



Does Iran have a nuclear programme? One who would not accept no for an answer is the most powerful man in the world. George W Bush, the President of the United States of America. His own intelligence agents have told him that Iran stopped its programme some three years ago. But George Bush does not agree.

Why is he so persistent in going at Iran? This is a question that has its root causes in the history of, U.S. - Iran relations going as far back as the days the former did succeed in pushing an elected Prime Minister of Iran out of office. That was half a century ago.

Mossadeq would not have fallen if not for the machinations of the U.S. Then came the utterly Westernised pro-American ruler, the Shah of Iran whose oppression ultimately pushed the country into the arms of Ayatollahs. To the Islamic revolution. The power behind most events heading to the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini was the US.

One may wonder as to why the U.S. takes such a great interest in the affairs of the Middle East.

The real reason is not that difficult to discover. The protection of the U.S. ally - Israel.

Israel is the home of the Jews, supposed to have been carved out for them by their Almighty. Hence it is known as the "Promised Land".

Jews after years of suffering and persecution and the holocaust, did deserve a land of their own. The irony in the creation of the Jewish home land of Israel, is that in the process, large numbers of Palestinians were driven away from their farms and homes, into surrounding countries as refugees. Thousands have ended up in Israeli prisons. They were ejected from land they had been occupying and cultivating for well over three thousand years. The other repeated theory of "land without people for a people without land" is a myth as hollow as the Australian mantra of 'terra nullius' chanted by its white settlers for over 200 years. That was of course exploded by the High Court decision, named 'Mabo Decision' after the man who fought for the land rights of the Australian aboriginal people.

But does the international community accept really, that the people of Palestine have been denied the right to live in their traditional land? Even the little that the

international community has accepted is not recognized by the U.S. who support Israel unconditionally.

Just one example! When an Israel soldier was abducted by militants based in Lebanon, Israel government launched a full-scale attack on the country devastating vast areas and killing hundreds of civilians. The U.S. did nothing to stop the destruction.

When Turkey wanted to go into Northern Iraq to fight Kurdish rebels who killed dozens of Turkish soldiers, the U.S. was very keen to caution them.

There is killing going on in Palestine. Israel says they are killing rebels who are attacking their country. But no one bothers about the innocent women and children in Palestine killed in the

process. No one takes a count of the numbers killed on either side.

Only the Australian Christian clergy, belonging to all denominations who visited Palestine recently raised their voice against the injustices done to innocent civilians in Palestine.

It was against this background that one has to

view the invasion of Iraq by U.S and its allies. This was done against wishes of the United Nations - in spite of inadequate proof of the existence of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the country. Then after searching for a long time it was discovered that Saddam Hussein had no WMD's. George Bush was as adamant then, as he is now on Iran's nuclear programme.

It was reported sometime back that Israel carried out attacks on "Suspected nuclear facility" in Syria. There was no consultation of the international community. Israel would not have taken such a step unless it had the approval of the U.S.

The situation in the Middle East becomes far more complicated when one thinks of the fact that no one talks of the nuclear arsenal in the possession of Israel. Even IAEA seems to be oblivious to the fact that there was a man by the name of

Maderchai Vanunu who spent some eighteen years in an Israel jail for speaking out about the nuclear arsenal in his own country, ie Israel. Even after he was released from prison he did not enjoy the freedom that an ordinary Israeli has.

Has Israel closed down its nuclear facilities? Or is it considered no threat to its neighbors because they have the backing of the U.S.?

Why don't the big powers face reality in the Middle East?

Are the Arab neighbors of Israel as scared of the nuclear power as much as Israel is scared of the potential nuclear threat from Iran?

Is there any truth in the statement by critics that the U.S. is going at Iran to protect the interests of Israel?

Defector



Pyjama donation organized by Radio 4EB Queensland



Radio 4EB, with the support of Sri Lankan volunteers including the children from the Sri Lankan Association organised a Pyjama donation. They were able to collect over 300 Pyjamas and donated to the Mater Hospital in Brisbane on the 17th December 2007. The hospital was really thankful for the donation as it was a timely appropriate donation for the children at the hospital.

In the picture from left are Jayasiri Weerawardane (representing Sri Lankan community), Peter Rohweder (Manager Radio 4EB) and Anna Thompson (Mater Hospital).

Picture by Chinthaka Wijesuriya

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We invite all the past graduates/Staff and family members to join us on this happy occasion and make it a success.

PLACE : JELLS PARK, Wheelers Hill, MelWay 71K7

DATE : 2nd FEBRUARY 2008

TIME : 04.30am - 07.00pm (BRING A PLATE)

For further information contact

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Advertisement for SCATS 'Silent Honour' film. Includes Sinhala title 'සිලන්ත ගූරු', English title '(SILENT HONOUR)', and details for screenings at Waverley Gardens Village Cinemas (6:00 pm) and Reading Cinemas Epping (5:00 pm). Features a film strip border with portraits of the cast.