

Position Paper

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

Thematic Agenda:

The Invisible War: Shadows of Proxy Armies – Dismantling State-Sponsored Terrorism, Narco-Crypto Financing, and Intelligence Operations Fueling Middle East Chaos

Submitted by: The Islamic Republic of Iran

The peace and sovereignty of the Middle East is under tremendous strain due to decades of foreign intervention, unlawful funding of terror campaigns, illicit funding, etc. The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite being a nation that has endured this relentless aggression and destabilisation, and is often considered one of the many powers involved in the systemic destabilisation of the region, reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles of sovereignty, self-determination, and collective security. While the nation's actions towards protecting the liberty and sovereignty of itself and its neighbours is often mistaken for terrorism, it is simply a necessary evil to defend its people, its neighbors, and the very soul of international law against a hypocritical world order that labels occupation as "liberation" and terrorism as "strategic interest."

The republic of Iran seeks to expose the double standards that underpin global chaos, where criticism is selective and impunity runs rampant for those who have geopolitical power. We call for concrete, urgent and impartial action to dismantle the very architecture of destabilization; unregulated arms transfers, economic warfare, and covert digital finance via cryptocurrency and urge this committee to confront these issues in a transparent and just manner.

The term "terrorism" has been stripped of its moral and legal weight and reduced to a tool of geopolitical convenience for powerful states. While Iran is routinely branded a "regional instigator" for resisting foreign domination and supporting the right of oppressed peoples such as the Palestinian people to resist occupation, the true primary instigators of violence are often granted impunity. Terrorism is not defined by the perpetrator but by the act itself. The selective application of this label must end. Iran calls for a UN-mandated, impartial definition of terrorism that applies equally to states and non-state actors.

- Israel's Occupation and the USA's role in State Terrorism:
Israel's military occupation of Palestinian territories, now in its sixth decade, is enabled by \$3.8 billion in annual military aid by the United States of America: a figure that funds settlements and military operations that have killed over

10,000 Palestinians since 2008 (UN OCHA, 2023).¹ The U.S. vetoes United Nations resolutions condemning Israeli actions, ensuring accountability remains elusive. Since 2000, the U.S. has provided \$158 billion in military aid to Israel, including F-35 fighter jets, Apache helicopters, and precision-guided munitions used in Gaza and the West Bank (Congressional Research Service, 2023).²

- U.S. Drone Strikes and Extra-Judicial Killings:
The U.S. has conducted over 14,000 drone strikes in the Middle East since 2001, resulting in thousands of civilian deaths (Bureau of Investigative Journalism, 2023).³ These operations, justified as “counterterrorism,” violate international law and fuel cycles of vengeance.
- Regime-Change Operations:
From Iran’s 1953 coup (orchestrated by the CIA and MI6) to the 2019 U.S. assassination of Iranian General Qasem Soleimani, foreign interventions have destabilized the region. The U.S. and its allies have repeatedly violated the UN Charter’s prohibition on the use of force (Article 2(4)), yet face no consequences.⁴

The Middle East’s instability is fueled by unregulated financial networks that bankroll terrorism, warlords, and intelligence operations. Two chief examples of this phenomena are:

1. The Taliban’s Opium Economy
2. Cryptocurrency and State-Sponsored Proxy Funding

A. The Taliban’s \$1.4 Billion Opium Economy

Afghanistan, under Taliban rule, produces 90% of the world’s opium, generating \$1.4 billion annually (UNODC, 2023). This economy funds:

- Terrorist groups like ISIS-K and Al-Qaeda.
- Corrupt warlords and militias that destabilize the region.
- Human trafficking and arms smuggling.⁵

Iran has seized over 1,000 tons of opium in the past decade, often at the cost of sacrificing its own security forces.⁶ Despite this, the U.S. and its allies have failed to disrupt the Taliban’s narco-economy, instead lifting sanctions on the Taliban in 2023, which has emboldened drug trafficking.

¹ [UN OCHA: Protection of Civilians in the West Bank and Gaza](#)

² [CRS: U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel](#) (2023)

³ [The Bureau of Investigative Journalism: Drone Wars](#) (2023)

⁴ [National Security Archive: CIA’s Role in the 1953 Iran Coup](#) (2000)

⁵ [UNODC: Afghanistan Opium Survey 2023](#) (2023)

⁶ [Iran’s Anti-Narcotics Police: Annual Reports](#) (2023)

Cryptocurrencies have become a preferred tool for state-sponsored terrorism and intelligence operations due to their anonymity and lack of regulation. Examples include:

- **Iran's Alleged Use of Crypto for Sanctions Evasion:**
The U.S. has accused Iran of using crypto mining and transactions to bypass sanctions, though Iran denies these claims. Regardless, the lack of regulation makes cryptocurrencies a haven for illicit financing.⁷
- **ISIS and Al-Qaeda Funding:**
Terrorist groups have raised millions in Bitcoin and Monero, using darknet markets and unregulated exchanges to fund attacks.⁸

The tumultuous state of the middle east is deliberately manufactured and the result of decades of foreign interference, economic warfare and unchecked militarization. As a nation that has resisted occupation and regime change conspiracies, Iran stands as a testament to the resilience of nations who actively choose to not bow to imperialism. The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects the hypocrisy that defines terrorism by the perpetrator's influence on the geopolitical sphere instead of their actions.

We call on the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) to:

1. Dismantle the architectures of destabilization by regulating arms transfers, banning unilateral sanctions, and enforcing transparency in digital finance.
2. Hold accountable those who perpetuate violence under the guise of strategic interests.
3. Uphold the right of all nations to self-determination, free from foreign coercion.

We must confront the shadows of proxy armies, narco-crypto financing, and intelligence operations with impartial justice, or we surrender to a world where might makes right. Iran chooses resistance and urges this committee to do the same.

⁷ [U.S. Department of Justice: Crypto Enforcement Actions](#) (2023)

⁸ [Chainalysis: Illicit Crypto Transactions Report](#) (2023)