

Harder days ahead...



Following the huge setback on January 22, there will likely be louder voices of internal protests against Netanyahu and his cabinet's warmongering and ineffective policies.

Just hours before the killing of 24 Israeli soldiers in central Gaza, the families of the Israeli captives stormed the Knesset, disrupting the meeting and rebelling against Netanyahu's inability to secure the release of the prisoners. On the same day, even the Labor Party set in motion a plan to impeach Netanyahu in the Knesset.

Even though the hawkish prime minister is relentlessly beating the drum of war and promises an outright victory, few people in the occupied territories remain unconvinced that such pledges are merely hollow. The situation is not unfolding favorably for Netanyahu and Israel. The Israeli army's acts in Gaza thus far, resulting in the deaths of more than 25,000 Palestinians, many of them civilians, have not been an achievement but a disgrace for the regime.

According to media reports, US President Joe Biden, Israel's strategic ally, conveyed a message to Netanyahu, warning that if Netanyahu does not change his course, he will be remembered as the person responsible for the biggest strategic failure in Israel's history. The results of a recent survey conducted by Israel's Channel 13 revealed that 53% of Israelis believe that Netanyahu's motive for pressing ahead with the Gaza war is personal gain. Some experts suggest an alternative interpretation of these personal interests, highlighting Netanyahu's fear of the war's end and an unfavorable outcome for him and his cabinet.

It appears that the heavy casualties suffered on Monday will further complicate matters for Netanyahu. On one hand, Hamas has demonstrated its refusal to give in and is fiercely resisting the Israeli onslaught. On the other hand, it will lower the morale of Israeli soldiers, leaving them more vulnerable.

Moreover, it will heighten internal pressure on Netanyahu. Political parties and concerned Israelis, who worry about the future of the regime, will double their efforts to end the war and topple Netanyahu. This agenda seems to appease both the United States and the Biden administration. That's why Barak, in an interview with the Telegraph, condemned Netanyahu's policies and called for him to step down, calling on the Israeli "executioner" of Gazans: "In the name of God, go."

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62607571900044 > irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7493 ● Wednesday, January 24, 2024 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 pages

Iran, Pakistan must work together to root out terrorist groups: **MP**



This file photo shows members of anti-Iran Jaish al-Adl terrorist group.



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

An Iranian lawmaker said Iran and Pakistan, as victims of terrorism, must stand together in eliminating terrorist groups along their borders.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Fada-Hossein Maleki expressed his country's expectation that Pakistan would join hands with Iran until the complete eradication of the threat of terrorism.

Referring to the bilateral meetings on countering terrorism in the past and

the upcoming visit of the Iranian MP said, "Terrorist groups' operations along the Iran-Pakistan border are orchestrated from outside, aiming to disrupt regional stability and strain bilateral relations".

At the invitation of the Pakistani foreign minister, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian will travel to Pakistan on January 29.

The two neighboring countries witnessed an escalation of cross-border tensions over Iran's counter-terrorism operations on January 16.

On that date, Iran launched

simultaneous drone and missile attacks on two bases of Jaish al-Adl, a terror group that was formed in 2012, and has conducted several attacks on Iranian soil in recent years.

The group claimed responsibility for an attack in December 2023 on a police station in the southeastern city of Rask that killed 11 Iranian police officers. On January 10, another attack by the group on a police station in the city killed one officer.

Also, characterizing it as a response to Tehran's operation against terrorist bases inside Pakistan, nine people, including four children,

were killed after Islamabad admitted attacking a village in Saravan in Iran's south-eastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Pakistan carried out the strikes on Thursday against what it called bases of the separatist Baloch Liberation Front and Baloch Liberation Army in regions close to Iran's border.

The parliamentary representative highlighted the deep relationship between the two countries, stating that while border issues and challenges have existed at times, they have never led to a breakdown in bilateral relations.

"Certainly, the security authorities of Iran and Pakistan have close ties, both sides respect each other's territorial integrity, and there will be further cooperation between the two countries in combating terrorist groups," Maleki stated.

"It is inevitable that there will be border issues between the two countries in the future. However, Iran and Pakistan will never stand against each other, and the two countries will always remain side by side," he said.

Maleki also commented on the bloodshed caused by Israeli attacks on Gaza, saying, "After these attacks, which led to the deaths of

thousands of innocent people in Gaza, the savage nature and aggression of the Zionists have become more evident to the people of the world, and we are witnessing significant changes in the region."

According to the Gaza Health Ministry, at least 25,295 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory during the war that erupted on October 7. "The Zionists are currently seeking to pursue two goals by any means possible:

firstly, to destabilize various regions in the area; and secondly, to engage Iran in a war of attrition. In essence, the Zionists aim to create turmoil and various problems worldwide," the parliamentarian said.

"However, the goals of the Zionists have not been realized due to the management and strategic measures taken by our officials and military commanders. Of course, implementing these measures by Iran doesn't mean that we do not respond to the actions of the Zionists; rather, it signifies our intention not to let the region fall further into turmoil."

"Certainly, at the appropriate time, a firm response will be given to the conspiracies and actions of the Zionist regime in the region," he concluded.



A 'powerful' Iran ensures regional security

International Desk

An Iranian parliamentarian emphasized the pivotal role of the Islamic Republic in the region, asserting that the presence of a "powerful" Iran

serves as a guarantor of the security of the region.

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini said, "Our neighboring countries should realize that having the

powerful Islamic Republic in the region helps to ensure the security of other countries."

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stood by all oppressed and free nations as well as all Shias, Muslims, and

liberation movements worldwide, he said, adding, "Even if challenges arise in Iran's relations with some neighbors, the Islamic Republic will never forsake its neighbors and, when necessary, will not hesitate to provide any assistance."

Emphasizing ties with the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Iranian lawmaker said the Islamic Republic, in its foreign policy approach, aims to strengthen relations with all neighbors. However, due to shared interests and other agreements between Iran and Azerbaijan, we hold a special focus on the comprehensive development of cooperation with the neighboring country.

Meshkini added that Iran's foreign diplomacy approach is based on the development and deepening of relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan. The member of Parlia-

ment's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee stressed the importance of both sides addressing obstacles and misunderstandings in their bilateral relations.

Referring to the deep cultural and historical ties between the two neighboring countries, the member of Iran-Azerbaijan parliamentary friendship group emphasized the need to thwart the efforts of enemies and hostile regimes in the region, who are trying to destabilize the relationship between the two countries.

"Today, many tensions between friendly neighboring countries are the result of psychological warfare propagated by opposing media, attempting to blur the boundaries of friendship between neighbors through resorting to false and unreal news channels," the Iranian lawmaker said.

The Iranian parliamentarian highlighted the economic

capacities of both countries, saying, "The two countries possess excellent potentials in this regard, and by relying on them, they can significantly increase the volume of trade and economic collaborations to several billion dollars."

A total of 120,125 tons of goods were transported between Iran and Azerbaijan through the Astarra Railroad Terminal from March 21-May 21, 2023, according to a local rail official.

The figure indicates an 81 percent rise compared to the corresponding figure for the preceding year, which was 66,638 tons. Meshkini also expressed his country's readiness to contribute to Azerbaijan in areas such as providing technical engineering services, manufacturing automobiles and various industries, as well as exporting agricultural products. "Iran can offer many products and services at a more competitive price than other countries. Conversely, Iran can leverage Azerbaijan's capabilities for mutual benefit," he concluded.



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