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## SATBA inks 15-year power purchase deal with Iran's only biogas power plant

**TEHRAN** – Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA) has signed a deal with the Water and Wastewater Department of Tehran Province to purchase the electricity generated by the country's only biogas power plant which is run by the mentioned department.

According to the Deputy Head of Water and Wastewater Department of Tehran Province, Abbasali Mesrzadeh,

based on the deal SATBA is going to purchase about 500 billion kilowatt-hours (Kwh) of electricity over a 15-year period at a base price of 10,500 rials (\$2.5), the portal of the Energy Ministry, PAVEN reported.

As reported, the mentioned deal has been signed following a government directive that obliges the Energy Ministry to buy the electricity produced by renewable power plants. **→4**

## 13 Security Council members oppose U.S. bid to return UN bans on Iran

**TEHRAN** – Thirteen countries out of the 15-member UN Security Council have expressed their opposition to the U.S. bid to reimpose the UN sanctions on Iran, arguing that Washington's move is void given it is using a process under a nuclear deal that it quit more than two years ago.

It came after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's Thursday announcement, which notified the world that the U.S. has

triggered a 30-day countdown to a return of the UN sanctions on Iran, including an arms embargo.

According to Reuters, long-time U.S. allies Britain, France, Germany and Belgium as well as China, Russia, Vietnam, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Indonesia, Estonia and Tunisia have written letters in opposition. **→3**

## Leader praises Afshin Ala poem denouncing Israel, UAE deal

**TEHRAN** – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, praised Iranian poet Afshin Ala for poetry that criticizes the United Arab Emirates' deal to forge ties with Israel.

Ala published a long poem last week in response to the deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates intended to fully normalize relations, which follows a history of peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians and their Arab allies.

The poem composed in 34 verses is full of praise for Iran and Hezbollah's Secretary-General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah for their resistance against the Zionist regime and denouncement of the UAE for the deal.

"The poem you composed against the Arab leaders was really opportune and timely; thank you very much," Ayatollah Khamenei wrote in a message to Ala published on Saturday. **→12**



**ARTICLE**  
**ZHANG Yuan**  
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## The relationship between great powers in the epidemic control stage: Not a zero-sum game

The number of people diagnosed with coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has been rising, and the second wave of coronavirus might worsen the situation. The pandemic has triggered a global recession; unemployment rate reached an all-time high, and the public's anxiety surges.

People are anxious about economic decline. In the meantime, with the purpose of shifting domestic focus, the United States, a superpower, continuously created an artificially offensive external environment.

In the context of fighting the pandemic, the communication relationship between great powers countries is stumbling. No matter what relation pattern for great power would be in the future, at least it should not be a zero-sum game. A benign cooperative relationship between countries would be better to avoid misunderstandings and misjudgments. On the contrary, a pursuing of the zero-sum game political model will result in disaster, which harming national prestige, missing the timing of the implementation of more important domestic policies, undermining the unity of existing alliances, and ultimately dissipating country power.

To handle even greater challenges caused by this pandemic, the mutual assistance model between major countries is far superior to the aggressive confrontation model.

### 1. Political strengthening of global hegemony will not help prevent the spread of the virus

As the world's only superpower, the United States does not have enough moral responsibility. The U.S. government's responding to the epidemic is not efficient enough, while the Trump administration, with the ambition of maintaining global hegemony without taking up more international responsibilities, still turned its political focus to criticizing China. In fact, according to the Pew Research Center statistics, more than 60% of Americans say compared with other wealthy countries, the U.S. response to the coronavirus outbreak has been less effective. **→7**

## With snapback gambit, U.S. puts its veto power in danger

**TEHRAN** – The U.S. move to trigger a return of all UN sanctions on Iran strategically puts the U.S. veto power in danger given the widespread opposition to its measure, an analyst tells the Tehran Times.

With 13 countries on the UN Security Council expressing their outright opposition to the U.S. bid to restore the international sanctions on Iran, the U.S. finds itself more isolated than ever. As the U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo submitted a letter of complaint to the Security Council, the reactions began to pour in.

According to a Reuters report, 13 countries out of 15 on the Council rejected the U.S. move in letters they sent to the president of the Security Council.

On Thursday, Pompeo traveled to New York to "notify" the Security Council of a "significant non-performance" by Iran of its obligations under the 2015 nuclear deal as defined in the UN Security Council Resolution 2231. However, most Security

Council members strongly questioned the legality of the U.S. measure. They said with one voice that the U.S. had no legal authority to initiate the snapback process, a mechanism built into the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) to allow the parties to the deal to restore the international sanctions on Iran in case it didn't uphold its obligations under the nuclear deal.

"France, Germany, and the United Kingdom ("the E3") note that the US ceased to be a participant to the JCPOA following their withdrawal from the deal on May 8, 2018. Our position regarding the effectiveness of the US notification pursuant to resolution 2231 has consequently been very clearly expressed to the Presidency and all UNSC Members. We cannot, therefore, support this action which is incompatible with our current efforts to support the JCPOA," the E3 foreign ministers said in a joint statement, moments after the U.S. submitted its letter to the UN. **→2**

## U.S. protests: Police shooting death of African American sparks protests in California

By staff & agencies

The fatal shooting of an African American has sparked demonstrations against police violence in the U.S. city of Pasadena, California, with protesters calling on the city's officials to hold law enforcement to account for the man's death.

Anthony McClain, the 32-year-old father of three, was shot and killed during a traffic stop last week, with police claiming that the man had pulled a handgun while running from officers.

On Thursday, California police released the video of the shooting that left the black man dead in Pasadena at the weekend, prompting protests and community outrage.

In the footage, McClain can be seen fleeing on foot with what appears to be something shiny around his waistband which police claimed was a pistol.

After running a short distance with officers chasing him, McClain turned and looked at them over his right shoulder. Police said they feared

he was turning back to shoot at them, and so the officer closest to McClain shot at him twice.

He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died from his injuries.

Caree Harper, the McClain family's attorney, rejected the officers' claims and said what police saw on the video was a large metal belt buckle not a weapon. **Press TV reported.**

The Police Department has so far refused to release the names of the law enforcement officers involved in the fatal encounter.

Since the deadly shooting on Saturday, protesters have gathered outside Pasadena's municipality as well as the home of Pasadena Councilman Victor Gordo to demand the officers in McClain's death be charged.

On one occasion, a crowd gathered at the scene of the incident and broke through police tape surrounding the site, with a man shouting and cursing at officers. **→10**

## Hezbollah will not give Israel opportunity to attack Lebanon: Naim Qassem

By staff & agencies

Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem says the Lebanese resistance movement will neither allow Israel nor its sponsors the chance to launch an aggression against Lebanon, warning the Tel Aviv regime and its allies of a heavy price.

"We will neither give Israel nor anyone who recognizes it the opportunity to launch an attack without paying the price. We will not capitulate to those who wish to rob us of our honor and victory..."

We want to protect Lebanon, its sovereignty and independence, whereas they [those who recognize Israel] do not care if Israel is still occupying our lands," Sheikh Qassem said during a ceremony in the Lebanese capital Beirut late on Friday.

Sheikh Qassem dismissed allegations that this month's vast explosion in Beirut that killed 178 people, injured more than 6,000 others and destroyed swathes of the city was caused by a blast from a deposit of Hezbollah arms, emphasizing that such absurd claims have failed to undermine

the resistance movement's prowess.

"All allegations that Hezbollah used to store weapons at the port, warehouse massive amounts of ammonium nitrate there, and knew about their presence before the vast explosion have been vehemently rejected," he pointed out.

On August 18, Lebanon's President Michel Aoun dismissed as "impossible" suggestions that the August 4 catastrophic explosion was caused by a blast from a deposit of Hezbollah arms, but said all possibilities would be investigated. **→10**



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## Volunteer doctors offering services in deprived areas

A group of volunteer physicians have been dispatched to deprived areas of Tabriz, northwestern East Azarbaijan province, offering free of charge services to the underprivileged people in the region, August 22, 2020.

In Iran, National Doctor's Day is commemorated on the first day of the sixth calendar month of Shahrivar (this year falling on August 22) commemorating the birthday of Avicenna, the distinguished Iranian physician who is regarded as the father of modern medicine.

## A peek into cemetery tourism in Iran

By Afshin Majlesi

**TEHRAN** – Tourism is one of the fastest-growing phenomena in our modern world. It always makes new changes to have unforgettable experiences, to create new travel motivators, and to reach new markets. Such a trend results in new tourist spots which were unthinkable only a few years ago!

In fact, travel marketers and tour operators contribute to such novel ideas in response to the soaring request of clients for new excitements and knowledge in the search of weird, bizarre, and unique memories.

It may seem peculiar to you but cemeteries as bridges between the present and the past, and the living and the dead, have been drawing their own fans both in groups or individuals each having specific interests.

Iran, a cradle of civilization, which is well soaked in history and culture, never disappoints cultural travelers with almost every taste even ones interested in cemetery tourism.

For intense, consider Shahr-e Yeri, known as the "city of the mouthless"! It is a unique archaeological site and cemetery in northwest Iran, embracing an Iron-Age fortress, three prehistorical temples, and tens of carved stones on which mouthless faces are depicted, all stretched across 400 hectares of several small hills.

The country is also home to a great number of brick tomb towers. Top on the list may be ones dedicated to the Prophet Habakkuk in Hamedan province. Kharagan twin tomb towers in Qazvin province and the UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus in Golestan province are amongst others to name a few. **→8**

# UAE-Israel agreement will threaten the national security of the region: Qatari analyst

BY Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — Saleh Gharib, a Qatari analyst, is of the opinion that the new peace agreement between the UAE and Israel, which is known as the Abraham Accord, will threaten Arab countries and Iran's interests by bringing Israel to the region.

"The normalization agreement between the Emirates and Israel will destabilize the region and threaten Israel's national security," Gharib tells the Tehran Times.

Under the agreement, which was brokered by U.S. President Donald Trump and announced on August 13, Israel has promised to suspend the annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank.

However, just hours after the announcement Benjamin Netanyahu said he remained committed to the annexation plan.

The announcement of the agreement has sparked a bitter row in Arab social media.

"This is not in the interest of the region and its stability to bring Israel to the region and threaten the national security of Arab countries and Iran," says Gharib.

While the world, and the Arabs in particular, was astonished by the accord, some questions were raised regarding the agreement and its content, including details of normalization of relations, recognition, and cooperation between the UAE and Israel in a variety of areas.

Gharib says the Emirates' move to normalize ties with Israel was not a surprise to him as he has been visiting and monitoring countries of the region, including the Emirates.

"Israel has been present in the Emirates for a long time; for example, its presence in the GITEX Dubai and Dubai Airshow and also in Abu Dhabi exhibitions, but under the names of British companies," Gharib reveals.

Regarding Emirates-Israel close cooperation, he points to the assassination of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh in a hotel room in Dubai on January 19, 2010.

The assassination of al-Mabhouh, a co-founder of the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, is a vivid example of coordination between the Emirates and Israel, according to the Qatari journalist.

"We were asking how this happened, as Dubai has a control camera on every road that monitors every move. However, the assassination team entered and killed al-Mabhouh



and left the Emirates without being stopped by the security authorities at Dubai Airport," Gharib states.

The Qatari writer criticizes former Dubai Police Chief Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalifa who had said, "We spotted the assassination team. There is a video that shows them at the passport checkpoint at Dubai Airport."

The analyst asks: "If they had had this information, why didn't they arrest the assassination team when they knew that the Palestinian leader would be murdered?"

Gharib says this means that there is a coordination between Israeli and Emirati security authorities, even if it is done secretly.

He adds, "Meetings were held between the two sides in secret, including when Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed met Netanyahu in Washington and had to enter the hotel stealthily so that no one would see him, as well as his visit to the Zionist regime."

However, now Abu Dhabi has publicly announced normalization of ties with Israel which many Arabs consider a major betrayal to the Palestinian cause. It also will undermine the decisions of the Arab League.

Responding to a question about the advantages of the Abraham Accord for the Trump administration, Gharib says, "It is support for Trump because they know that he will not win the next election, as well as Netanyahu, given what Israel suffers from internally."

He predicts some other Arab countries

in the Persian Gulf, including Saudi Arabia, will normalize ties with Israel. He also says Bahrain and Sudan are on the way to follow the example of the UAE.

Asked about if the normalization agreement would give Israel legitimacy or may guarantee the survival of some rulers in Arab sheikhdoms, Gharib says, "The Emirates' normalization of ties with the Israeli regime and the countries that are going to establish a relationship with Israel, especially Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, is considered an attempt by their princes to strengthen their status."

The analyst says in these three countries (the UAE, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia) the crown princes plan to ascend the position of king. For example, he says, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed is now the crown prince of Abu Dhabi, and in light of the health condition of Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, he is the one who runs the state.

He says Saudi Prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) is also pursuing such a policy. "Prince Muhammad bin Salman wants to suppress his rivals and take the power after his father King Salman, but the international community cannot accept him due to his human rights record. Murdering Jamal Khashoggi, trying to assassinate al-Jabri and imprisoning political activists, have forced him to make more concession to the American president before he leaves the White House, and this normalization is an attempt

to legitimize them to stay in power."

On whether countries like Saudi Arabia and Emirates prioritize normalizing relations with their neighbors rather than Israel, Gharib says the UAE's pursuit of normal ties with the Israel is surprising.

"The Emirates is hostile to a neighboring country, Qatar, but allows Israeli citizens to visit the country and exchange flights with Israel."

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt broke off ties with Qatar three years ago, accusing it of "supporting terrorism." They closed off their land, airspace, and territorial waters to Qatar.

Saudi Arabia also prohibits the Qatari citizens from Umrah and Hajj pilgrimages or visiting their families in Saudi Arabia. Bahrain has also put in place visa requirement for the Qatari citizens.

"They are also hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran while establishing a close relationship with the real enemy, which is the Zionist regime," Gharib laments. "Iran, Turkey, and Qatar are Muslim countries, while the Emirates rushing to cooperate with the real enemy, Israel, rather than with Iran or Turkey."

Gharib says this is not in the interests of the region and stability to bring Israel to the region, threatening the national security of the neighboring countries and provoking Iran.

Regarding possibilities of a change in the policies of Persian Gulf countries that insist on aligning themselves against Iran and Turkey, the political analyst believes that after the UAE's agreement with Israel, the policies of those countries will greatly change against Iran and Turkey. "Consequently, Israel will cooperate with them or act to help them carry out their policies in the region."

Regarding the timing of the Abraham Accord, Gharib points to the upcoming American elections and President Trump's efforts to be re-elected, saying this hastened the signing of the agreement between Israel and the UAE.

"Otherwise, we did not find any reason to sign such a disastrous agreement, as Israel is far from the Emirates, and there were no problems between them," he opines.

"The UAE did not make proposals in favor of the Palestinian cause, but it signed a humiliating agreement. It is a concession to the U.S. administration because they know well if Trump fails to reach the White House, they will fall," concludes Gharib.

## How can a plonker like Pompeo know anything about the Ayatollahs?

By Kevin Barrett

Iran's Foreign Minister Zarif has said that the Trump administration has once again disgraced itself by going to the United Nations and trying to trigger the snapback provisions of the JCPOA nuclear agreement with Iran that the U.S. actually left. And the entire world is laughing at the United States and at Trump and Pompeo for their grotesquely irrational attempt to say that the U.S. can trigger snapback because it's somehow still in the deal, even though Trump made such a huge show of leaving the deal shortly after he assumed office.

So, Trump and Pompeo say "we're in the deal, even though we're out of the deal." And the whole world is having none of it. And so Pompeo is crying and throwing a tantrum claiming that the entire world is siding with "the Ayatollahs."

Well, maybe that's true. And maybe that's because the "Ayatollahs" are obviously right about this. The Ayatollah is the highest level of the Shia clergy in Iran. They are very well educated. Even people who don't come anywhere near reaching the level of Ayatollah are vastly better educated than people like Donald Trump and Mike Pompeo.

Anyone who goes through the elementary religious scholarship training in Iran, even at the elementary level, gets very rigorous classical education based on the classical Greek trivium with logic, rhetoric, and public speaking and then on to higher levels.

So, the Ayatollahs are some of the best-educated people in the entire world. People who didn't know that should read the book *Mantle of the Prophet* by Roy Mottahedeh, one of the very best and most influential books in English on the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

So, you don't really have to be at the level of an Ayatollah - at the level of the best classically educated people in the entire world - to know that based on elementary logic, you can't be in the deal if you left the deal and you're out of the deal. But apparently, people like Trump and Pompeo don't understand that.

And frankly, Pompeo is a pathetic representative of the educational level and the intellectual level of American Christians. There are some very bright and very brilliant American Christians, of course, people like... the Process School of Theology led by people like John Cobb and David Ray Griffin. But the right-wing Zionist Christians, by and large, are a bunch of grade schools flunk-outs. Even their so-called universities are a joke. And their leaders like Mike Pompeo—he couldn't get out of kindergarten in the Iranian religious scholarship training. And maybe that's why he's trying to force this blatantly irrational position on the entire world. And then, when the world laughs him out of the United Nations, he rolls on the ground and beats the ground with his fists and cries and has a temper tantrum.

The United States is becoming more and more of an inter-



national embarrassment. And whatever happens in the next election, it's going to take a long time for us to recover what reputation we previously had in the world. As an American, I'm embarrassed to have people like Trump and Pompeo representing me. And frankly, I'll be happy to admit that the Ayatollahs are vastly more qualified to use elementary logic and make decisions, including political decisions, than idiots like Pompeo.

Kevin Barrett is an American author, journalist, and radio host with a Ph.D. in Islamic and Arabic Studies. He has been studying the events of 9/11 since late 2003.

(Source: Press TV)

## Libya: from Haftar's offensive to ceasefire promise

Libya's rival administrations on Friday announced a ceasefire, more than a year after warlord Khalifa Haftar launched an offensive to seize the capital Tripoli from the UN-recognized government.

Fighting in Libya's nearly decade-long conflict has, since April 2019, killed hundreds and displaced some 200,000.

Here is a timeline.

### Haftar orders advance

On April 4, 2019, Haftar orders his troops to advance on Tripoli, seat since 2016 of the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), which he claims is backed by "terrorist" groups.

Haftar supports a rival administration based in the eastern city of Tobruk, and his forces already control the country's main oil fields in the south.

The increase in tensions comes several days before a national conference, long under preparation at the United Nations, to establish a political way forward for the chaotic country.

The next day, the UN Security Council calls on Haftar's forces to halt their advance.

On April 7, the GNA announces it has launched a counteroffensive.



On April 19, the White House says U.S. President Donald Trump recognized Haftar's "significant role in fighting terrorism and securing Libya's oil resources."

In a blow to the ambitious commander's campaign, GNA forces retake the town of Gharyan on June 26, the main supply base for Haftar's forces southwest of Tripoli.

### International involvement

On November 27, Turkey and the GNA sign a deal covering military cooperation and maritime boundaries, allowing Ankara to claim rights over areas coveted by other countries including Greece.

A UN report on December 10 accuses

several countries of breaching a 2011 arms embargo by supplying both camps.

On January 5, 2020, Turkey announces the deployment of Turkish troops to Libya.

### Fragile ceasefire

Turkey and Russia broker a ceasefire that comes into effect on January 12.

The next day in Moscow, GNA chief Fayez al-Sarraj signs the deal - but Haftar leaves a day later without doing so.

### Mercenaries

UN experts confirm in early May that mercenaries from the Wagner Group, a Russian paramilitary organization said to be close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, are fighting in Libya in support of Haftar, alongside Syrian fighters from Damascus.

Pro-Turkish Syrian fighters have also been sent to help the GNA, Ankara confirms in February.

Since then hundreds of Russian mercenaries have been evacuated from the Tripoli front.

Government takes back control  
On May 18, the unity government says its forces have seized the strategic Al-Watiya air base, 140 kilometers (90 miles) southwest of Tripoli, the latest setback for Haftar.

## The relationship between great powers in the epidemic control stage: Not a zero-sum game

1 → Today, if the superpower merely emphasizes political hegemony and attempts to protect itself in isolation but does not use its comprehensive strength to help other countries fight against the epidemic and boost the global economy, spreading the virus and recession would have a boomerang effect on itself. An irrational and unpredictable superpower cannot eternally sustain its original centripetal forces.

### Propaganda war undermine the confidence of mutual trust

Currently, the active form of confrontation is the propaganda war. The superpower actively selects opponents in diplomatic situations, use fierce words, unfounded accusations, and fabricated information to discredit the so-called opponents' political system and ideology. On the one hand, the propaganda war is to cater to superpower's rising domestic populism; on the other hand, it is to shirk its responsibility to solve the fragmentation of society's problem. Beneath the superficial hostile policy lies a fading hegemony that is no longer confident and tolerant.

Groundless propaganda war will not really destroy a country's hard power, but really damages the country's credibility, and more seriously, it will destroy the psychological foundation of state-to-state cooperation. The goodwill and mutual trust between civilians are the basis for long-term, stable, and effective cooperation between countries.

### Artificially create tensions deteriorate the pre-existing security situation

China's staged success in the battle against COVID-19 has contrasted with the failure of those reckless and indulgent anti-epidemic policies in the U.S. As far as China is concerned, in the recent epidemic control stage, China is obviously facing hostility from the United States and some rich Western countries. Many of them deny China's achievements in fighting the epidemic, stigmatize China and demonize China by blaming China for those countries' own virus control failure.

The connivance of rumors targeting specific country's technology, suppression of technology companies of specific countries, interfering with other countries' internal affairs, closure of consulates, expediting arms sales, etc., measures created unnecessary tension worsened relations between great powers, complicated the political situation.

### Healthy relations between great powers need political wisdom

Responsible great powers should have forged the idea that the world is a community of shared future, and have confidence in responsible global community members, who believe that it must jointly deal with risks, jointly maintain peace and stability, and jointly create opportunities for economic development, rather than inciting conflicts and confrontations. The cold war mentality is not helpful in solving this serious crisis. Promoting the new cold war will cover up more important global issues, such as social injustice, racism, child hunger, and so on.

China believes the international community should proceed with globalization. However, the 'Five Eyes Alliance', which includes five Anglo-Saxon nations, has been engaged in decoupling, erecting walls, and deglobalization that will harm active international exchanges and cooperation that could have saved more lives. Development requires international cooperation, while the decision of who are close friends and how to cooperate are more sophisticated of political wisdom.

To avoid zero-sum games between great powers, we must be aware of the red line of interests that the other side will not compromise. A great mature power does not take the initiative to launch confrontation, but will not be afraid of injustice as well. The Chinese nation has never been driven down by adversity. What's more, the United States or the "Five Eyes Alliance" simply cannot represent the entire international community.

Dr. Yuan ZHANG is Professor and Director of the Religion in the Middle East (West Asia) Research Program of the Middle East (West Asia) Studies Institute (MESI) of Shanghai International Studies University (SISU).

## U.S. police declare 'riot' as protesters, officers clash in Portland

U.S. protesters have gathered outside a federal building in the restive city of Portland, Oregon continuing their daily demonstration against racial inequality and police brutality.

Protesters had gathered on early Saturday morning outside the Portland Police Bureau's (PPB) North Precinct when the Portland Police Department declared the demonstration was a riot.

"Multiple" arrests were made, and police fired projectiles to disperse the demonstrators gathered outside the North Precinct Community Policing Center.

Police said in a statement that service vehicles had been damaged, traffic blocked and bottles and eggs thrown at officers.

One officer had suffered a laceration to her leg, another officer's ankle was sprained, and several others sustained various "bumps and bruises," according to a police statement.

The protest was the latest in a string of protests that have been held on a daily basis since the May 25 police killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African-American man, who died after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Protests, including in Portland, have at times erupted into arson and violence, and federal officers sent into the North-western city have repeatedly clashed with crowds targeting the federal courthouse there.

Donald Trump, who has ordered law enforcement agencies to crack down on protesters, tweeted Saturday morning that he would send the national guard to Portland if requested.

"Another bad night of Rioting in Portland, Oregon. A small number of Federal troops there to protect courthouse and other Federal property only (great job!). Wanting to be asked by City & State to STOP THE RIOTS. Would bring in National Guard, end problem immediately. ASK!" he said.

Trump has repeatedly described Portland protests as "lawlessness," and praised the role of federal law enforcement officers during the rallies.

Last month, he announced "a surge of federal law enforcement into American communities plagued by violent crime."