

Iran warns US will 'not be spared' if Gaza 'genocide' continues



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian warned that if Israel's genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip doesn't end, then the United States will "not be spared from this fire". "I say frankly to the American statesmen, who are now managing the geno-

cide in Palestine, that we do not welcome (an) expansion of the war in the region. But if the genocide in Gaza continues, they will not be spared from this fire," he told a meeting of the 193-member UN General Assembly on the Middle East, Reuters reported.

Israel has struck Gaza from the air, imposed a siege, and is preparing a ground invasion on Gaza in response to the October 7 Hamas operation in the occupied Palestinian territories. Palestinian authorities say more than 7,300 have been killed in the Israeli attacks.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian addresses a meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Middle East in New York on October 26, 2023.

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Hamas has told Iran that it was ready to release civilian captives, adding that the world should push for the release of 6,000 Palestinians in Israeli prisons, Amir-Abdollahian said.

Call for release of Palestinian inmates

"The Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to play its part in this very important humanitarian endeavor, along with Qatar and Turkey. Naturally, the release of the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners is another necessity and responsibility of the global community," he maintained.

The Iranian diplomat urged the US "to work for peace and security, not war against people, children, and women".

Instead of sending rockets, tanks, and bombs to be used against Gaza, the Iranian minister said, Washington must stop supporting genocide, according to Press TV. Amir-Abdollahian also pointed out the US is watching and supporting the killing of more than 7,000 civilians in less than three weeks by the Israeli regime in Gaza.

"The genocide in Gaza must stop immediately. The forced displacement of the people of Gaza must stop immediately."

Right to self-defense

Amir-Abdollahian also stressed the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has the right to self-defense, emphasizing that its large-scale attack against the occupying regime was a reaction to the continuation of the regime's occupation and aggressions against the Palestinians as well as its widespread crimes in recent months. However, he said, the US and several European countries refer to the occupying and war criminal regime as an entity that has the right to self-defense. "It is certainly not possible to change the places of the killer and the victim by misusing certain expressions."

"According to international law, as well as hundreds of resolutions approved by this very same assembly, the entire land of Palestine is an occupied land, and accordingly, the Israeli regime is recognized as an aggressor and an occupier," the Iranian diplomat stated.

The Palestinian nation, like any other nation under occupation, has the "legitimate right to resist the occupation using all available methods, including armed struggle".

"Therefore, the recent

hypocritical efforts to introduce the struggle of the Palestinian nation against the occupiers as terrorist actions will not mislead the free nations and the awakened minds around the world," the Iranian minister said.

In an interview with Morning Edition's Steve Inskeep that took place in New York City, Amir-Abdollahian said if the current situation continues, and women and children and civilians are still killed in Gaza and the West Bank, anything will be possible.

"Two weeks ago, I visited the region and I met with some leaders of the countries of my region and with the leaders of the resistance in Lebanon and also the Palestinian groups ... [From] what I gathered from the plans that they have, they have their finger on the trigger. You know, much more powerful and deeper than what you've witnessed."

"Therefore, I believe that if this situation continues and women and children and civilians are still killed in Gaza and the West Bank, anything will be possible ... They have their own calculations for their own security, and, as I've said, they decide for themselves," he added.

Iran Army launches massive drill in central region

Iran's Army Ground Force started a large-scale military drill in a central province of the country in order to boost deterrence against potential threats.

The two-day exercise, codenamed Eghtedar 1402, began on Friday in Nasrabad region of Isfahan Province with the participation of various units, Press TV reported.

Infantry regiments, armored divisions, missile and artillery units, airborne divisions, drone squads, electronic warfare units, and support teams are participating in the exercise, Brigadier General Karim Cheshak, spokes-

man for the military exercise, said on Friday.

These forces are deployed to the exercise area from seven different provinces after traveling an average of 1,100 km, he added. About 200 military helicopters performed different operations on the first day.

"This exercise will last for two days, and one of its main objectives is to improve the prowess and combat readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Force and enhance the country's level of deterrence against potential threats."

"The drill will also aim to

transfer relevant experiences to younger commanders and army forces and practice multiple predetermined defense scenarios," Cheshak added.

The first stage of the exercise, he maintained, involved the airborne and ground transfer of four combat brigades and other units to the drill area.

The second stage will involve surveillance and reconnaissance operations using unmanned aerial vehicles and electronic and detection systems, Cheshak said.

During the third and fourth stages of the drill, coastal defense scenarios and

night-time airborne operations will be practiced, while offensive operations aimed at destroying the mock enemy's targets will be carried out in the final phase, he added.

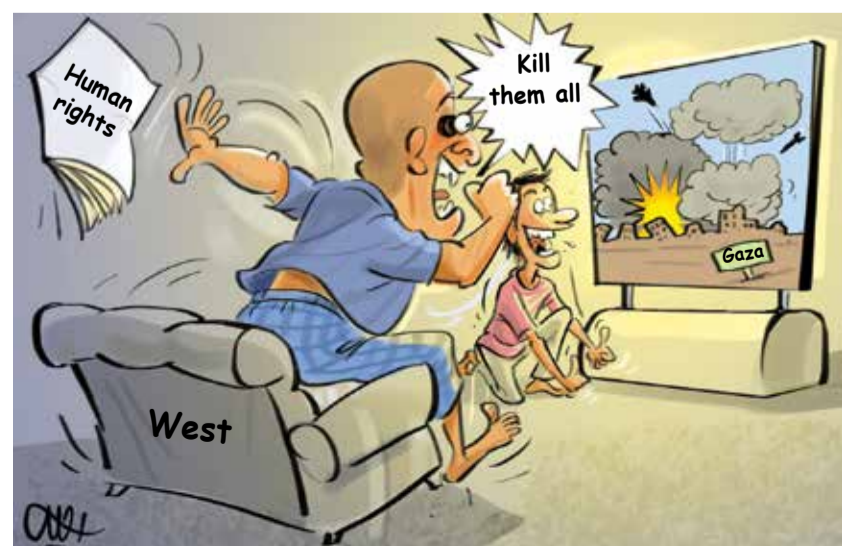
The drill came after US President Joe Biden on Wednesday warned Iran against hitting US personnel in the Middle East following a spate of attacks by regional forces allegedly affiliated with Iran on American forces in the region.

Following the Biden warning, the US military struck two facilities in eastern Syria that it claimed are used by groups linked to Iran.



HAMIDREZA NIKOOMARAM/FARS

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran court fines US \$420m for 1980 terror attack

An Iranian court ordered the US government on Thursday to pay \$420 million in compensation to victims of an abortive 1980 operation to free Americans held at the US Embassy, the judiciary said. Shortly after Iranians toppled the shah during the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iranian students stormed the US Embassy in Tehran and arrested more than 50 Americans, AFP reported.

In April 1980, Washington attempted to free the Americans in the top-secret Operation Eagle Claw, which ended in disaster after running into sandstorms and mechanical

problems. As the rescue force withdrew, two US aircraft collided, killing eight servicemen. In its Thursday report, the judiciary's Mizan Online news agency said that during the operation US forces had "attacked" a bus carrying Iranian passengers.

"Following the complaint filed by families of the victims of US Operation Eagle Claw, a court ordered the US government to pay \$420 million," Mizan reported.

Thirteen survivors of the terror attack as well as one of the hostages who was taken by the US forces in the desert filed a lawsuit against the US

government.

The court ruled that the US government must pay \$140 million for the "material and moral" damage it caused the plaintiffs and \$280 million in "punitive damages".

Five months after the crisis, Washington severed diplomatic relations and imposed an embargo on Tehran. The Americans were released in January 1981.

In August, a Tehran court ordered the US government to pay \$330 million in damages for "planning a coup" in 1980 against the Islamic Republic. The suits filed against Washington in Iranian courts fol-

low a series of multi-billion dollar compensation awards made against Tehran by US courts. In 2016, the US Supreme Court ordered that Iranian assets frozen in the United States should be paid to victims of attacks Washington has blamed on Tehran, including the 1983 bombing of a US Marine barracks in Beirut and a 1996 blast in Saudi Arabia.

In March this year, the International Court of Justice ruled that Washington's freezing of funds belonging to several Iranian individuals and companies was "manifestly unreasonable".