

## Headlines:

- **Criminal Syrian government bombs its civilians while West asks for permission to provide aid**
- **US Defence Secretary works to isolate China but accuses China of isolating itself**
- **Pakistan announces annual budget designed by IMF in Dubai**

## Details:

### **Criminal Syrian government bombs its civilians while West asks for permission to provide aid**

News agencies are reporting that the Syrian government has intensified its attacks in Aleppo, dropping dozens of 'barrel bombs' in eastern districts of the city. Frustrated by its inability to take back Aleppo, which is considered crucial for the integrity of the Damascus regime, the criminal government of Bashar al-Assad is imitating the West in carrying out strikes on the civilian population.

Meanwhile, the West is doing what it always does when it is happy with an ongoing war - it is talking about providing humanitarian relief, without actually providing it. The UN aid chief has told the Security Council that the UN will formally ask the Syrian government to approve airdrops of humanitarian aid to areas besieged by forces loyal to Bashar al-Assad. According to the UN, nearly 600,000 people are besieged in 19 different areas of Syria - the great majority of whom are trapped by government forces.

Why does the West need to take permission to deliver aid, when it doesn't take permission to deliver weapons? The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has said that weapons supplies were airdropped to rebels in Marea, just north of Aleppo, on Friday. The SOHR head, Rami Abdel Rahman, said, "Coalition airplanes dropped ... ammunitions, light weapons and anti-tank weapons to rebels in Marea."

America has its own plan for Syria, in which a different role has been assigned for each of the countries that is intervening there. The real enemy is the Muslims of Syria who are rising up against the Kufr imperial structure that was designed to contain them after the collapse of the Uthmani Khilafah.

### **US Defence Secretary works to isolate China but accuses China of isolating itself**

Speaking at the 15<sup>th</sup> Asia Security Summit on Saturday, US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter has accused China of isolating itself in the region. These comments come in advance of an international tribunal ruling on disputed islands and reefs in the South China Sea, which is expected to side with the Philippines against China.

In his speech Carter said, "China's actions in the South China Sea are isolating it, at a time when the entire region is coming together and networking." Carter did not explain that it was the US that was working to integrate the region while excluding China through numerous initiatives such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement among twelve Pacific Rim countries that omits Chinese membership.

The US is trying to draw China away from asserting itself militarily in the South China Sea. Carter said, "Unfortunately, if these actions continue, China could end up erecting a great wall of self-isolation." At the same time, however, Carter offered increased defence cooperation with China. "America wants to expand military-to-military agreements with China to focus not only on risk reduction, but also on practical cooperation".

America designs the world according to its own imperial interests and uses statements of legality, morality or cooperation only to serve this.

### **Pakistan announces annual budget designed by IMF in Dubai**

On Friday, Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar presented the annual budget in the national assembly, providing as usual a list of minor modifications to government revenue and expenditure.

Presentation of budgets before assemblies is a necessary formality of democratic systems. But the architecture of such budgets is always decided elsewhere and based on other considerations. In the case of Pakistan, it is openly known that the IMF actually writes the budget, with whom Dar had been meeting in Dubai, and this was even referred to in discussion in the assembly after the Finance Minister's speech.

It is not possible for Capitalist governments to deviate from the basic principles of Capitalism in the preparation of their budgets. However, colonial economies, such as those of the Muslim world, have to adhere to additional criteria that are imposed upon them by the Western powers directly, or indirectly through such organisations as the IMF, which apply pressure through committing colonial countries to massive debts taken for unnecessarily costly infrastructure projects.

The colonial model requires that the country cheaply sell its natural resources and human efforts to the West; and expensively purchase from the West whatever goods it needs for its own consumption. These standard goals are translated into modern economic language using terms such as export-driven growth, inward direct investment, positive balance of payments and so-called 'free' trade. Such discussion is for colonial countries only; the West themselves do not give much attention to such notions for their own economies.

The economies of the Muslim world will only be further drained of vitality under Capitalism. Economic revival is only possible if Muslims reestablish the Khilafah State (Caliphate) upon the method of the Prophethood, which will return full political and economic independence to Muslims.