



# MIDDLE EAST WEEKLY

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## *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.

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## ***OTHERS CALL FOR THE TWO – STATE SOLUTION<sup>1</sup>***

Foreign ministers of several countries including France, Egypt and Germany call for the beginning of talks between Israel and Palestine for the Two State Solution. Jordan is another country which backs this idea. Foreign ministers from four Arab and European countries meeting in Jordan have said a two-state solution is the only path to end the long-running Israeli-Palestinian conflict, calling for a resumption of negotiations between the two sides. There will be “no comprehensive and lasting peace without solving the conflict on the basis of the two-state solution”, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman al-Safadi told reporters following the meeting. There are a few decade old feuds in the Middle East and the Israel-Palestine conflict is one of them. The conflict which dates back to 1947 and even further back to 1920 has created many widows and widowers and orphans over the years. For years this conflict was simply a nuisance on the news channel and now with the normalization treaties and their oppositions, many countries are trying to show as if they actually care!



## ***KING SALMANS UN SPEECH AND IRAN’S RESPONSE<sup>2</sup>***

After King Salman’s speech at the UN, Iranian officials publicly accused the Saudi Government of being the main sponsor of terrorism. During a video statement on Wednesday, King Salman bin Abdulaziz called on the 193-member UN General Assembly for a comprehensive solution to Riyadh’s archenemy and to stop it from obtaining weapons of mass destruction. In his address, the 84-year-old Saudi monarch alleged that Iran has exploited its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers to “intensify its expansionist activities, create its terrorist networks and use terrorism” which has “produced nothing but chaos, extremism, and sectarianism”. In response, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry, accused Saudi Arabia of distorting facts and shifting the blame for its own “crimes”, branding it the “main financial and logistical supporter of terrorism in the region”.



**IRAN**

**OR**

**SAUDI ARABIA**



## ***LACK OF FUNDING IN UN; HEALTH DEPLETION IN YEMEN<sup>3</sup>***

The United Nations said on Wednesday that critical aid was cut at 300 health centers across war-ravaged Yemen because of a lack of funding, with lifesaving food distribution also reduced. Between April and August, more than one-third of the UN's important humanitarian programs in Yemen was reduced or shut down entirely, the UN said, warning of further drastic cuts "in coming weeks unless additional funding is received". Lise Grande, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for Yemen, said only \$1bn of the \$3.2bn necessary had been received. "It's an impossible situation," Grande said. "This is the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, yet we don't have the resources we need to save the people who are suffering and will die if we don't help." Civil war may be the harshest reality in social science; even worse than famine since it will eventually lead to it combined with genocide, slavery and child abuse. At the moment Yemen is experiencing such a travesty for the sixth year and no change is in sight. Hopefully some day in the future (near or far) this country alongside Syria and many African countries run free of such harshness.



## ***TRUMP: WE WILL CLOSE OUR EMBASSY IN IRAQ<sup>5</sup>***

According to Fars News, Donald Trump has threatened to close the US embassy in Iraq if the attacks do not cease. The leaders of Iraq had a gathering this Monday to discuss current issues. In this meeting Iraq's president told of Pompeo's concerns regarding continues attacks on US embassy and offices in Iraq. According to him, Trump is seriously considering closing down the embassy in Iraq. According to the president of Iraq, there could also be some operations against Hezbollah and Asaib Ahl Al-Haq. Pompeo has warned the Iraqi government that closing the US embassy will have devastating repercussions for Iraq. The US has had a considerable influence in Iraq since before invading it in 2003 and such messages show how much power it can still exert over Iraq.



## IRAN-VENESUALA COOPERATION AMIDST THE SANCTIONS<sup>4</sup>

According to Blumberg, this week an oil tanker bearing the flag of Iran was taking a shipment from Venezuela to the farther points of Asia. Iran, defying US sanctions, has exported some oil to Venezuela and now is helping this country in exporting its oil to the other side of Asia. The oil tanker named 'Hani' was shipping Venezuelan oil 'Merry' in its shores. Such an action in a time when many states refuse to trade with Iran in fear of US retaliations is such a shining moment for Iran. This tanker has recently shipped two million barrels of natural gas to Venezuela. That is while the United States has prevented 1.116 million barrels of oil to reach Venezuela. According to satellite radars, the ship is currently in Dubai shores. Iran has been under numerous sanctions since 1979, most of which were by the United States. After many debates, Iran finally came to the negotiations table and the JCPOA was born. Iran was and still is faithful to this agreement and yet no sanctions are really lifted. This fact aside, the other states also refuse to deal with Iran for the fear of retaliation from the United States.



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### References & Further Readings

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<sup>2</sup> Iran hits back at 'delirious' Saudi after King Salman's UN speech, 24-SEP-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/24/iran-hits-back-at-delirious-saudi-kings-blasting-un-speech>

<sup>3</sup> UN slashes healthcare in Yemen due to lack of funding, 23-SEP-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/9/23/un-slashes-healthcare-in-yemen-due-to-lack-of-funding>

<sup>4</sup> همکاری‌های نفتی ایران و ونزوئلا با وجود تحریم‌های آمریکا, 24-SEP-2020, <https://tn.ai/2354762>

<sup>5</sup> تهدید ترامپ برای بستن سفارت آمریکا در عراق, 24-SEP-2020, [khabaronline.ir/news/1435917](https://khabaronline.ir/news/1435917)