

New Parliament brings fresh hope for Iran: Leader

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said every new Parliament is a valuable and useful asset, which will bring fresh hope for Iran.

The Leader made the remarks in a meeting with the chairman and members of the Assembly of Experts in Tehran on Thursday, days after Iran held parliamentary elections.

The election was twinned with a vote for the Assembly of Experts, an 88-member body in charge of overseeing the activities of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution with a position of authority to either appoint or dismiss the Leader.

A total of 61.17 million people, comprising 30.94 million men and 30.22 million women, were eligible to vote in the two elections, with the Interior Ministry saying more than 25 million cast their ballots at the polls.

Ayatollah Khamenei said a new Parliament is like fresh blood in Iran's political and social structure.

The Leader urged the newly-elected Iranian lawmakers to be cautious not to embitter the nation and the political atmosphere of the country. Addressing members of the Assembly of Experts, the Leader said the body should never overlook the fixed principles of the Islamic Republic in its decisions. Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the recent tragic events in the Gaza Strip were a clear example of the arrogant front's oppression and aggression against the owners of a land, the destruction of their assets, and brutal killings of women and children.

A nation is being oppressed in its own homeland, the Leader lamented, adding that women, children and family members are being killed in cold blood and the nation's infrastructure is destroyed.

However, some countries are only watching such criminal acts unfold and instead of ending their support for the perpetrators, they would rather help them, Ayatollah Khamenei stated.

President launches several projects in Khuzestan

National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi inaugurated several projects in the southwestern province of Khuzestan during a visit to the province on Friday.

In the city of Shushtar, "New Smart Subsurface Irrigation" was put into operation with the presence of the president in the Karoun Agricultural and Industrial Complex. The project has been carried out in the country for the first time.

President Raisi also inaugurated the first phase of the cultivation and industry complex of Pak Chub Industrial Group in the province's city of Shush.

The first phase of the project was implemented in two years with a budget of 200 million euros and has an annual production capacity of 400,000 cubic meters.

During this ceremony, Raisi visited different parts of the factory and



was informed about the details of its activities. He also inaugurated the Zamzam 3 Factory which produces sponge iron. During the official

opening ceremony of multiple projects, President Raisi commended the workers, technicians, and engineers for their dedication. Despite the

obstacles posed by Iran's enemies, Raisi emphasized that the country's growth was achieved through the determination of its people.

The president highlighted that Iran's success in implementing a resistance economy was a direct result of the efforts made by its people.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (C) visits a factory in the southwestern city of Shush in Khuzestan Province on March 8, 2024.
● president.ir

8,900 Gaza women killed

Global call for Israel's removal from UN women's rights body

On International Women's Day, the government media office in Gaza called for the removal of Israel from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), citing the killing of over 8,900 Palestinian women by Israeli aggression since October. The media office, in a statement issued on Friday, criticized the international community's silence in the face of Israel's actions.

According to the statement, Israel's genocidal war on Gaza has resulted in the deaths of 8,900 Palestinian women, leaving more than 23,000 injured and 2,100 missing. The war has also displaced over half a million Palestinian women, subjecting them to extreme difficulties and depriving them of



basic necessities, Press TV reported. The media office highlighted the challenging conditions faced by 60,000 pregnant women, lacking essential health care and medical requirements, with many

losing their children due to bombings. The statement also addressed the plight of female Palestinian detainees facing physical and psychological torture. The media office hailed the "steadfastness" of Palestin-

ian women, stressing that they are "in dire need to defend their rights and life requirements rather than being killed, shot at, detained, and forced into displacement and migration, as the occupation army has been doing for over

five continuous months." It held the US, the international community, and relevant organizations fully responsible for the situation, calling for an end to the Israeli occupation and immediate action to stop the ongoing crimes against Palestinian women.

In a related development, Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations echoed the call for Israel's removal from the UNCSW, citing the regime's relentless strikes on the Gaza Strip that resulted in the killing of about 9,000 Palestinian women. The mission, in a post on the social media platform X, demanded the cessation of the occupying Zionist regime from occupying UN seats, using the hashtag "#RemoveIsraelfrom

mUNCSW." The call for Israel's ouster from the UNCSW coincides with International Women's Day, celebrated globally under the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" on March 8. The Health Ministry in Gaza, in a statement, condemned the international community's silence, emphasizing the need for an immediate halt to Israeli aggression and genocide. The ministry urged the UN and international women's organizations to mobilize efforts to end the Israeli aggression on Gaza, where at least 30,800 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been confirmed killed, and 72,043 others injured during the genocidal war that began in October 2023.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Two artists return Goethe award over German 'complicity' in Gaza war

An Egyptian visual artist Mohamad Alba returned the German Goethe award he received in 2022, citing Berlin's "complicity" in the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza and hoping his move would "awaken" people's conscience. "It doesn't make sense that the German government speaks about equality and justice and at the same time ignores the plight and rights of Palestinians and helps arm Israel," he told Middle East Eye. He hoped that by returning the medal "everyone's con-

science is awakened." Alba has called on other artists to take action through various means against the "apparent injustice" in the Gaza Strip, where more than 30,800 people, mostly women and children, have been killed by Israeli strikes since October, Press TV wrote. In a separate act of protest, South African author Zukiswa Wanner, the first woman to receive the Goethe medal, rejected the award earlier in the week. She highlighted Germany's role as one of the largest

arms exporters to Israel and criticized the government for not condemning genocide, stating, "I thus find myself unable to stay silent or keep an official decoration from a government that is this callous to human suffering." Wanner shared her experiences in the occupied Palestinian territories, emphasizing that one did not need to be from a country with a history of apartheid to witness the daily injustices faced by Palestinians. She explained that her decision was influenced by

her visit to different cities, including Al-Quds, and resulted in writing an essay, "Vignettes of a People in an Apartheid State." The news also reported Germany's consideration of delivering tank ammunition to Israel in January amid the genocidal war against Gaza. The Israeli request for around 10,000 rounds of 120-millimeter precision ammunition was made in November, with the Israeli ambassador to Germany expressing gratitude for the unrelenting support shown by the German government.