
The Role of an Islamic Government on Global Peace in the Contemporary World: A Study of the Islamic Republic of Iran

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Abstract

In our globalized era, the world today more than any other time in the past is in dire need of peace and peaceful coexistence among the nations. Islam, contrary to accusations and propaganda on the media particularly by the West that it promotes conflicts, violence and terrorism, it is indeed a religion of peace, liberty and justice. The Islamic government in Iran -in line with the divine Islamic teachings- is a key player over the decades towards restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the region and in the world generally.

Thus, the aim of this study is to examine the role and contributions of the Islamic republic of Iran on the restoration and maintenance of global peace in the contemporary world. Meanwhile, the methodology used in this research work was a descriptive analytical research method in which the available data are analyzed based on logical and historical evidences to reach the research outcome.

Meanwhile, after a conceptual analysis of the related terms; the Islamic perspective on peace; major factors affecting or impending global peace were highlighted. Thereafter, the role and contributions of the Islamic Republic of Iran on restoration and maintenance of global peace were critically examined. The outcome of our research shows that the Islamic Republic of Iran is indeed an indispensable stakeholder towards the restoration and maintenance of global peace in our present time.

Keywords: Islamic government, Islamic Republic of Iran, Impediments to global Peace, Iran and global peace, World Peace

Introduction

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In this contemporary era, incessant conflicts, violence, terrorism, insecurity of life and properties are among the greatest challenges facing the globe. As a result of the progresses made in the fields of science and technology, the world now becomes a global village where interactions and relationship with others nations or civilizations become more imperative. Thus, the world today more than any other time in the past is in dire need of collective efforts by the stakeholders towards achieving meaningful and concrete resolutions and international policies on global peace and security.

Over the decades, several efforts have been taken by governments and some individual organizations towards the restoration and maintenance of peace and security among the nations of the world. For instance, after the World War II, the United Nation (UN) ; an intergovernmental organization was formed in October 1945 with the primary aim of maintaining the international peace, security and developing friendly relations among nations¹. In 1981, the International Day of Peace (otherwise referred to as the World Peace Day) was established by the United Nations General Assembly for the sole purpose of commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace. And this was first celebrated in 1982 with the theme *the Right to peace of people* and it is recognized and celebrated globally by many nations and people².

Islam however, has given special attention to the security of life and a peaceful coexistence with the adherents of other religions since fourteen centuries ago³. It also emphasizes the ideals of peace treaty and reconciliation among the warring parties and the necessity of abiding strictly to the mutual agreement in this regard⁴. Similarly, it strictly prohibits the act of breaking a peace treaty unjustifiably⁵. The peace treaties of the noble Messenger of God according to (Muhaimini, 2014, 1, 8) are believed to be one of the most significant aspects of his biography. Thus, upon his arrival in Medina, the very first thing he did after the formation of an Islamic state was to initiate relations with Arab tribes. Thus, he signed various diplomatic treaties with several tribes/groups of Arabia (the Pagans, the Christians and the Jews) and these had indeed contributed positively to the attainment of a peaceful and secured society in which cooperation and mutual understanding with the adherents of other religions are the watchwords.

Without any doubt, the ultimate goal of Islam in signing these treaties with non-Muslims was the attainment of peace and tranquility. It is in the light of this that the noble Messenger of God (P. B. U. H) established a peaceful state at

1. United Nation Official Website: <http://www.un.org/en/about-un/index.html>

2. Wikipedia Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_of_Peace

3. Qur'an 3: 64

4. Qur'an 49: 9

5. Qur'an 17: 34

Madina, where all citizens were in a state of peaceful co-existence and mutual cooperation with one another irrespective of the differences in their cultures and religions. It is worth mentioning that the Messenger of Allah (PBUHH) respected and abided by contents of those peace treaties until they broke them.

Meanwhile, Islam contrary to the allegation and propaganda on the media that it is a terrorist religion or a religion that condones terrorism, Islam is indeed a religion of peace, liberty, love, affection, generosity, mutual understanding and respects among the Muslims and the adherents of other religions. Thus, Muslims consequently are peaceful and peace-loving individuals. In view of this, Islam and terrorism are two opposing views, which can never merge together. In another word, Islam is not terrorism and terrorism has nothing to do with Islam. Likewise, Muslims are not terrorists while terrorists are not Muslims. However, those terrorists who in the name of Islam kill innocent lives, destroy individual and public properties and cause insecurity in the land are in actual fact not Muslims; they are indeed outside the fold of Islam, which is synonymous to peace, liberty and justice.

Interestingly, a recent study made by the United Nation body; UNESCO partnered with International Peace Foundation declared Islam as the most peaceful religion of the world after six months study of the world religions. According to the head of comparative studies wing of the International Peace Foundation; Robert McGee, he declared in a press conference thus: *“After six months of rigorous study and analysis, we have concluded that Islam is the most peaceful religion”*. Similarly, about the terror acts perpetrated in the name of Islam, the UNESCO official denied that it had nothing to do with Islam: *“Terror has no religion”, he said, “Islam means peace”¹.*

Conceptual Analysis

For a better understanding of the topic under discussion, it is pertinent to give definitions of some important and related terms.

1.1: Peace

The Arabic term *“Sulh”* according to (Hans Wehr, 1976, 522) ; (Saatchi, 1379, 2/1523) and (Baalbaki, 2010, 699) is literally translated in English as peace, peacemaking, compromise, serenity, concialtion, reconciliation, truce, conveyance, composition, settlement and calmness. However, in a technical term, the term *“Peace”* according to (Hornby, 2000, 857 _ 8) , is defined as a situation or a period of time in which there is no war or violence in a country; or an area or the state of being calm or quiet; or the state of living in friendship with somebody without arguing.

1. An Online News Website: <http://www.juntakareporter.com/world/unesco-declares-islam-as-the-most-peaceful-religion-of-the-world/> (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 10: 00 am)

Interestingly, it is pertinent to note that the word “*Sulh*” together with its derivatives is mentioned in the Holy Qur’an in one hundred and seventy times and in which some out of these occurrences are used to mean “peace” or “reconciliation” or “peacemaking”. For instance, the verse 114 of Chapter 4 of the Qur’an, says: “*There is no good in much of their secret talks, excepting him who enjoins charity or what is right or reconciliation between people...*”. Similarly, the verse 9 of Chapter 49, says: “*If two groups of the faithful fight one another, make peace between them...*”

Meanwhile, the term “*Silm*” or “*Salaam*” are interchangeably used in the Qur’an to mean “peace” or “reconciliation” or “peacemaking” and this is used in verse 61 of Chapter 8 of the Qur’an when it says: “*If they incline toward peace, then you [too] incline toward it, and put your trust in Allah...*”

Therefore, from the above definitions of peace, it is obvious that the term “peace” could either be an individual or social peace. However, this paper focuses mainly on social aspects of peace, which is concerned with the international relations among the nations of the world.

The world (or global) peace on the other hand, is defined as the concept of an ideal state of happiness, freedom and peace within and among all people and nations on earth. This idea of world non-violence is one motivation for people and nations to willingly cooperate, either voluntarily or by virtue of a system of governance that objects it will be solved by love and peace¹.

In another word, a world (or global) peace is considered as an ideal situation in which all the people of the world work together to avoid war and violence and the world becomes a better place to live in. However, it is necessary to state that the proposed concept of global peace is not only restricted to the absence of war, violence and insecurity among the nations of the world; rather it encompasses a relationship that is built on equity, justice, mutual cooperation, sovereignty, development and progress of the people and nations.

1.2: Islam

The term ‘*Islam*’ is derived from an Arabic root *S-L-M*; which according to (Hans Wehr, 1976, 426) literally means submission; resignation and reconciliation (to the will of God). However, in a technical term, according to (Ibn Manzour, 1993, 12/294) and (Az-hari, 2000, 12/313), Islam in a religious context means a display of humbleness and obedience to the message of the Prophet. In another word, the term ‘*Islam*’ is a religion of total and complete submission to the will and dictates of God; the Almighty and the directives of His Apostle; Hazrat Muhammad son of Abdullah. Thus, the adherents and

1. Wikipedia Website (World Peace): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_peace (Accessed: 29/12/2018, 14: 00)

followers of Islam are therefore referred to as Muslims (i.e. one who surrenders to the wills of God).

1.3: Islamic Government

The Islamic State (*Dawlah Islāmiyyah*) according to (Ashgar Ali, 2006, 91) is defined as a type of government primarily based on the application of shari'a (Islamic law) , dispensation of justice, maintenance of law and order. In the opinion of the leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran; Imam Ruhullah Khomeini¹, he defined an Islamic government as the rule of divine law over men or a government of law in which the sovereignty belongs to God alone and everyone including His most beloved Prophet (PBUHH) and his successors (AS) are subjected to His decree and command.

1.4: Islamic Republic

An Islamic Republic according to (Muhajeri, 1982, 98) , is a system in which the divine governs the people according to the will of the people. In another word, it is a system of governance in which the sovereignty of God is over the people and the people over themselves. That is to say, the principles of the government and the basic framework of the ruling system in an Islamic Republic are based on Islamic canons and the divine orders. However, the people's will only intervenes to determine the executive authorities and the form of government.

Therefore, in an Islamic Republic, it is the people themselves who adopt an Islamic system and freely vote for the establishment of such a system which is based on divine teachings and orders, just as the Iranian people voted once for the actual principle of an Islamic Republic and voted a second time for its constitutional law².

An Overview of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in the early 1979 under the leadership of an eminent Islamic scholar; Imam Ruhullah Khomeini was a beginning of a new dawn in the history of Iran in particular and the world in general. Hence, Iran, after the overthrowing of monarchy ruling of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi became an Islamic Republic on 1st April, 1980, in a referendum through a majority votes of 98.2% of the Iranian populace³. The Iranian people's main motivation for an Islamic Revolution according to (Muhajeri, 1982, 25) , was simply to establish an Islamic government based on Islamic principles, covering all aspects of life, not only the spiritual aspect. This victory has indeed proven to the world that even at the end of the 20th century, Islam is still capable of solving the problems of the human society.

1. Khomeini, Ruhullah (2005) , Islamic Government; Governance of the Jurists, P. 41.

2. Muhajeri, Masih (1982) , Islamic Revolution future Path of the nations, P. 97.

3. Iranian Constitution, Chapter 1. Article 1 (General Principles) , P. 26.

The basic characteristic of this Revolution, which makes it distinct from other revolutions of the world and puts it in a special position was its being Islamic with a divine goal of finding solutions to the political, economic and cultural problems in accordance with the divine Islamic teachings. Therefore, in the same way that the Prophet of Islam relied neither on those two powers of Rome nor Persia in bringing about his revolution, the Islamic Revolution of Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeini is not under any circumstances, prepared to prostrate itself at the feet of socialism in order to rid itself of western imperialism. In view of this, the foreign policy of the Islamic government is based on the cardinal principle of 'neither East nor West'. The policy which negates any form of dependence on the super powers, but this does not in any way mean that Islamic Republic of Iran does not establish relationship with the countries of the world. On the contrary, its relationship with other nations is based on the framework of Islamic principles and values.

Similarly, the Islamic system of government adopted in Iran does not conform to any of the existing governing system elsewhere; in the sense that in the Islamic Republic, the sovereignty of God is over the people and the people are over themselves, whereas in a republic which is not Islamic, the people govern people and there is no such thing as Divine sovereignty over people. Thus, according to (Muhajeri, 1982, 97) , the difference between the Islamic Republic and the various existing democratic systems in the world is that in the non-Islamic democratic systems, the principles of the government and the basic framework of the ruling system depend on the people's will as it is the people who determine the executive authorities and the form of government. But in an Islamic Republic, the people's will only intervenes in the determination of the executive authorities and the form of government but the principles of the system as well as its basic framework are based on Islamic canons and the divine orders.

Another distinctive feature of the Islamic Republican system of government in Iran is the concept of Velayat Faqih (i.e. A guardian of the Just Jurist) which means a system supervising the government for guaranteeing the conformity of its methods and functioning with the Islamic precepts. And the Valiy Faqih (i.e. the Supreme Leader) according to the Iranian Constitution is to prevent any deviation from authentic Islamic duties by the various organs of the State¹.

Over the decades, since the inception of an Islamic government in Iran, there have been considerable achievements in the political, cultural, economic, agricultural, health, educational sectors of the society. Similarly, it has over the years had tremendous achievements in science and technology. Meanwhile, the

1. Iranian Constitution, (The Wilayah of Just Faqih) , P. 21.

Islamic Republic of Iran was chosen among other Islamic states as the case study for this research work due to the following reasons:

The Islamic Republic of Iran at present is the unique example of a true Islamic state to be found in the world.

The role played over the decades by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the restoration and maintenance of peace is quite significant and novelty, which can serve as an exemplary role model for the other nations; particularly the Muslim nations.

The efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards a global peace were based on sincere intention and in accordance with divine Islamic teachings.

Major Impediments to Global Peace

The restoration and maintenance of global peace and security particularly in this our contemporary era is a difficult but an achievable task. Fairness, justice, mutual understanding, mutual respect, tolerance and dialogue are some of the necessary conditions that need to be considered by nations in order to achieve a global peace. In this present era, however, there are several impending factors and obstacles to the achievement of this noble objective but the major ones shall be discussed in this paper.

War

One of the greatest impediments to peace and security in this contemporary era is incessant wars by the powerful nations against the weaker ones or the civil wars among warring parties or groups in a particular nation. From the earlier explanations, war and peace are two opposite concepts, which can never merge; therefore, whenever there is a war, there is no peace and vice versa. However, Islam promotes peace, liberty and justice, not violence or war.

Thus, it is pertinent to mention at this juncture that the concept of '*Jihad*' (which is wrongly translated as *Holy War*) means "*Struggling on the path of God*" and it is part and parcel of Islam but having its own peculiar conditions and rulings. The concept of '*Jihad*' does not have anything to do with violence and terrorism (but this is beyond the scope of this paper).

Meanwhile, in the opinion of Imam Khomeini, he affirmed that most of the wars in the world in the contemporary era are being masterminded by the powerful nations either for economic or political purpose: "*...All superpowers say they want peace to prevail in the world, but they mastermind all wars in the world. Saddam claims to be a peace-lover, but he has transgressed upon an Islamic country...*"¹

1. Ruhullah, Khomeini (2007) , Sahifeh ye Imam, Vol. 16, P. 34

Terrorism

In the current era, the act of terrorism either for achieving a religious or political objective is indeed a serious threat to the security and world peace. The violence of terrorism is unprecedented either in terms of its wide coverage or its deadly features. Meanwhile, it is important to restate that the terrorists do not have a religion but they only used a religion at a point in time to achieve their goals. Unfortunately, most of the renowned terrorist organizations such as Taliban, Al-Qaeda, Al-Nusra front, ISIS, Boko Haram etc. are created and funded by certain powerful nations or their allies and likewise, most of the terror attacks are being masterminded simply for their own political goals.

In the second letter of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Imam Khamenei to the youth in Western countries, he categorically stated that most terrorist organizations such as Taliban, Al-Qaeda and other Takfiri groups were created and being funded by the United States of America¹. In the same vein, on April, 2017, there was a statement made by the Russian President; Vladimir Putin where he attested to the fact that 95% of the World terrorist attacks are masterminded by the CIA; An America agent².

Arm Industry or Trade

Another major impediment to the attainment of a global peace particularly in this contemporary era is the global industry responsible for the manufacturing and sales of weapons and military technology. It is worth mentioning that most of the powerful nations are making very huge profits from the production and sales of arms and weapons. Ironically, those powerful nations who proclaim to be advocators of global peace and security are making huge profits from wars, conflicts and insecurity in the land. Similarly, some powerful nations possess and sometimes put to test some weapons of mass destruction, which are indeed a great threat to the survival of man on the planet.

Meanwhile, according to a research, it was established that the five biggest exporters of major weapons in 2010–14 were the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, China and France, while the five biggest importers were India, Saudi Arabia, China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Pakistan³. Without any doubt, if such trend should continue without any check and balance, the attainment of global peace is indeed a myth.

Social Injustice and Oppression

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1. The Official Site of Imam Khamenei: <http://www.leader.ir/en/content/13964/Ayatollah-Khamenei-issues-a-second-letter-to-the-youth-in-Western-countries> (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 11: 00 am)
 2. An online News Website: <https://www.geopolitica.ru/en/news/putin-95-world-terrorist-attacks-are-made-cia> (Accessed: 15/12/2018, 8: 00 am)
 3. Wikipedia Website (Arms Industry): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arms_industry (Accessed: 6/01/2019, 15: 00)

Social justice is the basis for peace and stability while oppression and injustice bring about conflicts and insecurity in the society. Without any doubt, social injustice and oppression have always been serious impediments to peace and security. For there is no sustainable and long lasting peace could be achieved globally while the relationships among the nations are based on injustice, exploitation and oppression.

Meanwhile, it is very obvious that the powerful nations of the world, in securing their interests exploits other weaker nations and prevent their progress or cause other nations to engage in conflict and war. For achievement of a peaceful world, the new world order should be based on the participation of all nations and equal rights for all of them.

Thus, in the opinion of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution; Imam Khomeini, he maintained that peace is only valuable when human rights are reserved and justice is brought; but peace without fairness and justice is meaningless: *“The world will never achieve security, peace and tranquility while it is captured by false peacemakers; peace lovers and advocates of human rights and human dreams will never come true, but humanity will achieve freedom and prosperity only when true believers and followers of divine ideologies work together¹”*

Lack of National Sovereignty

One of the major impediments to global peace in the contemporary era is the interference of the powerful nations in the internal affairs of other nations. There is no doubt that the previously colonized nations had apparently secured its independency from their former colonial masters. But unfortunately, such nations are still nowadays under the direct or indirect control of its colonial masters in what can be described as a more complicated modern colonization.

In this present era, the cultural, economic and political systems of majority of developing nations for instance are absolutely under the control and supervision of those powerful nations and they hitherto lack independency and freedom. Therefore, if the situation should continue in this way, there is no hope for the attainment of global peace; as no sustainable and long lasting peace could be achieved with injustice and oppression.

Religious Intolerance (Fanaticism)

Religion throughout the history has been used by individuals or organizations to perpetrate various evil acts or to ignite violence and disunity among people in different parts of the world. In this our contemporary era, religion now becomes a very powerful and effective tool in the hands of certain individuals or organizations to cause social unrest among people or to achieve a political goal.

1. Ruhullah, Khomeini (2007) , Sahifeh ye Imam, Vol. 17, PP. 306 _ 307

Personally, I do not submit to a saying that religion is an impediment and obstacle to a global peace. It is the adherents of the religion who might use it for igniting conflict among people. This is because a pristine religion is indeed a panacea to insecurity in the world.

In view of this, therefore, no sustainable peace among nations could be achieved without peace between the religions. Therefore, there is a serious need for religious tolerance and dialogue among the adherents of various faiths in order to achieve a global peace among the nations of the world.

Racism

A belief in the superiority of a particular race or ethnicity over the others is among the major impediments to achieving global peace in the contemporary era. The racist ideology in which race or nation is the only yardstick for mutual relationship or superiority, will definitely serve as an obstacle to achieve the world peace. Over the centuries, the world has witnessed several violence and genocides perpetrated against nations or people simply on the basis of race and ethnicity.

Islam on the contrary, condemns in a strong term any form of superiority on the basis of color, region or ethnicity. The only yardstick for superiority according to the Qur'an and the Hadith is Godwariness (i.e. Taqwa). The Qur'an says: "*O mankind! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you nations and tribes that you may identify yourselves with one another. Indeed the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most Godwary among you. Indeed Allah is all-knowing, all-aware*¹."

The Role of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards Global Peace

Peace and security have been a concern of all human societies. Over the decades, several theories and policies have been proposed by stakeholders locally and internationally on how to achieve a world peace. On the contrary, Islam considers a peaceful life as one of the great and unequal blessing of God through which a success in worldly affairs as well as the affairs of the hereafter is guaranteed.

It is on this basis; therefore that one of the ultimate goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the restoration and maintenance of peace and security among the nations of the world. In an address of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution in Iran; Imam Khomeini, he said: "*The ultimate goals of Islamic teachings are peaceful co-existence worldwide which we hope will be achieved by expedite return of Mahdi; the promise one at the end of the time (May our souls be sacrificed for him) as well as pursuit of human perfection and eternal happiness- may God grant everyone*²."

1. Qur'an 49: 13

2. Ruhullah, Khomeini (2007) , Sahifeh ye Imam, Vol. 18, P. 83

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran is a key player over the decades towards the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the region and in the world generally. For its relentless efforts in this regards, Iran is nowadays one of the most secured countries in the world and the most secured nation in the Middle East. However, the following are some of its major contributions towards the restoration and maintenance of peace and security globally:

Promoting the culture of Peace

Since the emergence of the Islamic government in Iran, the establishment of a peace and tranquility in the land is one of the main objectives of this government. It has tremendously worked over the decades to achieve a more secured and violent-free society. Over the years, the Islamic Republic of Iran -in accordance with the divine Islamic teachings- has been a sincere advocator of peace and security in the region and in the international community. It has contributed immensely to the resolution of several disputes and conflicts particularly in the region and it also championed the campaign for a peaceful coexistence with the adherents of other faiths.

Thus, one of the steps taken in this direction in the recent time was the peace proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran initiated by President Rouhani, entitled: *A World against Violence and Violent Extremism (WAVE)* ; a resolution which was approved by the UN General Assembly and adopted as the resolution by the 68th session of the General Assembly December 2013. The WAVE Resolution, which calls on all nations across the globe to denounce violence and extremism, has been adopted on the basis of President Rouhani's proposals on the fight against extremism and violence¹. A move which was commended by the Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Tehran; Dr. Maria Dotsenko and she attested to the valuable contributions of Iran to the culture of peace in the region and globally².

Meanwhile, it is pertinent at this juncture to say that the Islamic government in Iran since its establishment four decades ago, despite its might and political strength in the region, it has never invaded or intruded on the sovereignty of any nation in the region; rather, it has continue to champion the campaign for peace, stability and security in the region and in the world. In a declaration during the General Assembly of the World Ahl-al-Bayt Forum organized in Tehran, in August, 2015, the President of Iran; Hassan Rouhani said: *“Our strength, scientific, moral and political power has never been and will never be used*

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1. The Official Website of United Nations: (<https://www.un.org.ir/resources/speeches/item/2640-a-world-against-violence-and-violent-extremism-a-reflection>) (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 10: 30 am)
 2. The Website of UNIC, Tehran: http://unicir.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2610:briefing-students-on-role-of-un-in-international-peace-and-un-iran-partnership-inorumieh&catid=9:eventenglish&Itemid=228&lang=en (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 11: 45 am)

against any of the Muslim countries and neighbors in our region. With our ability and strength, we want to establish peace, stability and security in this region... In Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, there is no difference between a Shia and a Sunni. We want peace, security and brotherhood for all and development for the whole region¹."

Honouring Sincere Peaceful treaties

In accordance with the Quranic injunctions, which enjoins Muslims to observe the contract "*Observe the covenants²*" and agreements "*Observe the agreement³*", abidance with such treaties is considered obligatory. In fact, observance of the bilateral or multilateral treaties that is based on fairness, justice and the benefits of the signatory parties has a significant effect towards restoration of peace and social security. If a society or a government fails to honor its agreements and contracts, it will be deprived of security, freedom and other functions of civil society.

Islamic Republic of Iran over the decades, in accordance with the divine Islamic directives⁴ has respected and welcomed every sincere move towards peace and stability in the region or in the world. A very good example of the Iran's approach towards peace was its acceptance of a ceasefire resolution proposed by the United Nations Security Council in July, 1987 after an eight years' imposed war on Iran by the Saddam Hussein regime of Iraq and his allied countries. In July, 1988, the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted the ceasefire agreement despite the fact that it was a very hard decision at that time, considering the atrocities committed by Saddam Hussein⁵.

Similarly, in the recent time, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal, is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany) , and the European Union. Unfortunately, on May 8, 2018, the United States President; Donald Trump violated the agreement and announced the withdrawal of the United States from the deal⁶.

Fighting Terrorism

1. <http://djiip.org/7002/irans-aspiration-to-establish-peace-and-security-in-the-middle-east-closer-to-hegemony-or-international-law/> (Accessed: 6/01/2019, 10: 50 am)

2. Qur'an 5: 1

3. Qur'an 17: 34; Qur'an 23: 8; Qur'an 70: 32

4. "If they incline toward peace, then you [too] incline toward it, and put your trust in Allah. Indeed He is the All-hearing, the All-knowing." [Qur'an 8: 61]

5. Wikipedia Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran-Iraq_War (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 10: 15 am)

6. Wikipedia Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Comprehensive_Plan_of_Action (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 10: 00 am)

Terrorism is a serious threat to global peace and security. In fact, no sustainable and long lasting peace among nations could be achieved with terrorism. In the light of this, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been in the forefront in the fight against terrorism, which is considered not only as the enemy of Islam but a dangerous enemy of humanity generally. Over the decades, several terrorist plots in Iran and some other neighboring countries had been foiled while various activities of the terrorist organizations sponsored by the some powerful nations are been thwarted and put under control by the Iranian government.

Iran as a powerful nation in the region and formidable stakeholder in the world peace in the contemporary world has shown readiness in the fight against terrorism in any part of the world. In the recent time, Islamic Republic of Iran has contributed immensely to the defeat of the ISIS in Syria, Iraq and other countries. In fact, it is not an overstatement to say that without the support of the Iranian government and the sacrifices of its good people, peace, security and stability could not have been restored in Syria and Iraq. Thus, Iran today remains one of the most secured countries of the world and the most secured nation in the Middle East due to its fight against terrorism.

In an address of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Imam Khamenei, he said: *"By relying on the noble teachings of Islam with its underlying principles for human dignity, where the loss of an innocent life is considered the loss of the entire humanity, and as a nation which has suffered heavy losses on the part of violent terrorism, we believe that the fight against this evil phenomenon is an unavoidable responsibility, and by the grace of Allah we remain dedicated to continue this great fight with greater force."*¹

Championing Disarmament Campaign

In the ideology of the Islamic Republic of Iran, possession of catastrophic weapons of mass destruction is considered a serious threat to the international peace and security. In the opinion of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khamenei, the weapons of mass destruction, in addition to nuclear weapons, such as chemical and biological weapons are believed to pose a serious threat to humanity. And the use of these weapons is considered to be illegal and haram, and it is incumbent on all to protect humankind from this grave disaster².

Meanwhile, it is worth mentioning that neither power nor weapons of mass destruction on its own is capable of ensuring a peaceful and secured society. Fairness, justice, mutual respect, tolerance and dialogue are among those factors

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1. An Official Website of Imam Khamenei: <http://www.leader.ir/en/content/8207/Fight-against-terrorism,-unavoidable-duty> (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 11: 00 am)
 2. An Official Website of Imam Khamenei: <http://www.leader.ir/en/content/6676/Only-US-has-committed-nuclear-offence> (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 10: 05 am)

that can guarantee a sustainable peace and security. It is in the light of this that the Islamic Republic of Iran championed the global campaign on the elimination of catastrophic weapons of mass destruction. For instance, in his inaugural speech at the 16th non-Aligned Summit, Imam Khamenei said: *"...The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the use of nuclear, chemical and similar weapons as a great and unforgivable sin. We proposed the idea of "Middle East free of nuclear weapons" and we are committed to it. This does not mean forgoing our right to peaceful use of nuclear power and production of nuclear fuel. On the basis of international laws, peaceful use of nuclear energy is a right of every country..."*¹

It was in this regards that the Islamic Republic of Iran as a member of the Non-Proliferation of Atomic Weapons Treaty (NPT) and a member of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) always respects the existing regulations and commitments in this regards. It has always opens its nuclear activities to free inspections by the concerned authorities. On the contrary, the Zionist regime refuses to adhere to NPT and is not ready to open its sites for an inception and this regime is wholly supported and financed by the United States of America.

Thus, concerning the hypocritical stance of some powerful nations in relation to the Nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, Imam Khamenei said: *"...A bitter irony of our era is that the U.S. government, which possesses the largest and deadliest stockpiles of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction and the only country guilty of its use, is today eager to carry the banner of opposition to nuclear proliferation. The U.S. and its Western allies have armed the usurper Zionist regime with nuclear weapons and created a major threat for this sensitive region. Yet the same deceitful group does not tolerate the peaceful use of nuclear energy by independent countries, and even opposes, with all its strength, the production of nuclear fuel for radiopharmaceuticals and other peaceful and humane purposes..."*²

Supporting the Oppressed Nations

In accordance with the Islamic injunctions, one of the cardinal principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran is its support and solidarity for the oppressed and downtrodden people/nations of the world, irrespective of their colors, regions and religions. Aiming at promoting the idea of human dignity, it has become the policy of the Islamic government in Iran to render material and moral support to liberation movements and downtrodden fronts in different regions of the world.

1. <http://www.leader.ir/en/content/9708/Supreme-Leader%E2%80%99s-Inaugural-Speech-at-the-16th-Non-Aligned-Summit> (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 10: 25 am)

2. <http://www.leader.ir/en/content/9708/Supreme-Leader%E2%80%99s-Inaugural-Speech-at-the-16th-Non-Aligned-Summit> (Accessed: 5/01/2019, 10: 25 am)

In the opinion of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, he believed that the realization of a global peace and liberation from oppression and corruption of the tyrants lie in awaking the resistance and struggle of the downtrodden against the oppressors. Therefore, it is considered a duty of the Islamic government in particular and the society in general to assist and liberate the nations under tyranny and oppression. It is on this basis that Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its solidarity to oppressed people of Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Myanmar and other countries of the world. According to Article 3 of Chapter 1 (under the heading "General Principles") of the Iranian constitution, it states: "*Framing the country's foreign policy on the basis of Islamic criteria, fraternal commitment to all Muslims and unflinching support of the world's oppressed (mustadè 'afin).*"

vi) Non-Interfering in other nations' Sovereignty

From the early stage of the formation of the Islamic government, one of the bases that constitute the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the non-interference of other nations in its domestic affairs on one hand and its non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries on the other hand. This has formed the vital basis in its relationship with other nations of the world. Similarly, establishment of relationship with the members of international community on the basis of justice and equity are among the clearest principles of the Foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Islamic ideology rejects out-rightly any form of domination and exploitation; political, economic or otherwise. On the contrary, it enjoins that the interest of both parties should be respected and taken into consideration in any relationship. Therefore, a relationship in which the interest of other parties is not respected or imposes an idea on the other side is totally rejected in Islam. In the light of this, the Islamic Republic of Iran advocates for a new world order where the sovereignty of every nation is respected and its rights are preserved. According to Article 154 of Chapter 10 (under the heading Foreign Policy) of the Iranian constitution, it states: "*The realization of human felicity throughout human society is the ideal of the Islamic Republic of Iran and it considers independence, freedom, and the rule of justice and Truth to be the right of all people of the world. Accordingly, whilst scrupulously refraining from all forms of interference in the internal affairs of other nations, it supports the struggle of the mustad'afin (i.e. the oppressed) against the mustakbirin (i.e. the tyrants) for their rights in every corner of the globe.*"

Conclusion and Recommendation

In the contemporary world, the concept of global peace has attracted the attention of international community and it is considered an ideal situation for

mankind. There is no sustainable progress that could be achieved in the world without peace and security, which are the two essential elements of political stability.

The victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeini was the shining radiance of the light of the pristine Islam, nourished and preached by the Messenger of God (Peace be upon him and his Household). It undoubtedly brought to the fore the luminary countenance of authentic monotheistic teachings of Islam which have been forgotten for centuries. Without any doubt, the victory of Islamic Revolution at the last decades of the twentieth century led to fundamental transformations in the structure of the world system and international relations.

Contrary to accusations and propaganda on the media particularly by the West that the Islamic Republic of Iran promotes conflicts, violence and terrorism, the Islamic government in Iran -in line with the divine Islamic teachings- is an advocator and a key player over the decades towards restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the region and in the world generally.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to make the world a better place to live for all and sundry, the Islamic Republic of Iran-based on the specific Islamic approach- has offered a new critical theory towards achieving a global peace; a theory which is based on fairness, justice, mutual respect, tolerance and dialogue among the nations of the world. Thus, its major contributions over the decades in maintaining peaceful world include promotion of the culture of peace, abidance with sincere peace treaties, fighting terrorism, disarmament campaign, supporting the oppressed nations and non-interference in the other nations' sovereignty.

On a final note, however, considering the numerous achievements and breakthroughs of the Islamic Republic of Iran at its fortieth years of its formation based on majority votes of the Iranian people, it is recommended therefore, that the other nations; particularly the Muslim countries should endeavor to study this unique system of governance, which is prescribed by the Qur'an as a perfect role model for restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the world. *"Allah invites to the abode of peace, and He guides whomever He wishes to a straight path."*[Qur'an 10/25

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