

# Qods, Factor for Strengthening Muslim Convergence

By Mohammad Sadegh al-Hosseini

Perhaps few people thought that the last Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan which was announced as the International Day of Qods by the founder of the Islamic Revolution of Iran 30 years

ago would be so widely welcomed by Muslim nations and became so

cometions prevalent among the

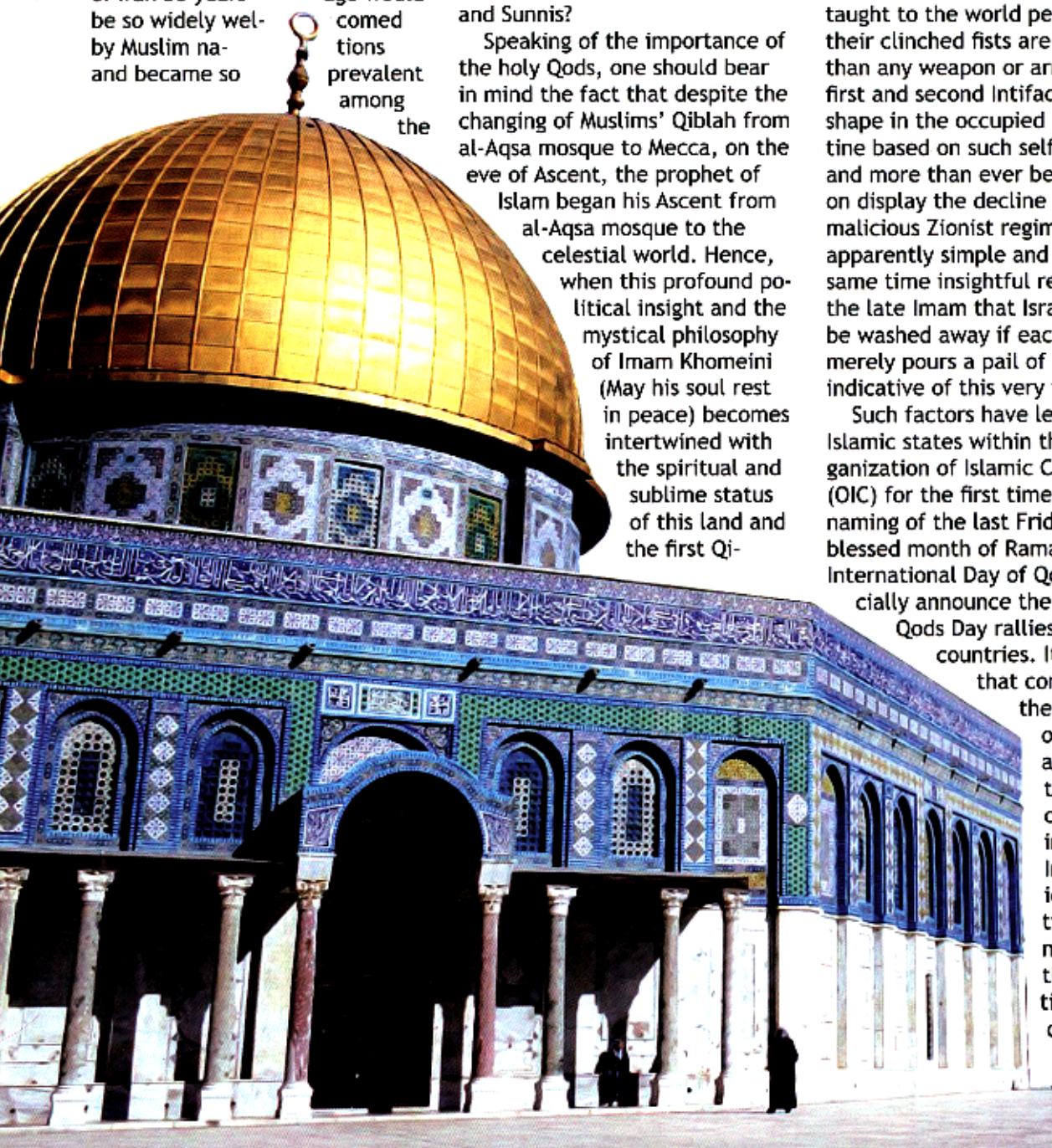
Islamic states. What is the reason for such a prevalence and influence by the announcement made by the founder of Islamic Revolution of Iran in the heart of Muslims even beyond the borders of countries and beyond the differences between Shias and Sunnis?

Speaking of the importance of the holy Qods, one should bear in mind the fact that despite the changing of Muslims' Qiblah from al-Aqsa mosque to Mecca, on the eve of Ascent, the prophet of Islam began his Ascent from al-Aqsa mosque to the celestial world. Hence, when this profound political insight and the mystical philosophy of Imam Khomeini (May his soul rest in peace) becomes intertwined with the spiritual and sublime status of this land and the first Qi-

blah of Muslims, it is natural that it will be widely welcomed by Muslims throughout the world.

Today, the impact of Qods day has gone beyond the borders of Iran, Shias and even Muslims and will inspire every freedom-seeking individual anywhere in the world. The message of Imam taught to the world people that their clinched fists are stronger than any weapon or army and the first and second Intifadas took shape in the occupied Palestine based on such self-reliance and more than ever before put on display the decline of the malicious Zionist regime. This apparently simple and at the same time insightful remark by the late Imam that Israel will be washed away if each Muslim merely pours a pail of water, is indicative of this very fact.

Such factors have led to 70 Islamic states within the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) for the first time since the naming of the last Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan as the International Day of Qods to officially announce the holding of Qods Day rallies in these countries. It seems that concern over the spread of Islamic awakening to other countries inspired by Iran's Islamic Revolution and the naming of the International Day of Qods





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have also been effective in the changing of standpoint. One should bear in mind the good relations existing between the Zionist regime and rulers of countries where the rulers lost their thrones in the course of popular revolutions inspired by Islamic awakening and such relations were one of the main reasons behind popular protests and the downfall of puppet regimes.

Therefore, it can be said that the late Imam's wish has been fulfilled today and one can observe the materialization of Islamic convergence in support of the holy Qods and the occupied Palestine in different corners of the world. Seyed Hassan Nasrallah has interestingly explicated the impact of the Qods day on the destiny of the Zionist regime by saying that it is not unlikely to see one day the convoys of Muslims and Palestinian refugees entering the occupied territories without any war. In other words, the Zionist regime that once had the dream of creating an empire extending from Nile to Euphrates has turned into a number of limited forces targeted by the detestation and hatred of Muslims and freedom-seeking nations of the world. All the wills have been concentrated on a focal point that will bring about valuable effects such as the strengthening of convergence and solidarity amongst Muslims.



## Will Saudi Citizens Revolt?

By Hassan Ahmadian

One of the main problems with Saudi Arabia's political system is that there is no pre-defined mechanism for the transfer of power. Efforts by the ruling elite to resolve the problem, including Saudi King Abdullah's formation of an allegiance council, have failed due to disputes inside the Al Saud family.

The other major problem is the ambiguous nature of power sharing in Saudi Arabia's political structure. The second generation of the Saudi monarchy is now embroiled in a power rivalry, which many believe will lead to the country's collapse.

Saudi rulers are trying to conceal the power struggle, but the recent escalation of disputes over choosing the crown prince and other major governmental posts clearly proves the political vulnerability of the leadership.

In a move to counter the negative effects of the internal disputes, the monarchy has expanded its foreign policy interventions. This policy has failed to calm internal protests and people are

continuing to take to the street to express their legitimate demands.

The extremist idea of Wahhabism and its influence on the ruling family is another major problem that seriously damages governance in the country. It is the main source of Saudi's anti-Shia policies that have precipitated wide-spread concern among its religious minorities.

Shias living in the eastern parts of Saudi Arabia are dissatisfied with the current political atmosphere and have repeatedly protested against the bias against them.

The Saudi government preaches democratic values to other Arab states, while it remains busy suppressing calls for the recognition of people's rights within its borders. Herein lies the paradox of a government that is seen by many to be the next place for a second wave of the popular Arab uprisings to take root.

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