

Abstract

Hamas and Iran: A Strategic Alliance between a State and a Non-State actor (2005-2015)

This dissertation is entitled, “Hamas and Iran: A Strategic Alliance between a State and a Non-State actor (2005-2015)”. The problem is that the relationship between Iran and Hamas is a sensitive relationship between the two parties. For several reasons, both regional and international, since the inception of Hamas in 1987, the relationship between Hamas and Iran has been growing. To understand the nature of the relationship between the two parties, whether these determinants are political at the regional or international level, so the main question is, why does Iran establish alliance with Hamas and what is the type of it? The purpose of this study is to have an idea about the Iranian-Hamas relations and understand their behavior and its impact to the Palestinian case.

This research is part of social science studies and when it comes to the data will be use in the research is qualitative data since the researcher will talk about the political situation between the countries or between the countries and internal parties, so the researcher will use the qualitative data. Nominal data is part of the qualitative data, which gives the researcher the ability to talk about each state data also about each party data with not considering the importance of the organize it. Especially talking about Hamas or Fatah movements or searching about the Iranian or American data considering the internal Palestinian situation.

The US position on the Iranian-Hamas relationship is a relationship between two terrorist parties. The United States considers Iran a sponsor of international terrorism. Hamas was placed on US terrorism lists in 1997.

Since 1979, the United States has tried to contain the Iranian regime by imposing economic sanctions and sometimes by threatening to use military force. The goal is to find a regime in Iran that pursues American policy in the Middle East, as was Iran's Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. From the US point of view, the Iranian and Hamas parties

are terrorist entities that must be dealt with firmly and forcefully and isolated from the international community.

The Israeli position on Iran's relationship with Hamas is more extreme than the United States of America, Israel considers that Iran and Hamas are the enemies of the international community and terrorist parties, and Israel has waged many military wars against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli goal was and still is the elimination of the Palestinian Hamas movement, since Israel regards Hamas in the Gaza Strip as the Iranian arm in the Palestinian cause.

Due to Iran's behavior in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, and also in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia considers Iran an enemy. This point is a common point between Saudi Arabia and Israel, and because of the relationship between Iran and Hamas, the relationship between Hamas and Saudi Arabia is often tense.

Saudi Arabia supports the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause long ago, and Saudi policy is fixed on the Palestinian issue. Saudi Arabia is trying to get Hamas out of the axis of resistance headed by Iran and to join Hamas to the Sunni Arab axis, which is fighting the Iranian project in the Middle East. The Hamas behavior is trying to balance the relationship with Iran and the relationship with Saudi Arabia, but so far the balance policy has not worked.

Conclusion from the results of the discussion on the problems of this study; 1) Iran has a strategic relationship with Hamas so that Iran is trying to exploit this alliance to achieve the purely Iranian interest, both in exporting the Islamic revolution to the Arab countries by spreading Shiite ideology or using Hamas as a pressure card in the negotiations on the Iranian nuclear file, the relationship between Hamas and Iran was strained, especially after the Syrian revolution. Iran tried to establish a Shiite party inside the Gaza Strip called the Saberien movement. 2) Iran has established a religious-based alliance with Shiite communities in the Arab region, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, as well as in the Arabic Gulf region. A Shiite alliance, through the Shiite communities in the Arab region and Iranian supported by money and weapons and Iran

was trying to control these Arab countries. 3) The relationship between Iran and Hamas is an entry point for Iran into the Palestinian cause. Hamas is a Sunni movement and part of the Muslim Brotherhood. The entry of the Sunni Hamas movement into the Shiite alliance, later called the axis of resistance, is based on mutual interests between Iran and Hamas. The religious authority of Hamas differed completely with the religious authority of Iran. 4) The Iranian behavior with Hamas is considered political behavior in the first place, the establishment of the movement of the Sabrien in the Gaza Strip, where most of the members of the movement of Sabrien from the Shiite community is a blow to Hamas, in other words, Iran is trying to establish a Shiite movement within the territory of Palestinian land, the Sabrien movement decision should come from Iran's religious authority and achieves Iran's goals as well. The movement of the Sabrien in the Gaza Strip is a replica of the Lebanese Hezbollah and the Houthi group in Yemen. 5) The Iranian intervention in the internal affairs of the Arab countries aroused the anger of the Gulf States and Egypt, and was announced to confront the Iranian intervention, whether on the political, religious or military. The relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran has become tense. This has affected the Palestinian cause by accusing Hamas of standing with Iran's Islamic Republic against Saudi Arabia, which Hamas denies.

Keywords: Iran, Hamas, Palestinian case, Sabreim movement, non-state actor.