



UAE AND ISRAEL PEACE DEAL : KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

The establishment of the relationships between UAE and Israel will not be considered as the game changer, but it will strengthen the swapping regional domain. Moreover, before the formalisation of the deal, there were secret connections between Israel and the gulf States. On August 13, US president Donald Trump released a joint statement, that the United Arabs Emirate and Israel will establish full diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural ties with each other. However, this deal created lots of challenges and various responses domestically, regionally, and Internationally. The deal will not help the Palestine cause, but will strengthen the contacts between Israel and gulf states. The main purpose of the deal is the Isolation of Iran, and the accession of UAE to the high-tech development.

KEYWORDS : Peace Deal, UAE, Palestine, Iran and International.

BACKGROUND

The U.S called the agreements between UAE and Israel, and the Bahrain Abraham Accord. UAE became the third Arab country which normalised ties with Israel. before that, Egypt (1979) and Jordan (26 Oct 1994) restored their relationships with Israel. Moreover, in 2010, the ties between Israel and UAE deteriorated while Mossad killed Hamas leader Mahmoud al Mabhohu and Israel accused him buying Iranian weapons and kidnapping and killing of two Israeli soldiers. Moreover, in Nov 2015, Israel opened its diplomatic office for IREA (International Renewable Energy Agency) In Abu Dubai (Simon Hendersen,2015). In additions, there was the secret official visit of Israeli UN envoy Danny Danon because he was the chairman of the UN legal committee and it was kept from the public (Daniel Roth,2016). Subsequently, the engagement of Israeli Olympic players in regional competitions. Israel wants to participate in the Global Expo 2020 in Dubai. However, the Expo was postponed due to Covid-19 Pandemic, but it was rescheduled for the month of November 2021(Ami Rokjes Dambe,2019). Moreover, Israeli officials paid secret visit to UAE, namely Israeli sport and culture minister Miri Regev visit to Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. She participated and surprise while Israel national Anthem was played and Saga Muki won the gold medal in the Judo Olympic in Qatar (Toi Staff,2018); Ayyub Kara, The Israeli Minister of Telecommunication participated at Global Telecommunication Conference (AFP2018); Afterwards, in 2018, Israel prime minister Netanyahu along with Mossad spy agency chief Yossi Cohen secretly visit Abu Dubai crown prince MBZ (Mohammed Bin Zayed).

U.S, Israel and UAE Trilateral Meeting

On 17th Dec 2019, the White House organised a secret meeting between Israeli national security advisor Meir Ben Shabbat and UAE ambassador to U.S Yousuf Al Otaiba for the collaboration against Iran, but the main purpose of the meeting was normalisation of the relationships of the aforementioned countries. They argued the temporary processes to diplomatic ties. Afterwards, the UAE foreign minister stated in the twitter, that Islam needs reforms, as well as a joint UAE-Israel partnership in West Asia. Subsequently, Netanyahu shared the news regarding the rebuilding of UAE and Israel contacts with his cabinet.

The Abraham Accords

Jared Kushner (White House Senior Advisor), Mike Pompeo (Secretary of State), David Friedman (US Ambassador to Israel), Avi Berkowitz (US Middle East Envoy), and Robert O'Brien (President Trump National Security Advisor) were the key mediators of the Abraham Accords. Moreover, on 13th Aug 2020 UAE and Israel reached to a full normalisation of ties.

Furthermore, UAE did not recognise Israel prior to the signing of the agreement. While the deal signed Otaiba said that "It is not only a win for diplomacy, but also the region as well", and "a vital enhance in the UAE and Israel connections in order to decrease the tensions and build a new energy for a positive region". In return, Israel stops sovereignty over the West bank and further annexation, allowing the pilgrims to Al Aqsa Mosque. Furthermore, Abraham Accord will open a gateway for Emirate to acquire American Stealth Technology like F-35 fighter Jets. Positively, the Trump administration confirmed the sale of 50 F-35A Stealth Fighter Jets, and advanced drones. In return, UAE will exterminate, the UN Agency for Palestinian refugees (Jewish Virtual Library, A project of ice, 13 Aug 2020).

On 15 September 2020, it was signed in the White House between U.S president Donald Trump, Israel prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nabyan. There were certain ingredients, namely the permanent establishment of diplomatic contacts, like the opening of the embassies., Flights; defence, energy, agriculture, education sectors, and so on.

The Winners of Abraham Accords

US Whitehouse called this agreement as "the Abraham Accords", but They gave preference to "the Summit of ISMAEL and ISAAC" or "The Treaty of Ghent". On the other hand, it ca not be called as a treaty because Israel and UAE were not at war at all, because treaties will be between disputing parties. The winners of the deal are the following people (Jaffrey Goldberge, 16 September 2020

1) UAE: Mohammed Ben Zayed al Nahyan(MBZ), who is the crown prince of Abu Dubai. He stated that the agreement is very important for Emirate, and our country does not have profound popularity with the democrat party. However, if Biden elects, we will start hopeful and constructive contacts with him.

2) Saudi Arabia: Mohammed Ben Salman(MBS) stated that Bahrain really needs this deal, but MBS did not make any audacious and public move. Furthermore, he made a bold statement, that the Democrats know me, that he is a moderate and a constructive leader, but I am not a murderer of the critics. Moreover, in 2018, MBS stated, "I conceive that, all people have the right to live anywhere in their respected nations, even the Palestinians and Israeli have the inclusive right to live in their own motherlands". It implies, that it was an open invitation to the Arab states to strengthen their contacts with Israel.

3) Israel: The prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu will advantage from this deal from these three factors: A)

Because of the peace agreement, he changed the attention of people, because he mishandled the covid-19 pandemic. B) Netanyahu started the relations with the Arab Leaders, but not with Palestine. C), He became in the international stage a champion, because of the Israeli votes, that he initiated the normalization of the relations with Arab states. In additions, he got positive reviews for his political future. Now travel from Israel to Dubai, Abu Dubai, Oman, Morocco, Sudan will finally lift the isolation of Israel in the region.

4) US: The US president Donald Trump can take as a credit from his followers, that he brought peace in West Asia. It will be a step for to his "The Deal of the Century".

The Losers of the Abraham Accords

Iran and The Palestine Authority are called the losers to Israel and UAE peace deal. Their reactions are stated under the following:

A) Iran: UAE along with other gulf members and Israeli leadership have a joint secret coordination with each other against their common adversary (Iran) for more than 10 years. The normalization of the inter-Israel-Arabs' connections in the gulf, incentivize allies against any enemy and terror groups, that disturbs the stability, territorial integrity of the region (Stanly Johny, 14 Aug 2020).

B) Palestine: There is a harsh and disastrous joke in Saudi Arabia, "what is the difference between Benjamin Netanyahu Likude Party and Arab Leaders". The Arab leaders really hate the Palestinians. On the other hand, Most of the West Asian countries (The Gulf States), they warned to the Palestine Authority, that we are tired of the Rejectionism and Obduracy of Palestinians. Instead, the Gulf states with the long time alliance of high technological development. According to the deal, Netanyahu used the word of Suspend, that he would not annex the West Bank, and he boasted that, according to Netanyahu doctrines, I will prefer peace for peace, rather than land for peace (Isabel Kershner & Adam Rasgon, 14 Aug 2020).

Reactions to Abraham Accords

A) Domestic: Israel and UAE leader introduced the deal to their citizen indifferently. UAE crown prince said, that Israel will stop the annexation plan, and it will be the sustainable and enduring support for the people of Palestine. For Netanyahu, it will be a big transformation from the political and economic debacle to the election campaign. And help for his party win in the general election. The people of the UAE, especially, the 21st Century young generation are very supportive of the deal. They are despondent to the rise of Iran destabilisation in the region and the Post-Arab spring uprising (PTI, 16 Aug 2020).

B) Regional: There were lots of positive and negative responses to their bonds, namely 1) **Iran:** Moreover, after the ratification of the Abraham Accord Iranian Foreign Ministry denounced and called it as a strategic idiocy, as well as a stab of UAE on the back of the people of Palestine. Afterwards, The IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps) reiterated in very harsh terms that normalization of UAE and Israel interconnectedness parallel to a Strategic Idiocy, and it will bring a very dangerous future in the United Arab Emirates Authority. Subsequently, on the same day, the Iranian president Hassan Rouhani said that the agreement is likewise betrayal. He further insisted that, if UAE brings Israel to the Gulf region, they'll be treated diversely. On the contrary UAE foreign Ministry summoned Iran Envoy regarding threatening and provocation of tensions in the Middle East. In additions, the Mohammad Bagheri chief of staff of Iranian armed forces warned on the 16 may that substantially change its position in the region and the IRGC will view on UAE on different

parameters. He reiterated again If any small mistake in the gulf region happened to the Islamic republic, armed forces, then UAE will be the sole accountable and Iran cannot permit it. On the other hand, Iran Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei stated depicted the unawareness of Palestine, but also a foothold of Israel in the region. Moreover, he further stated that UAE betrayed the Islamic community, the Arab countries, particularly Palestine.

The comment of Khamenei came after Israeli and diplomat landed in Abu Dubai through the first Israeli commercial flight to Israel. Khamenei said, Jews in trump family. The IRGC in their slogans use the terms against Israel like Cancerous tumor, Global Arrogance and The great Satan (Mysam Dehnavesh, Hamidreza Azizi, 2020). **2. Turkey:** Turkey criticized the deal between Israel and UAE, and Turkey President Erdogan called the accord as a School Boy and clear betrayal to a Palestinian state cause. Furthermore, Erdogan instructed the Foreign ministry of Turkey to recall its envoy and close all diplomatic ties with UAE because of Turkey fidelity with Palestine People (Burak Bekdil, 2020). On the other hand, the deal is a blow to Israel because of Turkey East Mediterranean natural gas resources, and its involvement along with UAE in Libya. Turkey supporting of Islamist groups in order to cordon off UAE Middle East agenda. **3. Palestine:** The normalization of UAE and Israel relations undermines the 2002 Arab world initiatives. UAE left Palestine Authority and called Hamas as a terrorist organization. Palestine president Mahmoud Abbas and his advisors exasperated from the Dubai Crown prince MBZ (Mohammed Bin Zayed) because he made a fracture within PA and established relations with his rival Mohammed Dahlan who is accountable for the normalization of ties between Emirate and Israel (Yoel Guzansky & Ari Heinstein, 2020).

Furthermore, the Palestine President called the agreement as betrayal to the people of Palestine, Jerusalem and Al Aqsa Mosque. Abbas called on Emirate to backtrack from the deal because it is a despicable decision. In addition to that he recalled Palestine Ambassador from Abu Dubai (Aaron Boxerman, 2020). **4. Other Countries:** The countries across the world reacted positive and negatively. India welcomed the deal. On the other hand, Pakistan said the deal has wide-ranging consequences. Most of the Muslim countries denounced. However, Jordan and Egypt, Bahrain welcomed the deal, but Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Morocco silenced. The European Union, The US and United Nations welcome. However, the Muslim people across the world denounced it (John Cherian, 2020).

C) International: There is geopolitical rivalry between the US, and China in the West Asia, particularly the China and Iran energy engagement. However, Israel and UAE have friendly ties with China. On the other, hand, there is involvement of Russia in the region as well. In nutshell, US, Russia and China have close monitoring the responses in the region.

Challenges

The normalization of ties between the UAE, and Israel will create three major challenges:

1) The Israel alliance with the Arab countries will create a Sunni-led bloc against Shia in West Asia. There will be two blocs, namely Saudi Arabia and Iran. It will help to contain Iran geopolitical presence in the West Asia region. However, the bloc will incentivize ideological tensions between Sunni and Shia. Even though, it will spread to Nigeria, Pakistan and Indonesia. One of the objectives of the deal is containment of Iran threats to the national security of UAE.

2) The deal between Israel, and the Gulf Arab states will

isolate the Palestine Authority and it will recognize the Hamas and those groups who want to fight for the reclamation of Palestine occupied Land. In additions, it would subvert the Palestine national movements. At the end, Palestine will lose the whole land.

3) On the other hand, Turkey was against the deal irrespective of Turkey has relations with Israel since 1949. That's why it broke its relationships with UAE. It would raise Islamic extremists like Muslim brotherhood, who have been financing by Turkey, and they will bring disturbances to the region. As they have seen in Libya and Nagorno-Karabakh.

4) The peace deal will bring Israel foothold the gulf region, and it will bring Iran and Israel into wars, which creates human loss and environment destruction. The contentions may expand for a long time.

CONCLUSION

The Normalization of peace agreement between UAE and Israel assisted by the U.S. Moreover, it is called the most vital deal which brings possible changes in the geopolitical status quo of west Asia, North Africa and beyond. This agreement is for the furtherance of their powerful economies across the region. Here are the key takeaways of the peace agreement between these two nations:

1) The deal establishes normalization of full diplomatic ties between Israel and Palestine. In consideration of this agreement Israel will stop based on the commitment of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the annexation program of the West Bank, which is the biggest desire of Palestine. However, the annexation is stopped beyond the promises.

2) UAE became 3rd Arab countries after Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994) which established its full ties and recognized Israel as an independent State.

3) Within the bilateral meeting of the two countries' officials, will open a gateway for the following essentials:

- A. Spur of Investment
- B. Tourism
- C. Direct flights within Israel and UAE
- D. Security pact
- E. Technology, Energy and Tele-Communication and Information Technology
- F. Cultural, Healthcare, Environment and other programs.

4) According to the remarks of Mahmoud Abbas, it is a betrayal to the two State solution of Palestine and Israel.

5) On the other hand, Hamas which has control over the Gaza Strip, called the agreement within them a stab on the back of Palestine people.

6) In return for the Palestinians than Israel will go beyond the annexation plan. On the contrary, it is a fruitless compromise and Palestinians won't get an independent state.

7) In regards to the suppositions, UAE won't take Saudi king family accord for the establishment of connections with Israel.

8) Israel had secret relations with UAE because if the Arab countries' dethrone, then all the Muslim Sunni countries will establish a bloc Iran against Iran.

9) The agreement will expand all over the world, particularly Pakistan in South Asia wants to mend its ties Israel since the times of Benazir Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif and recently in December 2020 Imran Khan government. However, it did not divulge.

10) The deal is for the regional equation as well as isolation of

Iran ideological and geopolitical in the region and it is a promising achievement for U.S president Donald Trump. Whereas, it won't bring peace to Palestine.

On the other hand, Israel and UAE revealed two factors:

A) The relation from Secrecy became public. All the GCC along with Jordan, Morocco, Egypt and Sudan have secret intelligence which some of them became vivid.

B) The agreement between Israel and UAE became international. Israel will not be further isolated. Recently Bhutan established its full relations.

In a nutshell, the deal between Israel and UAE is for the revitalization of Emirate political system, because it faces within its domestic challenges, Iran threats, Security challenges, safety of the ruling party and stoppage to the Zionism plans.

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