

Alma Education & Research Center
Anti-Semitic Expression in Syrian Media: *The Grave Shattering Community*



“The Grave Shattering Community,” referring to the Allawi community, is the title given to the caricature by the Syrian Opposition on social media pages.

In the caricature, created by the Syrian Caricaturist, Mwafaq Katt, you can see Syrian soldiers smashing Sunni graves and next to them, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad points to the grave of Eli Cohen (the Israeli spy in Syria, executed in the 1960’s) with a David’s shield (Magen David) symbol on the headstone, telling the soldiers: “Keep this grave safe”

The post was captioned with the following statement: *“Despite the multitude of events and ugliness of some, history has not told us about the ugliness and impurity and filth of this faith, that at the center of this faith is the shattering of the graves of the dead. Assad, the criminal of Syria is from the descent of this faith.”*

These statements and caricature clearly express the hatred and animosity towards the Allawi religion, the Syrian government, and towards its supporters, the Shiite axis. Moreover, it is meant to perpetuate Assad as a traitor, for putting more care to secure the grave of Eli Cohen rather than respect the graves of Syrians even if they fought against him and his regime.

The Coronavirus Crisis in Iran:



Above: Senior cleric Ayatollah Akram Shirazi (twitter)

The number of deaths in Iran accounted for the virus is estimated at hundreds of thousands. Many of the dead are buried hastily in mass graves. Iran is now considered one of the three most severely affected countries along with China and Italy.

Dozens of Iranian senior officials from the government, parliament, Revolutionary Guards and clerics were infected or died as a result of the virus.

The most prominent among the infected are the Minister of Industry, dozens of MPs and senior officials of the Supreme Leader Khamenei's bureau. The most senior affected is Ali Akbar Velayati head of Khamenei's bureau and his most senior adviser.

Notable among the dead are two Revolutionary Guard generals, Deputy Chief of the Judiciary, Commander of the Basij Brigades in Tehran, Former Deputy Foreign Minister who was one of the founders of the Hezbollah organization (see details in last week's report), and a number of MPs. Mass prayers have been banned in mosques in general and on Fridays in particular, which is an exception in a country like the Republic of Iran.

In a very unusual statement from 12 March, senior cleric Ayatollah Akram Shirazi noted that if Israel should develop a unique vaccine for the Coronavirus, the vaccine would be permitted for use.

On 12 March, Supreme Leader Khamenei commanded Iranian Armed Forces commander Muhammad Hussein Bakry, to establish a control headquarters to fight the virus and stop its spreading. The commanding headquarters declared that over the next few days, all Iranian citizens would be reviewed through diagnostics of the social networks and apps in order to form a clearer picture of the extent of the spreading of the virus.

Source: [Alma's Weekly Report \(10-15 March 2020\)](#)