



# MIDDLE EAST WEEKLY

Month: Oct 16 | Issue 10 | 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*

THOSE WHO BUILD THE FUTURE OF  
YEMEN

DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION AND STILL  
NEW SANCTIONS ARE BORN

DRACULA DEMANDING WATCH ON THE  
WORLD'S BLOODBANK

UNITED STATES DEMANDING ARMED  
FORCES TO PUT DOWN THEIR ARMS

FBI'S INVESTIGATION ON BEIRUT'S  
EXPLOSIONS

## ***THOSE WHO BUILD THE FUTURE OF YEMEN<sup>1</sup>***

Despite all the bloodshed and commotion in Yemen, some families and a few teachers thought that nothing could put a shadow on the future of the next generation. Therefore, in Taiz a classroom without doors, windows, walls or even a roof opened up and a class of few started learning. They neither had any suitable utensils nor did they have desks; yet, by being content with putting old books on their laps and the help of some volunteer teachers, these kids restarted their education. Ali Sultan, a parent of one of the students, points out to AFP news agency a warning sign in red letters written on a perimeter wall. “Beware of Mines,” it reads. The school is located in the middle of a minefield, that was partially cleared to allow the students to return. “We were faced with a difficult choice, either leave them at home or face the risk of bringing them here to study in this rubble,” Sultan said. In Taiz city alone, 47 schools were “totally destroyed in the fighting”, said Abdel Wassae Chaddad, provincial director of education.



### **CLASS OF THE YEAR**

**2020**

## ***DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION AND STILL NEW SANCTIONS ARE BORN<sup>2</sup>***

Trump still claims that US sanctions do not harm the Iranian people. Based on this logic, which is of course not true, the United States just sanctioned 18 Iranian banks which consequently shut Iran out of the global financial sector completely. Just a few hours after this decision, Iranian currency's value took a deep dive and devalued drastically. Despite calls from United Nations officials and other global leaders to suspend sanctions while Iran is battling the coronavirus pandemic, Washington has not relented in its “maximum pressure” campaign against Tehran as the November 3 US election draws near. President Donald Trump's administration has long maintained that humanitarian trade is exempt from sanctions. “The U.S. government recognizes and understands the necessity for both commercial humanitarian exports and humanitarian transactions to access Iran's banking system, and this action does not interfere with that ability,” said the US Treasury on Thursday. But Iranian officials are blasting that claim.



**1 \$ = 315,000 Rials**



## ***DRACULA DEMANDING WATCH ON THE WORLD'S BLOODBANK<sup>3</sup>***

Saudi Arabia failed to acquire a seat at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Gaining a seat at this table would have been ironic, since this country has a long history of violating human rights. For so many years, Saudi Arabian women did not even have the right to drive. It, however, is not that ironic; because two other famous violators of human rights actually got seats at this table. Starting January 1, 2021, China and Russia will serve as members of the UNHRC alongside Cuba. Russia and Cuba ran unopposed in the UN General Assembly election. Saudi Arabia and China vied for membership in a five-nation race for four spots with Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Nepal. Pakistan received 169 votes, Uzbekistan 164, Nepal 150, China 139 and Saudi Arabia 90 votes – ending Riyadh's bid to again be a member of the UN's top human rights body. Human Rights Watch has described China and Saudi Arabia as “two of the world's most abusive governments “. The New York-based group also singled out numerous war crimes in the Syrian war as making Russia a highly problematic candidate.



## ***UNITED STATES DEMANDING ARMED FORCES TO PUT DOWN THEIR ARMS<sup>5</sup>***

The US State Department through a statement, demanded that all the sides in Iraq should surrender their arms to the Iraqi government. “The behavior of the quasi military groups in Iraq is threatening the process of foreign investment in the country” said the US secretary of state. After several attacks on Alkhazra, the United States threatened to close down her embassy in Bagdad. “The US threat to close down her embassy in Bagdad has complicated things and reduction in tensions is quite necessary” said Mohammad Mohyi, the speaker of Hezbollah. Prior to recent developments, the active militant groups in Iraq did announce their reduction of attacks on the United States personnel so they could leave this country for good. Yet it seems that the Iraqi government is more lean on keeping the Americans in Iraq.



## ***FBI'S INVESTIGATION ON BEIRUT'S EXPLOSIONS<sup>4</sup>***

On Tuesday, the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigations announced its inability to reach a concrete conclusion regarding the explosion in Beirut on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. According to Reuters, many European agencies as well as several other American agencies believe that this explosion was simply an accident. Lebanese media claimed that on Tuesday, the FBI gave its report to a Lebanese Judge. Two governmental sources in the United States who are well informed about this investigation stated that the American Agencies are vastly convinced that this explosion was an accident because of a massive amount of Ammonium Nitrate being stored for several years in a building in Beirut. Several European agencies have also approved this conclusion. Even as an accident, this explosion pushed Lebanon back several years. This incident costed Lebanon more than USD 15 billion as well as more than 150 human lives. As terrible as this may be, it comes last in comparison with other humanitarian crises in the Middle East; with Syria, Yemen, Iran and Palestine staying on top.



### **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](mailto:submissions.cssame@gmail.com)

Tel: +886-4-22840310

### **References & Further Readings**

<sup>1</sup> In war-torn Yemen, a bombed school brings back hope to children, ALJAZEERA, 09-OCT-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/9/in-yemen-children-begin-classes-in-the-ruins-of-war>

<sup>2</sup> Concerns mount for human toll after US blacklists Iran's banks, Maziar Motamedi, ALJAZEERA, 09-OCT-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2020/10/9/fears-rise-over-human-toll-after>

<sup>3</sup> Saudi Arabia fails in bid for seat on UN Human Rights Council, Mia Swart, ALJAZEERA, 13-OCT-2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/13/human-rights-council-election>

<sup>4</sup> افيبي آي نتیجه تحقیقات انفجار بيروت را اعلام کرد, KHABARONLINE, 15-oct-2020, [khabaronline.ir/news/1443371](https://khabaronline.ir/news/1443371)

<sup>5</sup> درخواست آمریکا از گروه های مسلح در عراق, KHABARONLINE, 12-OCT-2020, [khabaronline.ir/news/1442813](https://khabaronline.ir/news/1442813)