

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said the animosity toward the Islamic Revolution is due to the Islamic Republic's support for the rights of the oppressed Palestinians.

The enemies' animosity toward the Iranian nation, the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Islamic establishment and late top anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani is due to the fact that the Islamic Republic as well as Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei attach special importance to the rights of the oppressed Palestinians, Raisi told people in the northwestern city of Zanzan on Saturday.

Raisi said the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, brought up the issue of supporting the Palestinian cause and stressed the need for the liberation of the holy city of Al-Quds and elimination of the Israeli regime as a cancerous tumor more than four decades ago.

Iran's "insistence on the legitimacy of Palestine after four decades has become clear to the whole world," he said.

Raisi said that while the Iranian people's support for the Palestinians has generated enmity and verbal attacks against them over the past four decades, they have remained steadfast in their backing.

"During these four decades,



Raisi: Enmity toward Iran due to its support for Palestinians

the enemy created enmity with the Iranian nation. It sanctioned and threatened, imposed an economic blockade, and waged enmity of various kinds, but the Iranian nation won in this war of wills," he said. The president said the enemies, in spite of numerous attempts and threats,

have miserably failed in their anti-Iran plots, while young Iranian specialists have acquired and employed cutting-edge technologies.

"They thought they could get us away from the nuclear industry, but they couldn't. It was the same in the military industry,

but many great works have been done and many works are in progress."

He said that the Israeli regime will definitely disappear despite all the unconditional support it receives from global arrogant powers.

"The fake Zionist regime, which draws support from

the global arrogant powers, will certainly disappear. Injustice and oppression can never last forever, and this is a divine pledge. What will last is justice," he said.

"This is the emphasis of our religion and our policy is to defend the oppressed people of the world," Raisi said.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi speaks during a ceremony in the northwestern Iranian city of Zanzan on January 6, 2024.

president.ir

Death toll in Kerman terrorist attack rises to 91



IRNA

National Desk

The death toll from the twin suicide bombings that ripped through south-eastern Iran's Kerman city on Wednesday rose to 91 after two more victims succumbed to their injuries in hospital.

Seyyed Mohammad Saberi, the head of the Medical Emergency Organization in Kerman, said an eight-year-old child and a 60-year-old man died in hospital on Friday.

The suicide bombings struck crowds in the southern city, where many had gathered to mark the fourth anniversary of the US assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani – the commander of Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

The victims include multiple women and children and at least a dozen Afghan nationals.

Hezbollah fires over 60 rockets at Israeli military base

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement on Saturday fired more than 60 rockets at an Israeli military base, the group said, describing the barrage as a response to the killing of Hamas's deputy leader in Beirut.

"As part of the initial response to the crime of assassinating the great leader Sheikh Saleh al-Arouri... the Islamic resistance (Hezbollah) targeted the Meron air control base with 62 various types of missiles," the group said in a statement.

The Lebanon border with the occupied territories has seen regular exchanges of fire, mainly between Israeli forces and Hezbollah, since the Israel-Hamas

war broke out on October 7, according to AFP.

Arouri's assassination on Tuesday in southern Beirut, which a US defense official has told AFP was carried out by Israel, has raised fears of further escalation.

Israel has not claimed responsibility for the strike, the first on the Lebanese capital since hostilities began last year.

The Israeli military said it had identified around 40 rocket launches from Lebanese territory on Saturday morning, adding in a statement that its forces had struck a cell responsible for some of the launches shortly thereafter.

Air raid sirens went off in towns and cities across

northern Israel, later also blaring in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Later on Saturday, Hezbollah said it launched additional attacks on Israeli troops and positions, with the Israeli army saying it had retaliated.

In a speech Friday, Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah warned Israel that the group will respond swiftly "on the battlefield" to Arouri's assassination.

Nearly three months of cross-border fire have killed 175 people in Lebanon, including 129 Hezbollah fighters, but also more than 20 civilians including three journalists, according to an AFP tally.

In northern Israel, nine soldiers and at least four



AFP

civilians have been killed, according to Israeli authorities.

The escalation forced the European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell to visit Lebanon on Saturday. Borrell warned against a regional conflict that

would involve Lebanon.

"It is imperative to avoid regional escalation in the Middle East. It is absolutely necessary to avoid Lebanon being dragged into a regional conflict," Borrell said during a press conference in Beirut with Leba-

non's foreign minister.

"I am sending this message to Israel too: nobody will win from a regional conflict," he added.

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance group and Israel have exchanged near-daily cross-border fire since

Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on southern Israel.

But a strike that killed Hamas's deputy leader intensified fears of a wider conflagration.

"I think that the war can be prevented, has to be avoided and diplomacy can prevail," Borrell told reporters. Earlier Saturday, Borrell met Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, United Nations peacekeeping force (UNIFIL) commander Aroldo Lazaro and the influential speaker of parliament Nabih Berri.

His visit is part of a diplomatic push to avoid further regional escalation and call for a solution to the Gaza war.

"Diplomatic channels have to be open to signal that the war is not the only option but it is the worst option," he said.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



IRGC adds new warship, fast-attack vessels to naval fleet

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy took delivery of a range of domestically-designed and manufactured military equipment, including Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis warship that features sophisticated radar-evading technologies, and 100 fast-attack vessels.

The Abu Mahdi Muhandis has been named after the former deputy head of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units who was assassinated along with top Iranian anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem

Soleimani in a US drone strike ordered by former President Donald Trump at Baghdad airport in early January 2020, Press TV reported.

Speaking at the ceremony, IRGC Navy chief Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said the warship has a naval endurance of 14 days, and can cruise within a radius of 2,000 nautical miles without being detected by enemy radars and reconnaissance systems.

It relies on four home-grown propulsion systems, and can stay afloat under

force six conditions and carry out naval missions under force five conditions

thanks to its advanced homegrown hull design, he added.



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