

Raisi: Iran's operation against Israel 'source of national pride'

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi praised as a source of national pride the Islamic Republic's daring strikes last month on the Israeli-occupied territories in retaliation for the regime's earlier aggression on the Iranian diplomatic mission in Syria. Raisi made the statement in a televised interview broadcast live on the state-run television on Tuesday night while elaborating on the aspects of Operation True Promise, Iran's anti-Israel military operation which was carried out on April 13, Press TV reported. Stressing that the large-scale operation should be discussed in various meetings and scientific, research, political and security circles, the Iranian president said, "Operation True Promise is a source of national pride and is considered a turning point in consensus-building measures across the country, and everyone praised this deed." Raisi underlined that the Israeli regime's aggression

against the Iranian Embassy in Syria bespoke the occupying entity's desperation, adding that Iran's reprisal was a punishment for the regime. "The Zionist regime is beset by desperation and defeat. One of the manifestations of this desperation is the attack on the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Damascus; an act that contravened all international laws and regulations," the chief executive said. "Subsequently, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution asserted that the Zionist regime would be punished and this promise was fulfilled by our combatants." Iran's foreign minister said on Wednesday that the West had asked the Islamic Republic to exercise restraint and lower the intensity of its retaliation. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said, "Ahead of the operation, the request of the Westerners was that if you want to respond, do not hit hard and reduce the intensi-



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (R) speaks in a televised interview on May 7, 2024. president.ir

ty of the operation." In a multi-pronged attack, dubbed Operation True Promise, the Iranian armed forces launched dozens of

drones and missiles at the occupied territories late on April 13 in response to the regime's aggression on the Iranian diplomatic premises

in the Syrian capital, Damascus, on April 1. The Israeli airstrikes on Iran's Embassy compound in Damascus killed two

generals of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as well as five of their accompanying officers.

'Death of European values'

EU staff members protest Israel's war in Gaza

International Desk

A group of EU institution staffers marched in silence in Brussels on Wednesday to protest against Israel's war in Gaza and what they described as the "death" of European values. Protesters laid three rolled-up white sheets with red stains on them on the square outside the European Commission's head office in the Belgian capital. On the three 'bodies' the words International Law, EU Treaties and Genocide Convention were written, in a protest of the way Israel has responded to the attacks by Hamas on Oct. 7. "We're coming together in a peaceful assembly, to stand up for those rights, principles and values that the European institutions are built on," EU Commission staff member Manus Carl-

isle told Reuters. "The reasons why we work here and love to work here. Those values of human rights, human dignity and freedom especially." Sara, one of the EU officials taking part in the protest, told Euronews that EU leaders needed to "go further". "I am here as someone who works every day to make the EU a better place, and the EU cannot be a better place if the world is not a better place," she said. "We as the European Union have a huge responsibility towards Gaza, towards Palestine," she added. "We cannot tolerate the hatred, we cannot tolerate the violence, we cannot tolerate this genocide." Israel's offensive has killed more than 34,800 Palestinians in seven months of war in Gaza, most of them women and children, ac-

ording to the Gaza health ministry. Israel on Wednesday continued its strikes on the overcrowded Gaza city of Rafah, where it has launched a ground incursion, as talks resumed Wednesday in Cairo aimed at agreeing the terms of a truce in the seven-month war. Despite international objections, Israel sent tanks and seized the nearby crossing into Egypt. Rafah has been a vital conduit for humanitarian aid since the start of the war and is the only place where people can enter and exit. Israel now controls all of Gaza's border crossings for the first time since it withdrew troops and settlers from the territory nearly two decades ago. The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA,



EU staffers march for peace in Gaza outside the European Commission's head office in Brussels on May 8, 2024. [EURONEWS](http://euronews.com)

said the Kerem Shalom crossing - which Israel shut after a rocket attack killed four soldiers on Sunday - remained closed. Meanwhile, Gaza health workers uncovered Wednesday at least 49 bodies at Al-Shifa hospital - the latest such discovery at the facility previously raided by Israeli forces. The Israeli military has re-

peatedly targeted Al-Shifa, the Palestinian territory's largest hospital, and other medical facilities in its war since October 7. Israel claims that Palestinian fighters use hospitals as command centers. Hamas denies the accusation. Motassem Salah, head of the emergency department at Al-Shifa, told journalists that "a third mass grave

was found inside this hospital." Last month, around 30 bodies were reported found buried in two other graves in the hospital courtyard. So far 520 bodies have been recovered from "seven mass graves" found at three different hospitals across Gaza in recent weeks, the media office said.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Pure brutality, shameful ...

It seems that the international community has reached a stalemate in dealing with this blatant brutality. The actions of the Israeli army in Gaza over the past seven months have been clear violations of human rights, international conventions of war, and constitute war crimes and genocide. In recent months, efforts and pressures from governments and international organizations to establish a cease-fire and curb the madness of Benjamin Netanyahu, with the support of the United States,

have been unsuccessful. The United States, by ignoring the humanitarian atrocities in Gaza, has not only disregarded the principle of respecting human rights but has also weakened the credibility of the United Nations and the Security Council. Therefore, it is not unjustified to view the United States government as complicit in these crimes. In a clear contradiction, the US administration has approved a \$26 billion aid package to Israel while simultaneously announcing a halt to bomb shipments to this regime. While shedding

crocodile tears for Palestinian civilians and pretending to negotiate a cease-fire, it has undermined any proposals for peace in the Security Council. When discussing the assault on Rafah, we are talking about one and a half million individuals densely concentrated in a small area, now either forcibly displaced or exposed to bombing and tank fire. This declaration by Ahmed Abu Zeid, the spokesperson for the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serves as a stark illustration of the current state of silence and inaction in today's world: What is transpiring is a disgraceful blemish for the international community.

Anti-Israel student protests spread across Europe

Campus protests by pro-Palestinian activists, inspired by ongoing demonstrations at US campuses, spread across Europe as some called for a break in academic ties with Israel over the war in Gaza. German police broke up a protest by several hundred pro-Palestinian activists who had occupied a courtyard at Berlin's Free University. Protesters occupied a university building in Amsterdam hours after police detained 169 people at a different campus location.

Elsewhere in Europe, some student camps have been allowed to stay in places like the lawns of Cambridge. In recent days, students have held protests or set up encampments in Finland, Denmark, Italy, Spain, France and Britain, AP reported.

In the eastern German city of Leipzig, about 50 pro-Palestinian protesters set up tents at Leipzig University and occupied a lecture hall.

In the Netherlands, police broke up a pro-Palestinian demonstration camp at the University of Amsterdam, beating some of the protesters and pulling down tents.

In Austria, protesters camped out in about 20 tents in the main courtyard of the University of Vienna for a second day.

Pro-Palestine protest camps have sprung up at about a dozen universities in Britain, including at Oxford and Cambridge, urging the institutions to fully disclose investments, cut academic ties with Israel and divest from businesses linked to the country.

"Oxbridge's profits cannot continue to climb at the expense of Palestinian lives, and their reputations must no longer be built on the whitewashing of Israeli crimes," said a joint statement from protesters at the two universities.

In Finland, dozens of protesters from the Students for Palestine solidarity group set up camp outside the main building at the University of Helsinki, saying they would stay there until the university, Finland's largest academic institution, cuts academic ties with Israeli universities.

In Denmark, students set up a pro-Palestinian encampment at the University of Copenhagen.

In Italy, students at the University of Bologna, one of the world's oldest universities, set up a tent encampment over the weekend to demand an end to the war in Gaza.

In Spain, dozens of students have spent over a week at a pro-Palestinian encampment on the University of Valencia campus. Similar camps were set up Monday at the University of Barcelona and the University of the Basque Country.