

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran
condemns
Israel's
attacks
on Lebanon

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Political Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said on Friday that the Israeli attacks which were carried out following the desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the brutal attack on Palestinian worshippers are a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon, as well as a gross violation of the principles of international law and human rights.

"We demand an effective and deterrent response from the international community to the aggressive actions of the usurping Zionist regime," he added.

Iran calls for
emergency
OIC meeting

President.ir

Political Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi has called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the ongoing situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, where the Israeli regime is stepping up its crackdown against the Palestinian people.

The Zionist regime in recent days has been attacking Palestinian worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque in the occupied city of Al-Quds, injuring hundreds of worshippers and making arrests. The attacks on Palestinian worshippers during the fasting month of Ramadan have drawn widespread criticism from Islamic countries.

The Iranian president, during a phone conversation with his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo on Thursday, called for the OIC emergency meeting in order to make a joint decision on defending the rights of the innocent Palestinian people and confronting the Zionist regime's crimes.

"Palestine is the beating heart of the Islamic world," Raeisi said, adding, "Supporting the rights of the Palestinian nation and fighting the Zionist regime is an unchangeable principle of the structure of the Islamic Ummah."

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian also urged the OIC to hold an emergency meeting.

Iran, Saudi Arabia resume
diplomatic relations

Political Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud met in the Chinese capital city of Beijing on Thursday morning.

The delegations from Riyadh and Tehran underlined the need for the resumption of official relationships and the implementation of the reopening of their respective embassies and consulates. They exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

Director-General for Persian Gulf Affairs of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Ali-reza Enayati also met and discussed with the Saudi deputy foreign minister in Beijing.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani announced on Thursday that Riyadh and Tehran resumed official diplomatic ties.

Kanaani, who accompanied Iran's top diplomat on the visit to Beijing, told correspondents on Thursday that in line with negotiations between the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Iran, the two sides underlined the importance of stability and security in

the region as well as the maintenance of security by regional players.

According to the spokesman, Amir-Abdollahian and his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan expressed readiness of their countries to implement basic agreements existing between the two sides, including a comprehensive accord on mutual cooperation and a security agreement; they agreed upon taking steps in this respect gradually.

He went on to say that the Saudi and Iranian sides negotiated on the expansion of economic exchanges, in both the public and private sectors, and they underlined that the existing contracts between the two states pave the legal ground for initiating and improving such activities.

Private and public delegations from both countries also held talks on the expansion of trade, economic and investment cooperation, he said, adding that Riyadh and Tehran have reached a consensus to facilitate aerial transportation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, following meetings between technical delegations of both sides.

They also plan to facilitate issuing visas and other re-

lated services to the nationals of both states, to carry out economic and trade exchanges, as well as Umrah pilgrimage, Kanaani noted. Later on, the two foreign ministers issued a joint statement. According to the joint statement, Riyadh and Tehran agreed to reopen embassies and consulates and expressed readiness to remove obstacles in the way of improving collaboration.

During these talks, the two sides emphasized the importance of following up on the implementation of the Beijing Agreement reached on March 10 and its activation in a way that would expand mutual trust and cooperation and help create security, stability and prosperity in the region.

The two sides emphasized the importance of discussing ways to expand bilateral relations and activate the security cooperation agreement between the two countries that was signed on April 17, 2001 and the general cooperation agreement in the field of economy, trade, and investment, technology, science, culture, sports and youth, which was signed on

May 27, 1998, according to the joint statement.



AHAMAD MOEINI JAM/IRNA

The joint statement added that both sides agreed to continue the necessary coordination between the technical delegations to examine ways of expanding cooperation between the two countries, including the resumption of flights and mutual trips of the official delegations and the private sector, facilitating the granting of visas for the citizens of the two countries, including visas for Umrah pilgrimages.

Considering the natural resources and economic capabilities and the many opportunities that exist to realize the common interests of the two brotherly

nations, the two sides are increasing the consultative meetings on the ways of cooperation to realize as many positive prospects in relations as possible, according to the joint statement.

Both sides also agreed to expand their cooperation in any field that can ensure the security and stability of the region and realize the interests of its nations and countries.

At the end of the meeting, both sides expressed their gratitude to China for hosting this meeting, and Switzerland for its efforts to protect the interests of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

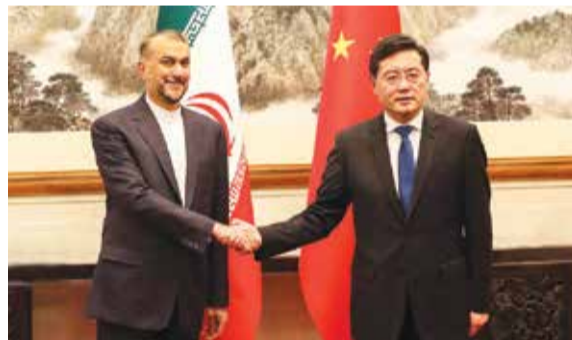
Bin Farhan renewed his invitation to Amir-Abdollahian to visit Saudi Arabia and hold a bilateral meeting in Riyadh.

Amir-Abdollahian welcomed this invitation and invited his counterpart to visit Iran and hold a bilateral meeting in Tehran.

Later, both foreign ministers showed gratitude for the resumption of ties, terming the talks as "positive."

Amir-Abdollahian wrote on his Twitter account on Thursday, "Today we had a positive meeting and dialogue with my colleague Emir Faisal bin Farhan in Beijing."

Chinese FM hails Iran-Saudi agreement



IRNA

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held talks with his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang during a meeting in Beijing on Thursday.

Iran's top diplomat referred to the strong steps that have been taken over the past year regarding

bilateral ties, saying, "Our strategic policy is to expand ties with China."

The Iranian foreign minister further spoke about the key agreements between the presidents of Iran and China and the strategic partnership treaty of the two countries.

"I am confident that the agreements of the two presidents will be pursued and implemented seriously, and bilateral ties will move ahead at greater speed," he said.

In other remarks, Amir-Abdollahian pointed to the policy of the Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi's administration regarding the expansion of ties with regional coun-

tries, saying that Tehran welcomes partnership with China and the Persian Gulf littoral states, in line with the Belt and Road Initiative.

Iran's chief diplomat further called for speeding up the holding of meetings of the Iran-China joint commission for economic cooperation in order to strengthen joint work between the two countries in various fields, including economic relations.

Issues pertaining to cooperation in such fields as energy, banking, money and credit, trade and commerce, provincial cooperation, visa facilities and cultural cooperation were among others raised by

the Iranian foreign minister at the meeting.

Amir-Abdollahian also invited his Chinese counterpart to visit Tehran.

The Chinese foreign minister, for his part, said following the meeting between the presidents of Iran and China, the pace of expanding bilateral ties has increased and that Beijing is willing to work toward deepening relations with Tehran based on the roadmap that has been agreed upon.

Qin described Tehran-Beijing relations as deep, adding that China supports Iran's territorial integrity and opposes any interference in the country's internal affairs.

China's top diplomat also expressed pleasure with the official restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, saying the agreement will help boost stability and security in the region.

Qin stressed that China welcomes the expansion of ties between Iran and regional countries and these positive developments show that the unilateral sanctions against Iran have been futile.

Qin also underlined the necessity of strengthening ties between Iran and China at the regional and international levels, in parallel with the expansion of bilateral relations.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iran: Countermeasures on agenda for Baku

Political Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani showed a strong reaction in response to some positions, actions and harsh, emotional and unconstructive reactions of the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan against Iranian teachers and diplomats in Baku.

"We consider the behavior of the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to be in conflict with the principles of neighborliness," he added.

The foreign ministry spokesman called on the government of the Republic

of Azerbaijan to "maintain mutual respect, take steps in the direction of good neighborliness and stay away from what the Zionists and enemies of the region want." Kanaani emphasized, "The Islamic Republic of Iran, at the same time, emphasizes the observance of the principles and foundations of the neighborhood policy and paying attention to the sinister goals of the Zionist regime in creating differences and tension in the relations between Islamic countries.

Iran has diplomatic countermeasures on its agenda, the spokesman concluded.