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INVESTIGATING THE EFFECT OF DRUG EMBARGOES ON THE POLITICAL STABILITY OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, the embargo is one of the effective tools for putting pressure on the countries that do not give up to the wants of the superpowers. Embargoes are essentially enacted and enforced to create political instability in the intended countries. However, they, more than anything else, cause suffering and torture to the citizens. Based on the extant documents and reports, the embargoes imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran have caused it to sustain intensive shortages and bottlenecks especially in the areas of healthcare, drugs, and treatment, and this is a wastage of the Iranian citizens' health right and a vivid example of the human rights' violation. Despite the emphases made in the international treaties and conventions, particularly under the conditions of corona virus's outbreak in Iran and the world, some of the countries, including the US, are constantly increasing pressures on the people of Iran while disregarding the global wants and change the regime in Iran (by creating discontent and social uprising). The present study explicates the significance of the relationship between the embargoes imposed on Iran and its political stability (instability).

Keywords: Drug embargoes, Healthcare right, Health security, Political stability, Political instability

INTRODUCTION

1) Statement of the Problem:

Political stability is wanted by all countries and states. Therefore, the investigation of the political stability/instability reason(s) is amongst the most important subjects attended by the political sciences experts.

2) Importance of the Research:

Because political stability is the substructure of every country's power, progress, and development, it can be claimed that this research features an applied significance. On the other hand, this research can also possess applied and information-providing aspects because it can assist the pathological study of Iran's political stability/instability.

3) The necessity of Research:

Because the goal of the drug embargoes is destabilizing Iran politically, such a study can present an estimation of the effects of the embargoes on Iran's political stability and increase in Iran's political stability.

4) Study Goals:

The primary goal of this research is making aids in line with the enhancement of Iran's political stability and reducing the adverse effects of the drug embargoes on the health and decreasing the life losses of the Iranian citizens.

5) Questions:

The main question is that how do the drug embargoes influence the political stability or instability of Islamic Republic of Iran? The secondary other questions of this research is that how do the drug embargoes influence the health of Iranian citizens? And, are the drug embargoes vivid examples of the violation of Iranian citizens' healthcare right?

6) Hypotheses:

The main hypothesis is that "the motivation for enacting the drug embargoes against Iran exerts a significant effect on the political stability/instability of . The secondary hypotheses are: 1) the drug embargoes serve creating dissatisfaction in the Iranian citizens; 2) the enactment of the embargoes sets the ground for the creation of a feeling of deprivation in the Iranian citizens; and 3) the enactment of embargoes increases the costs of treatment for the Iranian citizens.

7) Variables:

The main variable of the present study is the Islamic Republic of Iran's political stability and the secondary variable is the drug embargoes.

8) Study Method:

Considering the fact that Because some basic concepts have been defined in this research paper, use will be made of documents, reports, statistics, and data to investigate the relationship between the study variables through a descriptive method. In the meanwhile, the factors leading to the creation of the phenomena and effects will be elaborated using an analytical method.

1. Study Background:

In this section, the studies and researches performed internally and externally about the embargoes will be introduced.

- 1) Torbat (2005) has investigated the direct costs stemming from the US embargoes against Iran and their effects on GDP in 2000 in a research paper.
- 2) Cordesman and Burke (2007) estimated the effects of the US embargoes on the costs of Iran's import of the military goods in a statistical investigation and showed that Iran's military imports have been reduced.
- 3) Hakim and Rashidian (2006) showed in some studies that the embargoes have increased the risk of capital in the region's stock exchange markets.
- 4) The international crisis group (2013) performed studies the results of which indicate that the embargoes have influenced the energy sector of Iran.
- 5) Yavari and Mohseni (2009) announced in their research that embargoes have reduced the non-petroleum products' export and capital goods' import but they have had no effect on the oil exports.
- 6) Aziznejad and Seydnurani (2009) investigated the effects of the US embargoes against Iran's economy till 2008 with an emphasis on Iran's foreign trade. Based on their results, Iran's energy sector has not been influenced by the embargoes till 2008 but the prices of Iran's capital goods imported from Europe have undergone increases from 7 to 10 percent since 2007.



- 7) Valizadeh (2012) investigated the efficiency of the embargoes in the international political economy.
- 8) Ziaee et al. (2013) dealt with the effects of embargoes on Iran's economy.
- 9) Marzban and Ostadzadeh (2015) investigated the effects of embargoes on the social welfare and oil production and sales and showed that they have influenced GDP up to 30%.
- 10) Ezzati and Salmani (2015) showed that embargoes indirectly result in a reduction in Iran's economic growth.
- 11) Fada'ei and Derakhshan (2014) showed the negative effects of embargoes on Iran's economic growth in their studies.
- 12) Ghaffari et al. (2013) showed in their studies that the currency exchange rate's increase brings about a reduction in real production.
- 13) The international institute of Taravosh performed field studies by asking questions about the rate of access to four groups of cancer drugs (mortality causes), asthma (a common disease in Iran), MS (daily discomforting disease) and Parkinson and surgery (diseases in need of high technologies) and revealed that the embargoes have exerted a large deal of effect on the health of Iranian people due to the reduction in their access to medications.
- 14) Farahani and Shabani (2013) offered statistics and declared that the embargoes have had no effects on tourism and its growth.
- 15) Faraji Dizaji (2012) showed in their studies that the embargoes have had significant effects on the key economic variables of Iran.
- 16) Aal-e-Kajbaf and Ansarian (2014) expressed in their studies that the embargoes exerted on Iran violate the health of the Iranian people.

Study Background Summary:

As it is clear, most of the studies and investigations signify the negative effects of embargoes on the various economy, energy, and science sectors and also underline their effects on the other sectors. However, the majority of the studies performed on the embargoes imposed on Iran pivot about the economy; a few numbers of them have dealt with the medical and drug embargoes. The present study's innovation is its effort for dealing with this issue and adding to the literature's richness and also its investigation and elucidation of the effect of the drug embargoes on the stability/instability of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2. Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations:

2.1.1. Political Stability:

The concept of "political stability/instability" features various aspects and this same issue has caused a lot of discrepancies about the definitions thereof. Lerner defines political stability as the preservation of the relative balance between the elites in various areas (Lerner, 1964). In this sense, the primary function of the political system is the preservation of the balance between the elites who advance the society's renovation process without its resulting in the occurrence of violent disintegrations in this process (Khajeh Sarvi, 2006, p.95). Rustow defines political stability concerning political legitimacy and believes that political stability originates from the existence of a balance between various kinds of legitimacies. In more precise terms, he defines



political stability as follows: the legitimacy of individuals + the legitimacy of institutions = political stability. From this perspective, political instability occurs when the balance between the institutional legitimacy and personal legitimacy of the rulers' changes. Therefore, political stability can be generally realized as the balance between the social structure and political structure. Better said, political stability is observed whenever consistency and coordination are established between the values and norms of the society and the values and norms of the political system otherwise instability and imbalance arise.

2.1.2. Political Instability:

Political instability refers to a situation wherein the existent political system is faced with challenges or crises and there comes about a likelihood of political changes. Under such circumstances, the effectiveness of the governmental organs is usually diminished; the economic activities are disrupted; the possibility of political violence is augmented; the domestic divergences and the foreigners' interventions are increased; the psychological and social security is weakened and the ground is set for the unexpected metamorphoses (Delavari, 2015, p.61).

When the society members are confronted with this choice that should they take part in the social disputes, armed revolution, and nonviolent civil resistance or do nothing, they will engage under some conditions in the social disputes like a demonstration, uprising, strike, domestic clashes and government's measures against the people who are aroused by the public strikes and collective (mass) clashes are methods of a fight with a closed political structure . Moreover, there is a high likelihood of the masses' participation in the rebels and demonstrations in a weak country in contrast to the strong ones because the weak governments neither can provide the public goods and services to the sufficient amount nor they are capable of identifying and punishing the rebellions (Skocpol, 1994, Burgoon, B 2006 & Atzili, 2010). Social disputes are preferred to revolutions because they need lesser effort and planning and they provide more individual protection for the participants (Chenoweth & Stephan, 2011). Furthermore, when the government (state) does not tolerate the social movements, the social disputes are preferred to the nonviolent resistance because the latter is not more riskless and effective than the former (Goldstone et al., 2010). In the end, if the people happen to justify dissatisfaction and bear witness to a given level of the movement's efficiency, the social disputes are preferred to sedentariness (social stagnation) (Karklins & Peterson, 1993).

2.1.3. Political Theories on Political Instability:

2.1.3.4. The Theory of Relative Deprivation and Political Instability:

The theory of relative deprivation pertains to Durkheim's tradition in sociology and it emphasizes the adverse effects of rapid social changes. According to Charles Tilley, this theory is rooted in the works of thinkers like Samuel Huntington, Chalmers Johnson, and Ted Robert Garr (Tilley, 2006).



The main assumption of all the theories on relative deprivation for the clarification of political instability that can be found in this literature under other titles like social disorganization, renovation, and theory of disruption/pressure is that some forms of failure and dissatisfaction that are created by various kinds of structural and functional imbalances in the society show up in the form of political violence or collective destabilizing actions (Rajabzadeh & Taleban, 2007, p.58). In the relative deprivation approach, the social change, particularly the rapid and hasty changes, are considered as destabilizing and cause the occurrence of social movements through certain social-psychological mechanisms that are termed relative deprivation or frustration. The people's violent behavior is the result of dissatisfaction which is per se the product of their relative deprivation signaling the existence of a gap and difference between what they want and what they think they can obtain. Therefore, based on the theory of relative deprivation, any social change causes the emergence of expectations in the people for better life without the providing of the required instruments for the supply of such expectations and this can in itself lead to political instability (Garr, 2000, pp.30-40). This perspective claims in the macro-level that the levels of the economic inequality influence the levels of social blockage thereby to structurally source the production of pressure and failure hence feeling of relative deprivation.

The theory of relative deprivation concentrates on the macro-level and structural variables that cause frustration and dissatisfaction to elaborate on the political instability. At the macro-level, the relative deprivation is typically perceived as a longitudinal matter and it occurs when life's standard undergoes severe decline over time and it is usually assessed through the fast reduction in the countries' rates of economic growth. In this regard, Garr believes that the relative deprivation can be deduced as collective statistics like inflation, reduction in the rate of economic growth, and economic inequality parameters since the intensity of dissatisfaction differs in macro-level in operational terms due to the levels of the economic depression or inflation (Garr, 2000, p.136).

Based on the presumptions of the relative deprivation theory, the individuals who want to engage in the violent actions may not withdraw from them based on the calculation of their costs-benefits and evaluation of the results probably attainable by the exhibition of such behaviors rather they substantially perform violent behaviors due to the feeling of frustration or relative deprivation and, especially, the feeling of the aggression stemming thereof (Garr, 2000, p.34). The basis of the theory of relative deprivation is the psychological theory of frustration-aggression. This theory claims that the individual's frustration in the achievement of the goals causes the instigation of a feeling of aggression in them and the higher the frustration, then, the higher the aggression. Thus, based on this theory, the amount of frustration is directly associated with the amount of aggression and severe frustration



provides the general motivations for the exhibition of the collective violent behaviors. According to Garr, after the formation of the collective violence as a result of relative deprivation, if the political actors targeted by the frustration are recognized and there be also present such other variables like the amount of cultural or micro-cultural warrants against the vivid aggression, the amount and degree of violence's success in the past, the amount of the clarity and prevalence of the symbolic fascinations justifying the violence, the legitimacy of the political system and the types of responses given to the relative deprivation and also believe in the idea that the violence is useful in the acquisition of the rare values, the politicization of the violence would follow. This that which of the violent parties can come out as a victor depends on the amount of the government's control on the coercion and extensive organizational support and the high degree of the opponents' ability or coercion. This way, political violence is seminally commenced with the emergence of discontent. In the second stage, this dissatisfaction would become political and, eventually, leads to the actualization of the violent action against the political actors and each of these three stages depends on its prior stage in the process of political violence (emergence of dissatisfaction, politicization and its actualization in the form of political violence)

2.1.3.5. Theory of Dependency/Global System and Political Instability:

Another approach that can be applied for the elucidation of political instability is the theory of dependency and the global system. This theory was offered during the early 1970s by Emanuel Wallerstein clarify the birthplaces of capitalism, the industrial revolution, and the complex, vague and mutual relationships between the first, second, and third worlds. This theory is enumerated amongst the theories of the cycle of domination and adopts a holistic approach to global incidents (Sa'ei, 2009, p.2). While the subjective approaches like relative deprivation and resources' accumulation have substantially (but not exclusively) ignored the internal factors determining violence and political instability, the theories of dependency/global system have emphasized the importance of the countries' interrelationships in the international system or the external factors for the elucidation of the macro-level political phenomena. The theories of dependency and global system deal with the role of the external factors in the occurrence of the political instability in the dependent and peripheral countries and try showing how the international and universal processes influence the internal violence inside the countries (Fergusson, 2003, p.3).

The theory of the global system is based on this primary presumption that the new world is composed of a capitalist global economy and the governments are generally the components of this whole and that the global economy should be correctly recognized for the understanding of the domestic class disputes and the political disputes of a given state (Sa'ei, 2009, p.1). Dependency and global system are two similar subjective traditions and both of them claim that the social structures of the third world countries have been



formed through the colonial historical experiences since the time that they have somehow been merged into the world's capitalist system and that their bonds that lead to their dependency have been rendered permanent by the unequal transactions, political domination, and transnational firms. These theories believe from the normative perspectives, as well, that the blending into the modern capitalism system in all the grounds (not just economic) has been accompanied by negative outcomes for the third world countries with one of these outcomes being the high level of political instability and violence (Rajabzadeh & Talebian, 2007, p.64).

Based on these theories, the overall pattern in the dependent (peripheral) countries includes the inequality of income, class conflict, high rate of unemployment, and population excess in an urban market economy. The political results of the dependency theory are complicated and numerous and they have never been so far approved in comparative inter-country researches. One assumption is that the governments' dependency causes the decline of their legitimacy and the governments with questioned legitimacy would likely witness a scene of protest and rebellion against themselves. The other assumption is that the dependency causes adoption of the economically open policies (free market) for the transferring of the global capital with the high degree of the economic openness causing an increase in the income inequality which per se causes growth in the political conflicts and violence and instability (Azimi Dowlat Abadi, 2008, pp.94-95).

In sum, it has to be stated that the dependency and peripheral position in the global system influence the occurrence of political instability through increasing inequality and slowing the pace of economic growth. Based on the axial predictions in the dependency and global system theories, the primary and substantial source of the political instability in the peripheral countries is the position of their dependency on the global system. In more precise terms, the higher the dependency of a country, the higher the likelihood of the political instability's occurrence therein. Such a prediction conveys this assumption that there is a direct relationship between dependency, violence, and political instability (Rajabzadeh & Taleban, 2007, p.66).

2.2. Conceptualization of Health:

2.3. Conceptualization of Security:

Many definitions have been presented for security and, considering its conceptual vastness, there are many disagreements about its meaning and, due to the same reason, the present study suffices to the offering of a final report by the security unit of the UN. Corresponding to this definition, the human beings' security includes "support of the vital core of the human life in such a way that the mankind's freedoms and the meeting of his needs are considered as the essential topics". In other words, security includes "the support of the essential freedoms and supply of them"; in this regard, security means the creation of political, social, bioenvironmental, economic, military, and cultural orders that all together provide the means of striving, prestige, and survival, life and health.



The important thing about the concept “security” is that it has undergone evolutions gradually and with the development of the human civilization in such a way that security is no more equivalent to the border threats rather it has taken novel dimensions (Navidnia, p.21).

This means that the dimensions of security have been expanded and that it includes important topics like health, as well.

2.2.2. Theory of Human Security:

Human security is a relatively novel concept that became prevalent since 1980. The concept of “human security” emerged in the course of the establishment of an independent commission on the security issues like disarmament (Palme Commission) in 1982 with the chairmanship of Olof Palme. This concept is based on this idea that the governments cannot obtain security in this nuclear area at the cost of others because, in this case, they may destroy one another. It had been underlined in this report that human individuals should fall in the center and heart of international affairs (Aal-e-kajba et al., 2014, p.32).

The concept “human security” includes the followings:

- Economic security
- Food security
- Health security (the right of health and patients’ support)
- Bioenvironmental security (support against pollutions)
- Personal security (physical support against torture, war, and criminal attacks)
- Social security (survival of the traditional cultures)
- Political security (freedom and relief from political suppression)

The theory of human security realizes health as one of the essential values that should be supported.

2.2.3. Health Security:

Health security means the immunity of human beings against all sorts of harm and damage. One of the indicators of human security is the topic “health security” that has been frequently given a lofty position during the recent decades in the international policies; factors like biological threats and contagious diseases, as well, have been effective in the domination of the human values in the international level in this process; despite the non-cooperation of some of the international powers and actors, this approach is pursued in the UN. For example, according to Article 99 of the UN’s charter, the general secretary can direct the security council’s attention towards any subject (including the extensive outbreak of contagious diseases) that threaten international peace and security. There are two perspectives about health’s becoming a security matter. In an optimistic look, health’s becoming of a security matter causes the support of the human beings’ health but, in a pessimistic glance, the health’s becoming of a security matter poses threats to the health, including through biological threats and embargoes setting the ground for the shortage of food and drugs. As another example, the foreign policy and global public healthcare initiatives are solely focused on global health and nothing is said about the external bottlenecks imposed by some countries on the other ones.

2.2.4. Health Security Threats:



Health security is threatened by various factors and means. Since human security realizes health as one of the essential values, health is inherently envisioned as an important topic for security. One such threat is the expansion of contagious diseases like AIDs and Corona at the international level and institutions like WHO and the UN have made a lot of efforts in the area of the fight with these challenges and they also take advantage of the collaborations by the world's political leaders. Health has stabilized its position particularly since 2000 as one of the concerns with which the foreign policy should deal.

However, these interventions have so far disregarded the importance of prevention and treatment regarding the outbreak and expansion of the contagious diseases or the diseases that come about as a result of poverty in a noninvasive manner in the world's deprived regions but disrupting the treatment process of the wronged countries. An example is the low mobilization of the international community for the embargoes that cause shortages in the treatment and drug sector.

The Right of Health:

Amongst the various kinds of human rights, the right of health is of great importance¹. Human rights include both the intellectual and physical rights of human beings. Although no exact definition has been offered for the right of health, it can be generally stated that the right of health as an inherent right means that everybody has the right to have access to the highest standard of physical and psychological health and that this right incorporates all the medical services, general hygiene, sufficient food, proper housing, a healthy workplace and clean environment (Mahmoud Abbasi et al., 2014, seasonal journal of medical laws, 8(30)). Article 25 of the universal human rights declaration (1948) emphasizes the right to health. Obliges the member states to guarantee the right of every individual for general healthcare, medical care, social security, and social services. The states' commitment to the right of health features three aspects like every human right: obligation to respect, the obligation to protect, and obligation to fulfill.

Obligation to respect is an aspect of the right of health and it means that the states should not create barriers and limitations for the individuals or groups of them or they should remove the extant barriers and limitations for better enjoyment of this right.

Obligation to protect, as well, actually includes the states' commitments for the preservation and support of the right of health against the abuses and violations of this right by the governmental organs or institutions or legal persons.

The obligation to fulfill is also an aspect of the right of health and it means performing actions that are necessary for meeting the individuals' healthcare needs.

WHO defines hygiene in the following words: it is a state in which the individuals enjoy perfect global, psychological, social, and intellectual welfare". This welfare includes sustenance and economic and also medical welfare. One of the grounds of the actualization of the human beings' right of health is the elimination of the harms and removal of susceptibilities by their citizenship states and repelling the foreign



¹ Alimoradi, (2016), "human beings in the international laws", Ghanoonyar

threats and, as it is clear, the foreign threats or the wars and embargoes indirectly and in a non-intermediated manner detrimentally influence the humans' right of health.

Although the semantic realm of health surpasses physical health (and includes sustenance welfare), the present study emphasizes physical health.

The actualization of physical health needs some tools and instruments one of which is the supply of drugs and medical equipment. The international community, as well, realizes the existence of the necessary drugs and access to healthcare services, clinics, and hospitals as a part of the healthcare contents. Besides, Article 258 of the human rights declaration points to the right of health. Any sort of economic embargo that causes flaws in the right of life which, in its broad sense, includes the right of enjoying a proper standard of life, food, drug, treatment services, clothing, housing, and other preliminary necessities for every human being, in general, or in part, violates this right. The right of health, in general, and the right of access to essential drugs, specifically, obliges the governments to guarantee the access to and possibility of procuring drugs for everyone and remove the limitations or barriers of the access to essential drugs (Saber Niavarani et al., 2016).

The access to various kinds of drugs and medical equipment for the diagnosis of the diseases and treatment of them, prevention of the diseases' spreading in the body of the patients, and stopping their transferring to the others constitute one way of the actualization of the humans' right of health. This issue is more important in Iran. Based on the WHO's statistics, Iran has been amongst the first twenty countries of the world globally and the second country, after China, in Asia in terms of drug consumption in 2012.

1. Sanction:

The sanction is a sort of instrument for punishing and making a country obedient in line with the achievement of the goals intended by the boycotting country.

* Of course, the purposelessness of the punishment is to the extent in some of the cases that the primary motivation of the boycotter is termed sadism (Zahrani, 2008).

Sanctions possess two sides: 1) the sanctioning party and 2) the sanctioned party. So far, most of the embargoes have been imposed by countries like the US, former Soviet Union, and EU but, after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, they have been mostly enacted by the US and Europe and occasionally by the UN (under the influence of the superpowers). The western countries' excuse for the enforcement of the embargoes has been the seventh chapter of the UN's charter based on which the UN's security council is obliged to identify the threats to international peace and security and enforce case-specific embargoes proportionally. Although the imposition of the embargoes aims in all their aspects at the change in the procedures and behaviors of the sanctioned party, they damage the citizens and vulnerable classes like the patients and children more than the governments. An example is the embargoes imposed by the US on Iran and damaging the treatment and healthcare system thereof.

1.2. Various Kinds of Embargoes:



1.2.1. Economic Embargoes:

The most common sanction is the economic embargo. Most of the experts and theoreticians assume five goals for the economic embargo: 1) rendering obedient, 2) overthrow, 3) deterrence, 4) international symbolism and 5) domestic symbolism.

An economic sanction that is imposed for limiting the economy of the sanctioned party includes the followings:

- A) Financial and bank embargoes: the goal of the financial-bank sanctions is the creation of barriers and increasing the costs in the monetary and banking sector such as foreign currency embargoes.
- B) Oil sanction: it aims at reducing the revenues of the sanctioned country.
- C) Business embargoes the creation of limitations in the export and import of essential and critical goods.

1.2.2. **Knowledge and Technology Sanction:** in this kind of embargoes, the technologies and strategic and important sciences are restricted.

1.2.3. **Political Sanction:** it includes measures like suspending the membership in or expelling the country out of the international organizations and preventing the presence and participation of the embargo target's diplomats in the boycotting countries.

1.2.4. **Military Embargo:** no sales and purchases of the military equipment and weapon and endorsement of no contract for the military exchanges with the sanctioned country.

1.2.5. **Cultural and Educational Sanctions:** it includes the prohibition of the academic and artistic collaborations and offering no scientific, educational, and cultural services and facilities to the sanctioned country.

1.2.6. **Trip Sanction:** it includes non-issuance of visas for the passengers of the sanctioned country and taking of strict actions concerning the citizens of the sanctioned country.

1.2.7. **Drug and Medical Embargoes:** although this type of sanctions does not exist in the embargo theories and all of the countries and international organizations have declared that they do not exceptionally impose this kind of embargo, it is imposed through intermediation under the confirmation of the economic and scientific embargoes, especially the nuclear sciences sanctions (such as the creation of limitations in the radioisotopes) in practice on some of the countries like Iran.

1.3. **Sanctions' Goals:** the embargoes might be imposed by the sanctioning party with one or several objectives.

1.3.1. **Destabilizing the Political System of the Sanctioned Country (Target):** Margaret Deux expresses that the sanctions are unsuccessful in bringing about an essential change in the military and foreign policy of the target government (Najdimanesh, 2006, p.8).



Some have opined that in case of the impossibility of using military options, embargoes should be designed in such a way that the ordinary people of a country are damaged so that they put pressure on their political leaders in line with their changing of their policies. However, this plan does not have any effect on the non-democratic systems because these systems are not put under so much pressure by the people and they can normally mobilize stronger collective support of the government in the face of a foreign problem (Paul, 1998, p.3).

1.2.4. Change in the political or economic behavior of the target country

1.2.5. Punishing a government for its enforcement of policies contradictory to the international laws or the sanctioning parties' interests

1.2.6. Prevention of a country or an actor's access to the competencies and capabilities that run the risk of creating a danger to the international peace and security

1.2.7. Showcasing symbolic opposition to the policies of a country

1.2.8. Warning the sanctioned country about the consequences of continuing some of its policies that are mostly unpleasant to the sanctioning country

1.2.9. Avoiding war or limiting and terminating the war

1.2.10 Encouraging the sanctioned party to take part in the negotiation

1.2.11. Curbing the threats of the sanctioned party

1.2.12. An introduction for the use of major force by the UN or the sanctioning states

1.3. Embargoes imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran:

The embargoes enforced against the Islamic Republic of Iran include unilateral and bilateral in terms of their sources.

1.3.1. Multilateral Embargoes: this group of embargoes has been enacted by the UN's security council and EU.

1.3.1.1. Sanctions by the Security Council of the UN: these embargoes have been imposed within the framework of the resolution 1696 (in 2006), resolution 1737 (in 2006), resolution 1747 (in 2007), resolution 1803, resolution 1835 (in 2008), resolution 1877 (2009) and resolution 1929 (in 2010) and, as a result of these resolutions, all of the member states have limited their cooperation with Iran in various sectors such as energy, economy, banking, politics, traveling of the nuclear scientists and educational technologies. Of course, it has to be asserted that the security council's decisions have been made under the influence of such superpowers like the US and the EU.

1.3.1.2. EU's embargoes against Iran: along with the US and independent from the security council, this union has imposed extensive embargoes onto Iran's transportation, energy sector, legal and real persons' banking exchanges, trade, the central bank, and



money transfer against the regulations of IMF on 27th of February, 2007, 23rd of April, 2007, 7th of August, 2008, and 17th of June, 2010, while the note (A) of the second paragraph in Article 8 of the aforesaid fund expresses that none of the member states should create limitations on the payment and transferring of money in an international level without the fund's approval (Aal-ekajbaf &et, 2014s, p.33).

1.3.2. Unilateral Embargoes Against Iran:

1.3.2.1. US's Embargoes Against Iran since 1979: the US embargoes against Iran were commenced nearly from the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The US's sanctions against Iran have been the most severe embargoes some of which have been pointed out below:

- Confiscation of Iran's assets in the US (1979)
- Prevention of imports from Iran and its financial transfers (17th of April, 1980)
- Prevention of exports to Iran (16th of April, 1980)
- Prevention of the crude oil and its derivatives' import (12th of November, 1980)
- Restricting Iran's access to the facilities or equipment with dual use (1983)
- Prevention of the delivery of the goods with technologies usable in the common weapons
- Prevention of the American companies' investment in Iran (1994)
- Complete prohibition of the investment and trade with Iran (1995)
- Prevention of oil trade and investment in Iran (all the companies) (1996)
- Prevention of the sales of or Iran's access to the military aircraft and missiles' parts (2007)
- The embargo on the sales of benzene (2009)
- Boycotting all the companies selling software to Iran (2009)
- Boycotting all the companies active in the area of oil, gas, and petrochemistry (2010)
- Boycotting several Iranian banks (20 important banks) (2011)
- Boycotting Iran's airplane firms and airlines (2011)
- Boycotting the states buying oil from Iran
- Prohibition of gold, steel, aluminum trades with Iran
- Prevention of the access to the foreign currency obtained from the sales of oil and boycotting of Iran's petroleum customers in case of their continuation of purchasing oil from Iran.



This latter case caused an intensive increase in the prices of the goods, including the medical drugs, and heightening of the treatment costs, and posed a threat to the health security of the Iranian citizens.

The notable thing is that there is seen no trace of drug embargo in these sanctions but some of the imposed embargoes, including the boycotting of the real and legal persons working in the nuclear area, have practically left negative effects on the treatment of the patients and preparation of the drugs that are related to atomic researches.

1.3.2.2. Unilateral Sanctions by the other Countries against Iran: this set of the embargoes have been imposed either by the coercion of the US and the security council or in conjunction with them such as the embargo by Azerbaijan's government against Iran in the transit sector and financial and banking transactions (in 2009).

Drug Embargoes: the difference in this set of sanctions from the other embargoes is in their enactment and enforcement in an explicit and indirect manner without their public declaration. Based on a humanitarian norm, drug and good should not be placed in the list of sanctions but the reflectional effects of the other sanctions, including the economic, scientific, educational, technological, nuclear, financial and banking embargoes, are the limitations of the financial exchanges that per se set the ground for the drug and medical embargoes. This sanction practically poses threats to the health security of the Iranian citizens and it is a vivid example of the violation of the Iranian people's right of health. In this regard, Richard Nephew, the designer of the US sanctions against Iran during Obama's tenure, states that "the US sanctions have rendered the transactions with Iran so difficult that it cannot even procure foodstuff and drugs that it should legally have access to. Additionally, the foreign minister of the US, Pompeo, announced in spite of the global wants for the annulment of the embargoes for preventing the spreading of Corona virus that the campaign of the pressure on Iran will be continued. In line with this, the American research institute (Woodrow Wilson) declared that the embargoes are the most important reason for the shortage of drugs in Iran.

* The followings are examples of the results mentioned in the reports on the drug sanctions:

- A 15-percent reduction in Iran's drug imports from the EU in 2019 in contrast to the past three years
- The death of 15 Iranian children after the Swedish companies cease the delivery of medical equipment to Iran
- The use of nonstandard anesthetic drugs has resulted in acute problems following Cesarean



- According to Elisabeth Rosenberg, one former US treasury authority responsible for the sanctions, Washington added to the list of embargoes the Iranian financial institutes that had not been sanctioned before and were used for the facilitation of procuring food, drug, and medical equipment.
- The office of foreign assets control (OFAC) has also presented some reports.
- The associated press announced it in a report that due to the restriction of the banking transactions and a 70-percent decline in the value of Rial in exchange for dollars, the prices of the imported drugs have been increased.
- The scarcity of some special drugs like Azoran 50 and Buspirone as mentioned by a physician expert in digestive tract's diseases
- Citing the deputy of Iran's health minister, the Newspaper "the world of the economy" states that there are still 100 drug items in the list of sanctions.
- Difficulty in putting bondage on the patients (EB) as stated by Iranian University Students' news agency
- Iran's health minister asserted that the US has blocked the supply of drugs for M.P.S patients.

Besides these reports, there are tens of other reports about the sanctions and drug shortages in Iran due to the US's embargoes against Iran but we suffice to the abovementioned ones.

2.2.5. Drug Sanctions and Health Security:

As it is clear, the treatment and prevention of many of the diseases depend on the existence of proper and advanced drugs. On the other hand, the drugs are dependent on the proper economic conditions, freedom in the business exchanges with the world, and the import of high-quality drugs from outside Iran.

Under the conditions that Corona Virus has threatened the lives of millions of individuals, Iran's economy has been adversely influenced by the embargoes imposed by the US and some western countries, in such a way that the sales of Iran's oil have been reduced to its lowest amount.

Under such circumstances, the people's sustenance capability has severely suffered; the people's income has been reduced and the inflation and prices' increase have been exacerbated. Under such conditions, the treatment costs and the drugs' prices have been intensively increased. Under these conditions that the Iranian people's power has been reduced and the drugs' imports have been restricted and there are not enough high-quality drugs and medical equipment and the treatment costs have been increased, the physical and



psychological susceptibilities of the Iranian people have been increased and their immunity of the damages and embargoes has been violated.

The results and effects of the drug sanctions on Iranian citizens' right to health and health security:

Drug and medications' embargoes exert devastative and detrimental effects on the right of health security. Drug embargoes cause difficulties in the preparation, production, import, and availability of the drugs for the patients. These measures are violations of the right of health hence human rights. The followings are but some examples of the effects and results of the drug sanctions that have targeted the right of health and health security of the Iranian citizens as also pointed out by the human rights watch:

- 1) Reduction in the imports of the high-quality raw materials needed for the Iranian pharmaceutical companies
- 2) Reduction in the drugs' production in the Iranian pharmaceutical firms
- 3) Disruption in the process of the patients' treatment
- 4) Creation of pressure and psychological concerns in the patients
- 5) Disruption in the process of the fight and harnessing of the contagious diseases, including Corona
- 6) Shortage of drugs in the treatment centers and hospitals
- 7) Threats to the children's health
- 8) Creation of a sense of health and psychological insecurity
- 9) Creation of dissent in the health sector
- 10) Reduction in the life expectancy
- 11) The expensiveness of the drugs and treatment
- 12) Shortage of drugs and medical equipment
- 13) Increase in the mortality of special patients
- 14) Increase in the children's mortality
- 15) Drug smuggling
- 16) Distribution of the low-quality drugs
- 17) Health terrorism

DISCUSSION

As it was mentioned, corresponding to the international treaties and conventions like Article 55 of the UN charter, the introduction to the WHO's charter in 1946 and Article 25 of the global human right declaration in 1948, and Article 12 of the international pact on the economic, social and cultural rights in 1966, Article 77 of the UN's charter in 1945, Article 17 of the global human right declaration, Article 71 of the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in 1979, any embargo that causes damage to the process of acquiring drugs and medical equipment and disruption in the treatment is to be viewed as human rights' violation. On the other hand, after the terroristic attack on the 11th of September,



2001, and an increase in the concerns about terrorism, the effect of the health security threatening on the political stability/instability found a larger deal of significance, particularly, in the underdeveloped countries. In 2006, the foreign ministers of Brazil, France, Senegal, South Africa, Indonesia, and Thailand expressed it in an announcement that the threats against health can endanger the stability and security of a country. This declaration shows that the effect of the health threats and rights and security divestment on the countries' stability and instability has been originally accepted as a principal at the international level. Thus, the goal of the drug sanctions and divestment of the right of health is the destabilization of the boycotted countries. The effect of the drug embargoes (as wastage of the right of health) on the index of political stability/instability of the countries can be explicated and elucidated by the two theories of dependency (Off-Dependent theory) and relative deprivation. Based on the theory of relative deprivation, the Iranian citizens would feel deprivation with the enactment of the drug embargoes and they may want to take emotional measures (like an attack to the governmental centers and destruction of the properties) and the ground would be set for the creation of the social and street uprisings and rebels against the political system. Moreover, based on the theory of dependency, the drug embargoes are foreigners' measures and pressures aiming at destabilization of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Based thereon, the present study's analysis pattern can be examined in five levels.

- 1) Political system: in this level, the goal of the drug sanctions is damaging the main foundations and primary indicators of the political order, constitution, fundamental values, and ideological values on which the political system is laid.
- 2) Political regime: in this level, the embargoes seek weakening and rendering ineffective the governmental faculties.
- 3) Political norms: the goal of the embargoes at this level is the creation of arbitrary changes in the regulations and norms regulating the relationships between the actors and institutions and political parties and the governing power and the civil society.
- 4) Governmental policies: amongst the other goals of the purposive embargoes is the creation of the intended change in the domestic and external sectors, including the financial, economic, cultural, and foreign policies.
- 5) Political actors: the goal of the embargoes at this level is to decrease the agreeability of the political actors and depriving them of their power.

CONCLUSION:

The documents and reports present in the current research paper show that the drug sanctions enacted against Iran have caused the creation of a harsh situation for the Iranian citizens in the area of healthcare and treatment. These embargoes that are contradictory to the international treaties and against the global wants are the vivid violations of the Iranian citizens' right of health as well as the human rights breach. These embargoes are intentional, conscious, and purposeful. The goal of these embargoes is the creation of an atmosphere of discontent in Iranian society so that Iran can be inflicted with chaos, disorder, and political instability and the regime established therein can be eventually changed. The continuation and intensification indicate that the sanctioning countries only value their own goals and the Iranian people's security and the right of health are never a priority to them. Although they have excluded drugs from the list of the embargoes, the unprecedented economic, financial, and banking sanctions do not allow the



entry of drugs from outside into Iran in practice and, on the other hand, the cost of manufacturing and producing high-quality drugs is increased inside Iran. Under the conditions that Corona Virus has jeopardized the lives of millions of Iranians, the thing that matters to the sanctioning countries, especially the US, is the destabilization of the political system of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Solutions and Suggestions:

Because the brutal drug sanctions have exposed the Iranian people to severe dangers and the drug and medical equipment's shortages have endangered the lives of millions of Iranians, particularly, under the corona virus's pandemic, the following solutions are suggested for the support of the Iranian people's right of health.

- 1) More increase in the pressure of the international institutions, including WHO, on the boycotting countries for the ceasing the embargoes
- 2) Global aids to the increase in the entry of high-quality drugs into Iran
- 3) Global condemnation of the sanctions
- 4) Creation of the international campaigns for informing the world's public thoughts about the adverse effects of the drug sanctions
- 5) Assisting the Iranian government in increasing the drug production inside Iran
- 6) Iran's becoming self-sufficient in drug production and it's becoming independent from drug imports.

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