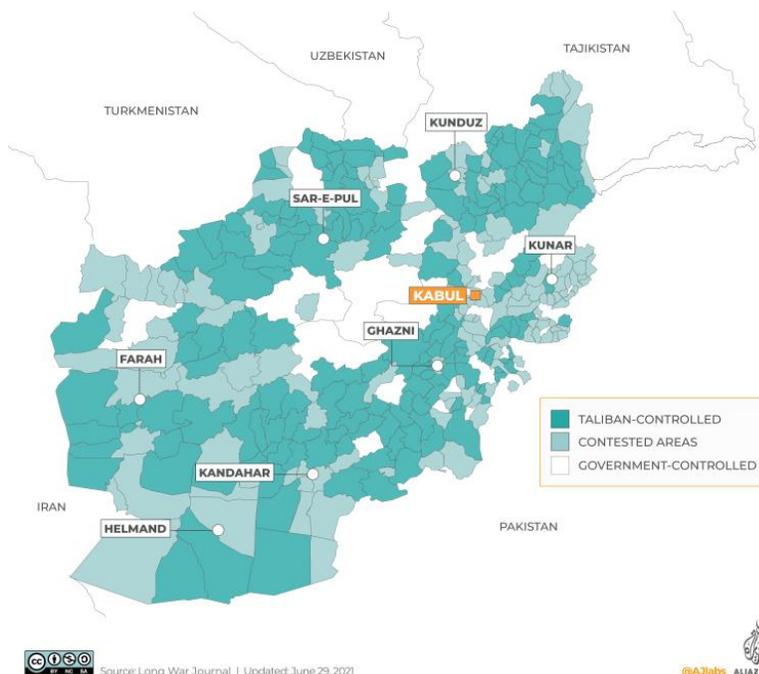
After several warnings, Iran gave the IAEA that it will reach the 20% enrichment level; and it finally did. The United States and European powers have condemned Iran’s decision to produce uranium metal enriched to 20 percent purity but the US said the window for diplomacy to allow both to resume compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal remained open. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported on Tuesday that Iran intended to enrich uranium to 20 percent, in the latest sign the Vienna talks on reviving the joint comprehensive plan of action could be stalling. “It is worrying that Iran chooses to escalate its non-performance of its [nuclear deal] commitments, especially with experiments that have value for nuclear weapons research,” US State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters at a briefing. Iran’s envoy to the IAEA, Kazem Gharibabadi, confirmed the news, saying the first silicide fuel plate will be produced soon using 20 percent enriched uranium for medical purposes. The current talks in Vienna are aimed at bringing the US under new President Joe Biden back into the JCPOA. Biden has expressed readiness if conditions are met by Iran.



TALIBAN FORCING OUT LIFE⁴

Since its formation in 1994, Taliban has been putting obstacles in front of Afghanistan for achieving peace. The Taliban has launched its first assault on a provincial capital in Afghanistan since waging a major offensive against government forces, local officials said, causing panic among local people and prompting prisoners to break out of the city's prison. Fierce fighting erupted on Wednesday in the western city of Qala-e-Naw, the capital of northwestern Badghis province, after the armed group fighters captured all the surrounding districts of the province. "The enemy has entered the city, all the districts have fallen. The fighting has started inside the city," Badghis Governor Hessemuddin Shams told reporters in a text message. Badghis provincial council chief Abdul Aziz Bek and council member Zia Gul Habibi confirmed that fighting between the Taliban and government forces had erupted inside the city. "Fighting continues in different parts of the city right now," Bek told the AFP news agency, adding that some security officials had surrendered to the Taliban during the night.

AFGHANISTAN Who controls what



References & Further Readings

- ¹Palestinian community in West Bank demolished for seventh time, ALJAZEERA, 07-JUL-2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/7/palestinian-community-in-west-bank-demolished-for-sixth-time>
- ²Barrage of rockets fired at airbase housing US troops in Iraq, ALJAZEERA, 07-JUL-2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/7/barrage-of-rockets-fired-at-airbase-housing-us-troops-in-iraq>
- ³Israeli bombardment severely weakened Gaza economy: Report, ALJAZEERA, 07-JUL-2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/7/israeli-bombardment-severely-weakened-gaza-economy-report>
- ⁴Taliban attacks capital of northwest Afghan province of Badghis, ALJAZEERA, 07-JUL-2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/7/taliban-attacks-capital-of-northwest-afghan-province-of-badghis>
- ⁵US, European powers condemn Iran uranium metal decision, ALJAZEERA, 06-JUL-2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/6/iran-uranium-metal-decision-is-unfortunate-step-backwards-us>

Editor:

Sahand EP Faez

Centre for Studies on South Asia and the Middle East,
National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan

Email: submissions.cssame@gmail.com

Tel: +886-4-22840310