

# Leader outlines Iran's maritime development policies



## National Desk

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has announced the general policies of sea-oriented development to the heads of the three branches of government (Legislature, Executive and Judiciary) and the head of the Expediency Council for implementing them.

According to this communiqué, the executive branch is obligated to present a comprehensive plan to implement these policies includ-

ing submitting bills, approving regulations and necessary executive measures within a six-month timeframe, with the assistance of the Iranian Parliament, the Judiciary, and relevant organizations. The announcement is made in the implementation of Article 110 of the Constitution of Iran, and after consultation with the Expediency Council.

Iran has emerged as a significant player in the maritime industry, not only in the Middle East but on the global stage. Established in 1967,

Iranian National Shipping Lines [later changed to the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL)] has achieved remarkable milestones over the years, solidifying its position as one of Iran's leading state-run enterprises and a prominent shipping company worldwide.

With its excellent geographical location, situated between two seas, and possessing thousands of kilometers of coastline, islands, and abundant resources, Iran is required to take effective action in the coastal areas,

offshore regions, seas, and oceans as a focal point for the country's development to secure a rightful regional and global position in utilizing the seas. Accordingly, the general policies of sea-based development have been determined, some of which include:

Achieving a rightful global position and a leading regional rank through coherent maritime policy, national task allocation, and efficient maritime management; Increasing the economic growth rate in the

maritime sector to at least double the country's overall economic growth rate over ten years by developing maritime economic activities and establishing driving maritime development hubs on the coasts, islands, and offshore areas; Formulating a comprehensive plan for maritime-based development with the zoning of seas, coasts, and offshore regions; Expanding domestic and foreign investment by creating the necessary software and hardware infrastructure;

Optimizing the utilization of marine capacities, resources, and ecosystems while preventing environmental degradation, especially by other countries; Developing sea-based initiatives with the enhancement of human resources and efficient management while establishing a scientific foundation; Leveraging maritime capacities and achieving a prominent presence in international transit routes to secure regional leadership positions through economic, commercial, and

investment cooperation in large-scale, knowledge-based infrastructure, production, and service projects with neighboring and other countries; Increasing the country's share in maritime transportation and transit by establishing and reinforcing a multimodal transportation network; And supporting local and indigenous investors in development projects and assisting local economic actors in various sectors, including fishing, agriculture, industry, and tourism.

## UN: Gaza becoming 'graveyard for children'

### Raisi condemns West's double standards on war crimes

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that the protection of civilians "must be paramount" in the Gaza Strip, warning that the Palestinian territory was becoming "a graveyard for children."

"We must act now to find a way out of this brutal, awful, agonizing dead end of destruction," Guterres told reporters, and again called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire.

"Gaza is becoming a graveyard for children. Hundreds of girls and boys are reportedly being killed or injured every day," Guterres said. Since October 7, Israel has launched brutal attacks on the Gaza Strip in response

to Hamas' Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, killing more than 10,000 people – most of them women and children. The regime has also imposed a total siege on the Palestinian territory, blocking the entry of food, water, medicine, fuel and electricity.

"Ground operations by the Israel Defense Forces and continued bombardment are hitting civilians, hospitals, refugee camps, mosques, churches and UN facilities – including shelters. No one is safe," Guterres told reporters.

Guterres said 89 people working with the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) had been killed in Gaza, which he described as the highest toll for UN

aid workers, higher "than in any comparable period in the history of our organization".

Gaza's Health Ministry said on Tuesday 10,328 people have been killed in the month-long war on Gaza. Israel's atrocities against Palestinians have even infuriated some Western countries.

### Disproportionate attacks

Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said on Monday that Israel's attacks on innocent civilians in Gaza are disproportionate. "Bombing down a refugee camp because it allegedly houses one Hamas leader is completely disproportion-

ate. It is never acceptable that so many civilian casualties are caused trying to eliminate one person," Alexander De Croo told reporters after meeting Jordan's King Abdullah in Brussels. Iran, which is the main supporter of the Hamas resistance group, has once again called for establishment of a cease-fire in Gaza.

The Israeli regime has so far rebuffed global calls for a cease-fire, with the regime's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying that there will be no cease-fire until the people arrested by Hamas are freed.

### Extra-regional consequences

Speaking in a phone call

with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said the continuation of the killing of the Palestinian people has infuriated all the free nations in the world, warning that the killings will have "extra-regional consequences."

Raisi defended the Palestinian resistance groups' legitimate right to confront the Israeli regime's occupation and called on all countries to support the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom.

He criticized global double standards when it comes to condemning war crimes, saying that the European countries' confrontation against Nazi Germany is regarded as an "admirable and heroic" act but the resistance of the Palestinian people against the child-killing and criminal Israeli regime is condemned.

### Jordan's warning

Jordan's Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh said on Monday his country was leaving "all options" open in its response to what it

called Israel's failure to discriminate between military and civilian targets in its intensifying bombardment and invasion of the Gaza Strip.

His comments came days after Jordan recalled its ambassador from Israel in protest at Israel's offensive in Gaza.

Israeli Army, which has launched a ground invasion in the Palestinian territory, is gradually making the situation for the Gazans worse.

The regime gave civilians still trapped inside freshly encircled Gaza City a four-hour window to leave, and residents escaping the city said they passed tanks in position to storm it. Israel said its forces have surrounded Gaza City, home to a third of the enclave's 2.3 million people, and are poised to attack it. Netanyahu also expressed openness to "little pauses" in the current fighting to facilitate the release of captives.

Netanyahu ruled out any general cease-fire without the release of the more than 240 people arrested by Hamas in its Oct. 7 operation, but said he was open to "tactical little pauses." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said late on Monday that the regime would take "overall responsibility" for Gaza's security for an unspecified period after the war with Hamas ends.



A man holds one of the injured children of Palestinian cameraman Mohammed Alaloul following an Israeli strike on the Al-Maghazi refugee camp in Deir Balah in the central Gaza Strip, at the Al-Quds hospital in the same city on November 5, 2023.  
● MAHMUD HAMS/AFP