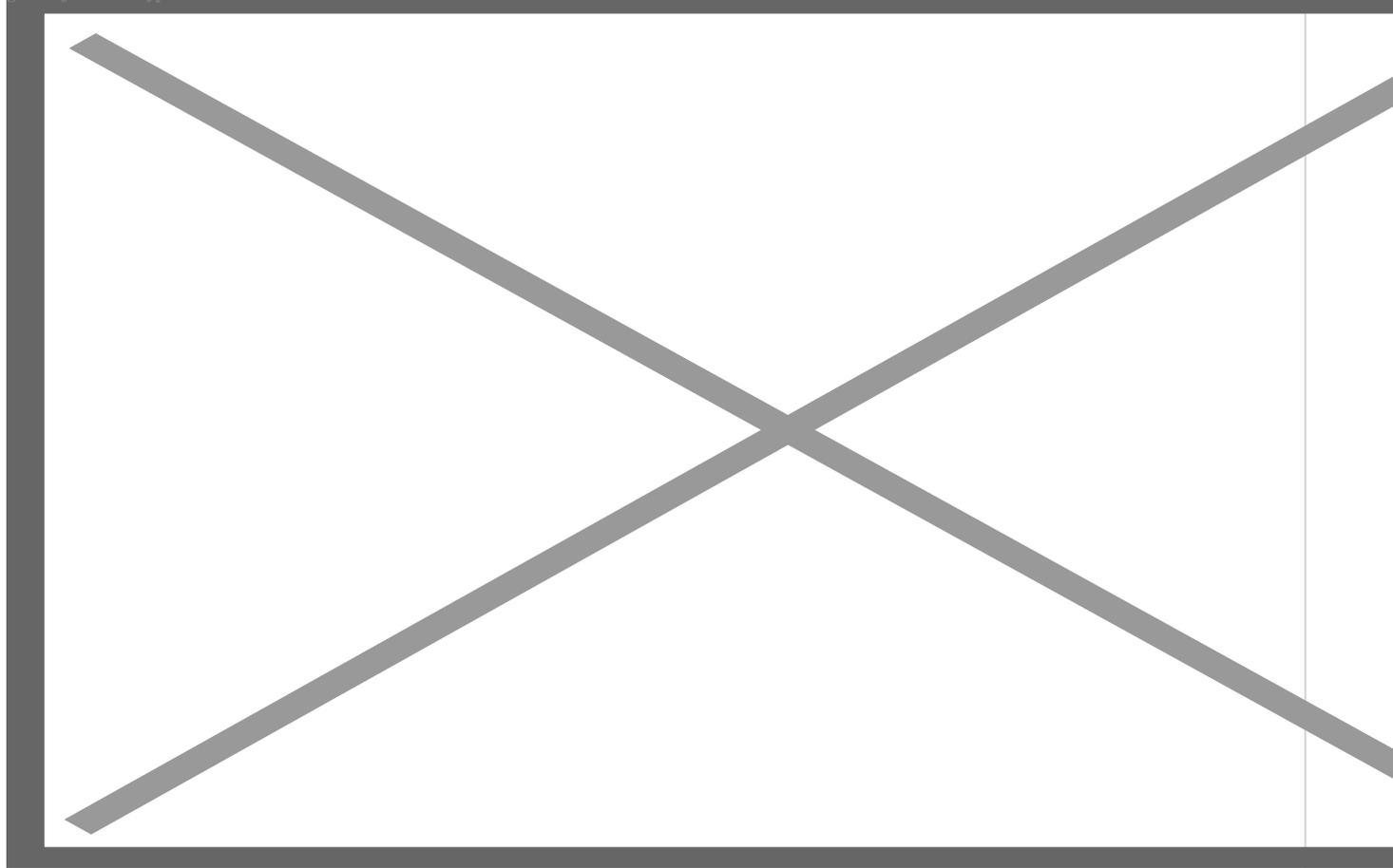


# *Iranian foreign minister says Tehran proudly stands with Palestinians*

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**The file photo shows Iranians marking the International Quds Day.**

Tehran, May 7 (RHC)-- The Iranian foreign minister describes Palestine as a yardstick for justice, reiterating Iran's unwavering support for Palestinian people who "resist the brutality of an apartheid regime" in the Israeli occupied territories.

"Palestine is a yardstick for justice," Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote in a tweet on Thursday, adding: "QudsDay is yearly reminder of moral imperative of global solidarity for Palestine." Zarif also pointed out that a referendum in Palestine is the only democratic solution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Zarif's comments came ahead of the International Quds Day, which is held annually on the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and oppose the Zionist regime of Israel. The day, which falls this year on May 7, was initiated by the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini.

Since the beginning of this year's Ramadan, there have been recurring acts of aggression by Israeli forces against Palestinians in different areas of the occupied territories, including near the Old City of Jerusalem al-Quds, in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of the occupied city, and at the site of al-Aqsa Mosque.

Meanwhile, Iran's Defense Ministry also issued a statement on Thursday, saying that the world will soon witness the liberation of Jerusalem al-Quds from the grips of the occupying Israeli regime. "On Quds Day, not only the Islamic Iran shows its unity and solidarity on the Palestinian issue as well as its support for the cause of the Holy Quds as the most important issue of the Islamic world, but also the entire Islamic world and other freedom- and justice-seeking nations raise the flag of resistance and fight against the Zionist regime."

The ministry denounced the US-led global arrogance for supporting the Israeli regime's atrocities, occupation and warmongering acts, saying the United States has turned a blind eye to the international law and UN Security Council resolutions through its recognition of Jerusalem al-Quds as the capital of the child-killing regime.

This "unmasked the true inhumane face" of the United States and was "yet another stain on its record," the statement added. The Iranian ministry also pointed to the American and Israeli rulers' "evil plot" as represented in the so-called deal of the century, saying some regional countries overtly allied themselves with the Israeli regime under US pressure.

This "is an unforgivable betrayal of the Palestinian cause and of freedom-seeking nations," it said, adding, "But these treacherous moves will fail to cause the Palestinian cause and its liberation to sink into oblivion."

on Wednesday, Bahrain's a Bahraini opposition protest movement described the forthcoming International Quds Day as a golden opportunity to denounce the Manama regime's normalization of relations with the Tel Aviv regime and reiterate the call for the liberation of Palestinian territories from Israeli occupation.

The February 14 Youth Coalition — named after the date when a popular uprising against Bahrain's ruling Al Khalifah regime was born — called on people from all strata of Bahrain's society as well as Arab and Muslim nations to hold rallies and mark the event, which falls on the last Friday of the holy fasting month of Ramadan every year and is commemorated on May 7th this year.

"Whilst puppet and traitorous Arab regimes in the Persian Gulf region have normalized their relations with the Zionist regime by accepting the so-called deal of the century [crafted by former US president Donald Trump] and the opening of the Bahraini and UAE embassies in the Occupied Territories, Arab and Muslim nations across the world will mark International Quds Day to condemn such actions," the February 14 Youth Coalition noted.



**Radio Habana Cuba**