

Ban urges governments, businesses and citizens around the world to prioritize environmental care

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message on the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, 6 November 2016, urged governments, businesses and citizens around the world to prioritize environmental care and the sustainable management of natural resources for preventing conflict, building peace and promoting lasting prosperity.

The full text of his message reads:

This year, the world began implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With 17 universal and interdependent Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda is a transformational blueprint for peace, prosperity and dignity for all on a healthy planet. To achieve this vision, we must recognize that we have a duty of care towards the environment in peacetime and during war.

Poor governance of the environment and natural resources can contribute to the outbreak of conflict. It can fuel and finance existing conflicts and it can increase the risk of relapse. Conversely, there are many examples of natural resources serving as catalysts for peaceful cooperation, confidence-building and poverty reduction.

In the aftermath of violent conflict, natural resources, such as land, timber, minerals, oil and gas, are often the primary assets that governments need to support livelihoods and economic recovery. How governments manage these resources can fundamentally alter the course of post-conflict peacebuilding. That is why it is so important that we work together to combat environmental crime, end the illegal exploitation of natural resources, improve transparency, share benefits more equitably and encourage the participation of women, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups in decision-making.

The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes that "sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security, and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development." That is why, earlier this year, all 193 Member States of the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted a resolution committing to protect the environment in areas affected by armed conflict. At the same time, the United Nations International Law Commission is currently reviewing the international legal framework for protecting the environment before, during and after armed conflict. It aims to establish guidelines that can better support environmental preservation, particularly in protected areas and environmentally sensitive sites, such as drinking water aquifers, which are of critical environmental and cultural importance and can be severely affected by warfare. (Source: UNIC)

Agriculture ministry bans exploitation of endangered northern forests

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — Iranian Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati has issued an order, urging the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization to stop the exploitation of endangered northern forests.

In a letter to Khodakaram Jalali, the director of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization, Hojjati called for a halt to the exploitation of northern forests for commercial and industrial purposes at the earliest opportunity, ILNA reported on Friday.

Industrial and commercial exploitations of northern forests either permitted or not would be halted within the framework of a short-term program, Hojjati noted in his letter, adding, the cabinet banned all industrial exploitations from northern forests with the exception of broken branches, fallen or damaged trees in January 2014.

Building any new roads in the northern forests is prohibited by the law and the budget allotted to the roads maintenance must be spent on the forests preservation plans, he added.



This can be considered as one of the best decisions made by the current administration to protect the invaluable northern forests.

It is worth mentioning that in June 2015 the government also brought a bill before Majlis (Iranian parliament) asking for a 10-year interval for any forests ex-

ploitations.

Chief of Iran's Department of Environment (DOE) Masoumeh Ebtekar has earlier urged all those active in the wood industry to shift from logging to wood import in order to move toward sustainable development.

The CEO of Iran's forestry society Hadi Kiadaliri has also said that it is important to take measures to help this program carry on and succeed such as allocating budget and easing importing regulations.

Kiadaliri believes that logging is only part of the problem and over grazing also plays a significant role in ruining the jungles.

"What we should do is to change the attitudes towards forests as so far they were treated like economic resources while they are great treasures which are shrinking gradually," he suggested.

Based on the figures revealed by the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization some one million hectares of forests have been cut down and destroyed over past 30 to 40 years.

Zaitunia vahabzadehi, a real Persian tale

By Farnaz Heidari

Each known species on the Earth has a specific name which is called the "scientific name" of that species. Scientific names normally have two parts and in some cases, three. These names are considered as common points which allow scientists or even public throughout the world to talk precisely about their determined species of plants or animals.

Zaitunia vahabzadehi is a recently discovered species of the genus *Zaitunia* from Iran that was described by Alireza Zamani, a young M.Sc. student of Animal Biosystematics from University of Tehran and Dr. Yuri M. Marusik from Institute for Biological Problems of the North RAS, Magadan, Russia. As in all scientific names, this one is also made up of a "generic name" or "generic epithet" which is *Zaitunia*, and "specific name" or "specific epithet", which is *vahabzadehi*.



International rules have prohibited the usage of one name for more than once; though this does sometimes happen. Scientific naming is a much formalized process

and there are many rules that must be followed. One would have to follow the rules of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (<http://iczn.org>).

Why the scientific name of a species would change?

There are only a few reasons for scientists to change the scientific name of a species. The most important are: sometimes, it is discovered that a species was identified with a different name earlier in time than the name that is commonly in use. In such cases, they revert it to the earlier name. In other cases, it is discovered that the genetics of a subspecies or species is sufficiently different that a new or different subspecies is identified. In such cases, the original group would normally retain the original name and the newly discovered group would become the new subspecies or species. The other reason for a change in the name might be a mistake of some sort, but this is rather uncommon.

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شفافیت، صداقت
با حضور موسسات مطبوعاتی، نشریات
خبرگزاری ها و پایگاه های خبری
4.11 Nov. 2016 Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla
The 22nd Press Exhibition

بیست و دومین
نمایشگاه
مطبوعات
۱۴ تا ۲۱ آبان ماه
مصلاي بزرگ امام خميني (ره)

Intl. Energy Globe Foundation Certificate Awarded to Isfahan WWCO



With the completion of construction operation of sewage and wastewater installations in cities of *Mobarakeh and Lenjan* in exchange for allocation of wastewater in limited timespan to *Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company* (implementation of a plan to collect wastewater in Iran's central plateau as privately-funded project), Isfahan Water and Wastewater Company (**WWCO**) managed to receive International Energy Foundation Certificate as green project.

Given the above issue, the company was nominated to receive International Energy Foundation Award and paved its way for the next stage.

Deputy Managing Director of *Isfahan Water and Wastewater Company for Engineering and Development Affairs Eng. Mohsen Bisheh* announced the above statement and said: "International Energy Award is the most prestigious and recognized environmental award in the world which belongs to the subjects including land, energy, climate and development."

Identifying the projects with accurate and more economical use of natural resources and application of substituted energy resources have been considered as the main aim behind granting this award, he said, adding: "The first International Energy Award was held in 2000 at the initiative taken by Austria, so that more than 1,800 projects from 177 world countries are sent to the relevant secretariat annually."

It should be noted that **Green Project Award** is designed according to the "EAST" logic in line with the necessity of identifying countries' successful projects

which have had economic, social, environmental and technical impacts.

Honoring successful projects of countries in national and international levels and also promoting public self-confidence have been cited as the main aim of **Green Project Award**, he stressed.

In current Iranian calendar year in 1395 (started March 20, 2016) and in 9th year of evaluation, Buyback Project of the company on the construction operation of wastewater installations in the cities of *Lenjan and Mobarakeh* was nominated to compete in winning Intl. Energy Award, he said, adding: "Assessment procedures were done by assessors of Europe Green Society in July 2016 under the strict supervision of Mr. **Maxim Gerther** as representative of Global Energy Foundation."

The aforementioned project has been studied in all environmental, technical and socioeconomic fields, the official opined.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said: "This award was granted by Wolfgang Newman President of Global Energy Foundation to the representative of Isfahan Province WWCO in the presence of Eng. Daemi Deputy Ministry of Energy for Planning and Economic Affairs, Austrian Deputy Minister of Economy and Higher Education, Ambassador of Iran to Austria and Chairman of Austrian Chamber of Commerce."

It should be noted that representatives of Europe Green Management Society, industrialists and a great number of Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) also attended the award-granting ceremony.

Security hustles Trump from stage after protester displays sign

Republican Donald Trump was rushed off stage by security agents at a rally in Reno, Nevada, on Saturday night after a false alarm as someone in the crowd shouted "gun" during scuffles with a man who held up a 'Republicans against Trump' sign.

The incident occurred as Trump and Democratic rival Hillary Clinton crisscrossed the United States a late push to win over undecided voters and make sure supporters turn out enthusiastically on Election Day.

Two security agents seized Trump by the shoulders and hustled him backstage as police officers swarmed over a man in the front of the crowd and held him down and searched him before escorting him away with his hands behind his back.

Trump, seemingly unruffled, returned to the stage and continued his speech after a short time, saying "Nobody said it was going to be easy for us" and adding "We will never be stopped."

After being released, the man who was apprehended told CBS News Reno affiliate KTVN-2 that he was a Republican supporter who attended the rally to express his opposition to Trump.

"I came here with this sign expecting boos ... But it was just a sign," Austyn Crites said.

Crites said when he took it out, the crowd began to attack him, choking and beating him before "someone yelled about a gun."

After being held for a few hours' questioning and security and background checks, Crites said he was released, and that the police "did their job."

Crites said he wanted to contrast President Barack Obama's reaction to a protester during a rally a few days ago, in which he urged the crowd to respect the protester, with Trump's, saying he wanted "people to understand" the difference.

"I have nothing against Trump supporters," Crites told the station. "We are all registered Republicans and support many of the same candidates for local offices. I have serious concern against Trump," he added.

The Secret Service confirmed that the incident erupted when an unidentified individual in front of the stage shouted "gun." "Secret Service agents and Reno Police Officers immediately apprehended



the subject. Upon a thorough search of the subject and the surrounding area, no weapon was found," the Secret Service said in a statement.

The incident began when Trump noticed what he considered a heckler. Seconds later people near the stage began pointing at someone in the crowd near the front, and agents took Trump away.

In a statement, Trump thanked the Secret Service, Reno and Nevada law enforcement for "their fast and professional response."

Meantime, in Philadelphia, pop singer Katy Perry performed at a Clinton rally, the latest in a string of celebrity appearances aimed at getting out the vote among millennials.

"When your kids and grandkids ask you what you did in 2016, when it was all on the line, I want you be able to say you voted for a better, stronger, America," Clinton said.

Opinion polls show Clinton still holds advantages in states that could be critical in deciding the election. But her lead has narrowed after a revelation a week ago that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was looking into a new trove of emails as part of its probe into her handling of classified information while she was secretary of state.

A McClatchy-Marist opinion poll released on Saturday of voters nationwide showed Clinton leading by 1 percentage

point compared to 6 percentage points in September.

A Reuters/Ipsos tracking poll on Saturday showed Clinton ahead by 4 percentage points nationally compared to 5 points on Friday, while an ABC News-Washington Post tracking poll had Clinton ahead by 48 to 43 percent.

Competing for Florida votes

Both candidates spent time in Florida, considered one of the most hotly contested states. The 2000 presidential election was decided in Florida after a dispute over votes and recounting of ballots went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of Republican George W. Bush over Democrat Al Gore.

The Real Clear Politics average of Florida opinion polls found Clinton with a lead of about 1 percentage point - indicating the race there is a virtual tie.

Trump spoke at a rally on Saturday morning in Tampa, Florida, where he continued to criticize Clinton for supporting the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, in the wake of an announcement that premiums are going to rise next year.

Shortly before Clinton took the stage in Pembroke Pines, Florida, rain poured down. People in the crowd waiting for Clinton at the outdoor rally remained in place, taking out umbrellas and fashioning garbage bags into head coverings.

"I'm thrilled to be here and boy is

this a hardy group, rain or shine you are ready," Clinton said, her voice cracking with hoarseness.

She cut her speech short as she became soaked in rain, saying, "I don't think I need to tell you all of the wrong things about Donald Trump."

At the JFK library in Hialeah, Florida, people lined up outside for early voting. Nearby, supporters of both candidates waved signs and shouted slogans, urging passing drivers to honk their horns.

"We want someone to come in and clean house," said Cuban-American Ariel Martinez, 42, a Trump supporter.

Early voting began in September and the data firm Catalyst estimates more than 30 million ballots have been cast in 38 states. There are an estimated 225.8 million eligible U.S. voters. Saturday was the final day for early voting in many Florida counties.

Changes in plans

Trump and Clinton campaigns adjusted travel schedules for the next two days to states where they saw opportunity.

Trump told the crowd in Tampa that there would be a campaign event in Minnesota this weekend, although one had not previously been scheduled. Minnesota has not voted for a Republican since 1984. His campaign confirmed a rally scheduled for Wisconsin on Sunday has been cancelled.

Clinton started the day by stopping by the West Miami Community Center, a Cuban American neighbourhood, with telenovela star Jencarlos Canela, a Miami native of Cuban descent.

She then visited her campaign's office in Little Haiti where there is a large concentration of Haitian-American residents. Clinton was joined by Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Trayvon Martin, the unarmed black teenager who was shot dead in 2012 by a Sanford, Florida neighbourhood watchman, George Zimmerman.

While Trump prefers large-scale rallies, Clinton has filled her campaign schedule with targeted appearances meant to court voters in specific demographics. Cuban voters have historically favoured Republicans, but younger generations have shifted toward Democratic Party candidates.

Lebanese president vows to build a strong nation

"Our hopes are high and there's will," he said.

"God, Lebanon and Aoun only," the crowd roared.

Aoun's supporters said they were delighted over his election, and vowed to stand by him until the end.

"We have met in this arena before, during difficult times ... we lost martyrs and others went missing ... but we will continue on the path and build the future," said Aoun, flanked by six of his most loyal men.

A "major international game triumphed in the past and allowed non-Lebanese troops to storm our country (26 years ago) ... we lost the game but they didn't crush us."

"We continued a [peaceful] struggle in exile for 15 years," Aoun continued. "No one managed to suppress us, because

freedom and dignity are derived from our basic values."

The atmosphere on Sunday couldn't have been more different from when a Syrian military assault forced Aoun to flee Baabda Palace 26 years ago over his objection to the Taif Accord, which ended the 1975-90 Civil War. Aoun went into self-imposed exile in France in 1991 and returned to Lebanon in 2005.

The rally "was not a familiar scene," Presidential spokesman Rafic Shalala told Al-Jadeed.

"This is the first time in the tenure of a [Lebanese] president that the [palace] gates are open for people to express their support without having any fears," Shalala said.

He pointed out that security measures were not strict, but correct, as President Aoun had demanded that security forces facilitate the arrival of people.



An individual held a large banner with the portraits of Aoun, Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri and Hezbollah Chief Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah, a rare

image of solidarity between the country's main leaders who managed to end the political deadlock that prevented the election of a president.

Security forces were seen confiscating Free Patriotic Movement flags, under orders from Aoun that people should only carry Lebanon's national flag.

"The road ahead of us is long ... we are on the steps towards building a real state ... (which) we will not be able to achieve without the people," Foreign Minister and Aoun's son-in-law Gebran Bassil told reporters.

The FPM had called on its supporters in a statement to take part in the rallies en masse.

Aoun, the FPM founder, succeeded former President Michel Suleiman after a vacuum of more than two years.

(Source: The Daily star)

I doubt if Trump has thought about Iran for more than 10 minutes: Columbia University professor

A: I think Clinton will win, and the tape and subsequent accusations hurt Trump among those who already had grave doubts about him.

Q: Why did Trump remain a competitor despite scandals surrounding him? And basically what groups are going to vote for him?

A: His strength surprised most observers--myself included. Some of his current support is from traditional Republicans who will vote for anyone of that party.

Additional support is from those, largely white males without a college education, who believe the system has treated them unfairly and that the country they know and love is being stolen from them. And a third, overlapping, group believes that Washington is broken and isolated from the country and that anything that drastically shakes things up will lead to an improvement.

Q: Why does Trump blame the media for a coordinated action against himself?

A: I think it has accurately reflected his character, often using his own words and pointing to his behavior.

Q: Among the two candidates which one is more aggressive toward Iran?

A: I doubt if Trump has thought about Iran for more than 10 minutes. He merely believes that he is the only one that can make a "good deal." I suspect that Hillary would continue the same basic policy as Obama, but might not try as hard to relax some of the sanctions.

Zaitunia vahabzadehi, a real Persian tale

The change of the scientific names is because scientists understand more about their relationships with other species. For example, Arctic fox were called *Alopex lagopus* for many decades and recently have been moved to the genus *Vulpes* with the current name *Vulpes lagopus*. This was done because it was discovered that the Arctic fox was more closely related to the red fox *Vulpes vulpes*. The change of a scientific name can happen and actually is happening a lot these days, especially because a lot of new insights about species are being revealed through the genetics.

Unique because of science

But scientific naming routinely is unique. For example, if *Zaitunia*, a genus

of spiders in the family Filistatidae, has a species whose name is *Zaitunia vahabzadehi* no other animal species can be given the same name. So, if you are a Persian scientist studying relatives of *Zaitunia* and you want to discuss about it with a Finnish researcher, you both use the scientific name and know exactly what the other one is talking about.

Filistatidae are well known in our country because of many taxonomical surveys that have been carried out by scientists such as Paolo Brignoli, Alireza Zamani, Omid Mirshamsi and Yuri M. Marusik.

Another species *Zaitunia akhaniai* was also described last year by this team (Marusik and Zamani). As you can see, *Zaitunia vahabzadehi* and *Zaitunia*

akhaniai both share the same generic epithet and this indicates that they are all thought to be more closely related to each other than to any other non-*Zaitunia* species of Filistatidae.

Both specific epithets adopted by the scientific team in the honor of two persons who had great effects on the Environment Field in Iran.

Iranian ecologist, Hossein Vahabzadeh is admired by his colleagues and students for many reasons: He has taught ecology and environmental science more than 40 years in various universities of Iran, and has many magnificent books in his field too. Vahabzadeh has also established the first generation of "Nature Schools" in Iran as a primary practical learning and

creativity school.

The other species, *Zaitunia akhaniai*, was appointed to Dr. Hossein Akhania, Associate Professor at the Department of Botany, University of Tehran. Akhania is a pioneer Iranian scientist who is hoping to revitalize the Lake Urmia, once one of the world's largest brine shrimp habitats and now considered as a water body which is trapped in the extinction vortex. Akhania, as a biologist and conservationist has published many books and articles and also has collected a total number of ca. 18000 specimens from most parts of Iran and some countries in SW Asia and Europe. Many environmentalists admired him because of his tireless efforts for natural environments of Iran.

Syrian rebels announce offensive to retake Raqqa

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) has declared its intention to launch an assault on ISIL terrorist group-held Raqqa. The U.S.-backed Syria Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of Kurdish and Arab armed groups, first announced on Sunday that a campaign to retake Raqqa would begin within hours, with U.S. forces providing air cover. Soon afterwards, it said that the operation, called Euphrates Anger, had begun.

In the press conference in Ayn Issa, northern Syria, it was announced that rebel fighters would "continue [their offensive] until all objectives are met, namely, seizing and toppling the capital of ISIL." "On this occasion, we call on the international community and regional forces to coordinate and take part in the operation to exterminate ISIL," the SDF said before announcing the U.S. would offer air support in the offensive.

"We also call on international humanitarian and relief agencies to perform their duties for the people in Raqqa after the city has been liberated."

The fighters called on civilians to stay away from areas in which ISIL fighters are known to be, and to try to run to "liberated" areas of the country.

The announcement came as the Iraqi government and Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces, with the help of the U.S.-backed coalition, continue a bloody battle in Iraq to retake Mosul.

Regional forces

Al Jazeera's Mohammed Adow, reporting from Gaziantep on Turkey's border with Syria, said although the SDF called on international forces to assist the offensive, it has made it clear it does not want Turkish military involvement. "Who will participate with the SDF [in the assault on Raqqa] remains to be seen," he said before adding that the Turkish military has been weary of the mainly Kurdish SDF, preferring to ally with the Free Syria Army (FSA) instead. Andreas Krieg, a researcher at the Near East Centre for Security and Strategy at Kings College London, told Al Jazeera that "Turkey did not want the YPG [Kurdish People's Protection Units] or the SDF to take more control of land [in Syria], which is why their military got involved there in the first place."

Krieg added that rebel forces were 40 to 50km outside Raqqa, and there were many towns and villages along the way. "It is unlikely that the SDF would be able to fight this battle alone," Krieg added. "But it remains to be seen who, whether the FSA, Syrian government forces, or any international forces, will participate."

Militants kills 74 Syrians in 8 days

Dozens of civilians have lost their lives since foreign-sponsored Takfiri militants launched an offensive against the government-held part of the Syrian city of Aleppo more than a week ago, a Britain-based monitoring group says.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that 74 civilians, including 25 children, have been killed since Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, previously known as al-Nusra Front, and so-called Free Syrian Army militants launched counter-attacks against government soldiers and their allied forces to break a months-long siege on the eastern part of Aleppo, located some 355 kilometers north of the capital, Damascus, on October 28.

The group went on to say that three civilians were also killed in the militant-held eastern Aleppo during the mentioned period.

(Source: agencies)

The October 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks revisited

Due to the obvious lack of any effective Lebanese defense to counter the Israeli juggernaut, Iran sent a contingent of military advisors to train resistance fighters in the Bekaa valley in 1982. Many of these individuals, among them Hajj Imad Mughniyah, later went on to become the cadre of Hezbollah.

An example of this western propaganda, written by former CIA operative Robert Baer, shows the typical, not-so-subtle attempt to implicate both Iran and Hezbollah. Baer writes, "Though there's no conclusive evidence for it, Mughniyah may have been at the center of the most notorious terrorist acts of the 1980s: the April 1983 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Beirut and the October 1983 Marine barracks bombing there." Previously, Baer had stated unequivocally that Iran "bombed the U.S. embassy in Beirut in 1983, and bombed the U.S. Marine barracks there the same year" without presenting any substantiating evidence for these statements.

Certainly, Hezbollah itself could not have been responsible for the bombings since it was not organized operationally until mid-1985, some two years later, and Iran's foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati explicitly denied any involvement on the part of the Islamic Republic. While it is arguable that Hezbollah took its form over the 1980s with input from Iran, even some western scholars candidly admit there is no clear evidence of a connection between Iran and these bombings. Nevertheless, Iran remains condemned in the U.S. court of opinion to this day.

U.S. president Ronald Reagan understood the message and withdrew the American occupying force from Lebanon. Justifying his commander's actions, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Gen. John Vessey explained, "It is beneath our dignity to retaliate against the terrorists who blew up the Marine barracks." And in regards to Hajj Imad Mughniyah, we will never know whether he personally was involved in any way with the Beirut bombings in 1983. On February 12, 2008, he was killed by a car bomb, which many suspect was in actuality a Zionist covert operation.