

Raisi: Various political factions welcomed in Parl.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (c) holds a meeting with a group of leaders of political parties and political activists in Tehran on January 2, 2024. president.ir

Iran has asked Iraq to extradite 38 separatists: Top rights official



Iran's top human rights official said the Islamic Republic has called upon Iraqi authorities to extradite 38 main members of separatist and terrorist groups holed up in the Arab country's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region. Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, made the remarks on the sidelines of the fourth trial session of the members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorist group, which was held in absentia in the capital Tehran on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

Iran has urged the central government in Iraq and authorities in Kurdistan to meet their commitments toward Iran and take necessary measures to secure the border.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has launched several rounds of airstrikes against the positions of the terrorists who are holed up in Iraqi Kurdistan.

On November 21, 2022, positions of anti-Iran separatist and terrorist groups in northern Iraq came under combined attacks using missiles and kamikaze drones. The strikes targeted the positions of the notorious Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI) and the Komala Party in northern Iraqi Kurdistan, Iran's Arabic-language Al-Alam television news network reported at the time.

According to the network, one attack saw four missiles being fired against a PDKI position in the town of Koy Sanjaq in Erbil Province. A separate attack featured kamikaze drones smashing into another site belonging to the group near the Baharka village. Simultaneously, kamikaze drones struck positions associated with Komala across two locations near the city of Sulaymaniyah.

Elsewhere in his remarks on Tuesday, Gharibabadi noted that Iran has not limited its legal actions simply to MKO terrorists, but has also taken measures against Pakistan-based so-called Ansar-ul-Furqan and Jaish-ul-Adl terrorist groups.

Members of the latter terrorist outfit are wanted for a vicious terrorist assault on Rask County's police headquarters in the south-eastern Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan on December 15 last year.

The assault claimed the lives of 11 police forces, including officers and conscripts, and left several others wounded.

National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Tuesday that the government welcomes the presence of different political inclinations in Parliament as a platform for the formation of a strong legislature. He made the remarks in a meeting with a group of leaders of political parties and political activists ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections on March 1.

Not only is the government not worried about the presence of different political inclinations in Parliament, but it considers it a platform for the formation of a strong Parliament that can increase the power and authority of the country, Raisi said.

He said that holding such meetings is aimed at increasing the participation of people in the parliamentary and Assembly of Experts elections. The president added that these meetings are effective in strengthening synergy between different political factions and social and influential figures in improving the electoral atmosphere in the society.

Raisi also referred to recent remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei who said that the most important task of all political activists, government, political parties and figures is to create and promote hope and vitality in the society. Ayatollah Khamenei has also said scholars, university professors, seminary

instructors, radio and television journalists, young people and people within their families have a duty to invite others to participate in the elections. Referring to importance of the role of political factions in resolving the country's problems, President Raisi underlined that everyone has an obligation to work to resolve the country's problems

irrespective of who has created them. He also pointed to the impact of the country's economic problems on participation in the elections, saying that a lot of measures have been taken since the country's revolution in 1979 in improvement of the livelihood of people, but more efforts need to be made in this field.

Gaza fighting rages after Israel warns war will last all year

Shelling and missile strikes rocked the length of the Gaza Strip overnight into Tuesday, after Israel's army warned its war on Gaza will last through 2024. Despite relentless global demands for a cease-fire, Israel's military spokesman Daniel Hagari said Monday the army was preparing for "prolonged

fighting" expected to last "throughout this year". On Monday night into Tuesday morning, eyewitnesses reported missiles fired towards the city of Rafah in the south and shelling around the Jabalia refugee camp in the north, AFP reported. Fighting was also reported around the central areas of Maghazi and Bureij, as well

as the main southern city of Khan Yunis. In Gaza, where UN agencies have voiced alarm over a spiraling humanitarian crisis, 2.4 million Palestinians remained under siege and bombardment, most of them displaced and many huddling in shelters and tents amid dire food shortages. "Living conditions...



are just hopeless," said 43-year-old Mostafa Shenar, who fled Gaza City, now a largely devastated urban combat zone, and has been living in the crowded southern border town of Rafah.

street protests last year against what is considered the most right-wing cabinet in Israeli history.

Political blow to Netanyahu

The Supreme Court overruled a key plank of a judicial reform package that Netanyahu has defended as rebalancing the powers of politicians and judges, but which protesters have labelled a threat to Israel's liberal democracy.

The setback on the so-called reasonableness clause dealt a political blow to the wartime cabinet already under fire over the intelligence failure leading up to October 7.

The army said Monday it would soon rotate out some of the more than 300,000 reservists called up after October 7, in part to prepare them for many more months of war ahead.

It said reservists from two brigades, which have some 4,000 troops each, will start returning home this week.

Deadly West Bank clashes

Violence has also surged in the occupied West Bank, where at least 321 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops and settlers since the Gaza war began, according to the Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry.

In the latest clash Tuesday, Israeli forces killed four Palestinians, the ministry said. Recent months have also seen almost daily exchanges of fire on the Lebanon border between the Israeli army and Hezbollah resistance movement in Lebanon.

Israel has also hit targets in Syria and launched strikes near Damascus overnight causing "some material damage", state news agency SANA reported.

Yemen's Ansarullah movement have also launched attacks at Israel and at cargo ships in the Red Sea, where the US military has assembled a multinational taskforce to protect the vital shipping lane.

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