

# Nigeria's Shia cleric Zakzaky in Tehran

Leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky arrived in Iran on Wednesday as part of his second foreign visit after the termination of his home arrest by the Nigerian government.

"We are all under a great test, and it is hoped that the Islamic Revolution will bring about change in the whole world, including in the US and Europe, to set the ground for the emergence of the last Shia Imam, Imam Mahdi (PBUH)," Sheikh Zakzaky said in an address at the airport, Press TV reported.

Sheikh Zakzaky, the founder of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria, is scheduled to

attend an official ceremony held in the University of Tehran on Saturday.

In December 2015, Nigerian army troops attacked Sheikh Zakzaky's residence and a place of worship belonging to the Islamic Movement in Nigeria, killing over three hundred and forty of his supporters in Zaria, Kaduna state.

He had remained under state detention in the Nigerian capital pending his release, which was ordered in late 2016. Last year, the Kaduna state higher court exonerated him from any charges and ordered his immediate release after 2,055 days of illegal detention.



IRNA

## Raisi calls on int'l bodies to stop Israeli crimes

### EU: Israel breaks int'l law in Gaza

#### International Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi reminded international organizations of their responsibility to tackle the crisis in the Gaza Strip, which is tormented by the Zionist regime's atrocities.

Addressing a cabinet session on Wednesday, Raisi strongly condemned the Israeli regime's crimes against the people of Gaza, Tasnim news agency reported.

The war between Israel and the Palestinian resistance group Hamas raged for a fifth day on Wednesday, as Israeli warplanes hammered neighborhoods in the Gaza Strip, reducing buildings to rubble and sending people scrambling for safety, AP reported.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell accused Israel on Tuesday of breaking international law by imposing a total blockade of Gaza in response to the large-scale attack by Hamas that killed more than 1,200 people Israelis according to the Israeli military.

He added Israel's response — which has so far killed at least 1,055 Gazans, according to local authorities — had to be in line with inter-

national humanitarian law, and a decision to impose a total blockade on Gaza contravened this standard, Reuters reported.

More than 150 people have also been taken by Palestinian fighters.

#### Aid payments for PA

After an emergency meeting to discuss the repercussions of the attack, Borrell also said an "overwhelming majority" of EU foreign ministers supported continuing aid payments for the Palestinian Authority, which governs the West Bank.

Borrell made his statement the day after European Commissioner Oliver Varhelyi said all EU development aid for Palestinians was suspended, only for the commission to disown his announcement after a backlash from EU governments.

Borrell had invited the Israeli and Palestinian foreign ministers to take part in the meeting in Oman, by video conference. However, Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen did not want to participate in a meeting that would also be addressed by PA Minister Riyad al-Maliki so neither ended up taking part, officials said.

Israel has vowed an unprecedented offensive against Hamas.

More than 250,000 people in Gaza have fled their homes, the UN said. Most of them have crowded into schools run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. Most of the terri-

fuel, leaving the territory without electricity.

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Israel criticized the UN



AFP

tor's residents are unable to leave due to a years-long blockade maintained by Israel and Egypt.

Israel has cut off supplies of food, fuel, electricity, and medicine into Gaza, and the sole remaining access from Egypt was shut down Tuesday after airstrikes hit near the border crossing. Gaza's power authority said its only power plant has since run out of

fuel, leaving the territory without electricity.

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Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has warned of a "human catastrophe" amid ongoing Israeli aggression on the besieged Gaza Strip, calling on the UN to adopt immediate measures to prevent the occupying regime from perpetrating further crimes and rights violations against Palestinians.

He touched on the plight and suffering of the Palestinian people at the hands of the illegal entity over the past seven decades, blaming Western countries, led by the US, for the dire situation in Palestine. Also on Tuesday, he expressed his country's support for the Palestinian resistance spiritually, politically, and media-wise. Rejecting claims that countries other than Palestine are behind the "courageous" operation against Israel, he said the Palestinian resistance itself made the decision to launch it.

#### 'No evidence' of Iran's role

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Tuesday that his country has no evidence of direct Iranian involvement in the attack by Hamas, AFP reported. The Pentagon chief noted that Tehran has backed

Hamas for years, adding, "But in this particular instance, we don't have any evidence that there was direct involvement in the planning or the execution of this attack."

That assessment was echoed by the US State Department, which emphasized that it could nevertheless change.

"Our experience in these matters tells us that it's premature to draw any final conclusions about this issue," spokesman Matthew Miller told journalists.

Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the Biden administration hasn't ruled out new sanctions against Iran in relation to renewed conflict in the Middle East, but no decisions have been made, Bloomberg reported.

"I wouldn't take anything off the table in terms of future possible actions, but I certainly don't want to get ahead of where we are now," she said.

Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday rejected the claims as "miscalculations," praising the Palestinian youth, who were sole masterminds of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against Israel.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iran reaffirms sovereignty over Persian Gulf islands



PRESS TV – Tehran rejected anti-Iran claims raised by foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union, reaffirming full sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb, and the Lesser Tunb. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Wednesday emphasized the country's principled and permanent position on the trio of islands, saying they are "an integral and eternal part of the soil of the Islamic Republic of Iran".

The remarks came after the 27th GCC-EU Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting, which was held in the Omani capital Muscat on October 9-10, suggested in a final statement that the council is concerned about a lack of progress toward resolving the dispute between the UAE and Iran over the three islands.

### Coast guards stage naval drill in southern waters



IRNA – The Iranian Coast Guard launched a large-scale military exercise, dubbed "Mohammad Rasulallah-2," on Wednesday along the shores of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the northern parts of the Indian Ocean.

The drill involved naval units from the country's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan as well as the southern provinces of Bushehr and Hormuzgan.

Commander of the Iranian Border Guards Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi said the exercise also aims to comply with bilateral or multilateral treaties with the neighboring countries, share valuable experiences, and strengthen cooperation and coordination among coast guards.

He pointed out that dozens of marine units, coastal patrol teams, and various border guard forces participated in the drill.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran concerned by new wave of Afghan refugees after quake

The chairman of Iran's Migration Organization voiced Tehran's concerns over the potential new influx of Afghan refugees following a recent earthquake in Afghanistan.

Speaking at the 74th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom), Abdollah Mobini said that the recent earthquake that hit the city of Herat in Afghanistan has caused many people to lose their homes, which raised concerns within Iran regarding a surge of new immigrants entering

the country, IRNA wrote. Mobini stressed that while Iran has been a host to large waves of refugees and immigrants, the support cannot be sustained indefinitely.

He pointed out that Iran has not played a role in creating these crises but has nevertheless been a refuge for millions of displaced individuals over the past few decades.

The lack of international aid coupled with the vast number of refugees that pour into Iran has posed significant challenges for the country, Mobini said,

criticizing the double standards regarding refugees, the political considerations of certain donor countries, and the disparity between the proposed annual budget by the commissioner and the budget allocated for Iran. Referring to the Strategic Solutions Document for Afghan Refugees, Mobini emphasized the importance of the voluntary repatriation of refugees to their home country.

He said the only solution to this crisis involves the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.