

Iran will weather political vacuum

Popular president goes down in history



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

The passing of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has resonated globally. Condolences have poured in from around the world addressed to Iran's Leader and officials. The Iranian people are also affected by this loss. Iran Daily interviewed Abouzar Gohari Moqaddam, a political analyst and professor at Imam Sadiq University in Tehran, to discuss the enduring characteristics of Raisi as well as the current situation in Iran. He believes that the Islamic Republic will pass through this historical period with strength.

IRAN DAILY: In your opinion, what are the most enduring characteristics of Raisi that will be remembered by the people?

MOQADDAM: His most prominent characteristic was his focus on popular governance. Giving attention to the fundamental needs of the people was the cornerstone of his plans and policies in various political, security, economic, cultural, and social areas. Serving the people and ensuring their interests and desires were his top priorities. He ultimately became a martyr on this path of belief, which is serving the people.

Another feature was his sincerity and ethics. Unlike many

politicians worldwide who disregard ethics and use any means to achieve their goals, he paid great attention to political ethics and advised all his colleagues in the government to uphold them.

Another remarkable trait was his unwavering loyalty to the commitments made by himself and his government. He remained dedicated and faithful to the Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Thanks to these positive characteristics, today all Iranians with different tendencies and intellectual tastes are affected and saddened by his martyrdom.

The Islamic Republic has lost



Abouzar Gohari Moqaddam

its president and foreign minister. Now, elections must be held quickly to introduce a new government. Does the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran have the necessary capability to overcome these circumstances?

Yes, it certainly can do so. The Islamic Republic has experienced various crises over the past 45 years, including war, sanctions, assassinations, natural disasters, and the loss of its officials. It has successfully weathered many upheav-

als. The Islamic Republic has now become a sturdy oak tree, with deep roots that remain unharmed by changes in its leadership. At this juncture, the constitutional capacities and leadership measures, coupled with the people, will ensure its safe passage.

We witness that based on these very principles of the Constitution and the decree of the Leader, the First Vice President has been entrusted with the responsibilities of the Executive branch. The government's activities are

ongoing. In a tranquil atmosphere, affairs are being conducted, and with the support of the people, just like in the past, there is no harm to the Islamic Republic and the country. Opponents who harbor erroneous notions about this historical period of the Islamic Republic of Iran must learn from the past and understand that these baseless notions will not lead anywhere with the presence of the people and the Leader. Therefore, the system of the Islamic Republic will safely navigate through this period as well.

Since the announcement of the president's passing, political currents and figures who had political and ideological disagreements with him have expressed their condolences and emphasized adherence to the provisions of the Constitution. Do you think this loss could further enhance social and political cohesion in Iran?

It is crucial, as you pointed out, that all critics of the president have also expressed regret over his passing. What matters to

the political currents within the Islamic Republic is the stability of the country. All these political currents understand that no harm should come to the country and its people at this sensitive juncture, so their positions are geared towards strengthening internal cohesion rather than disrupting the country's order and stability. Nevertheless, the Constitution has clarified everything. Within 50 days, a council composed of heads of the Legislative and Judicial branches, along with the first deputy of the president, will prepare the necessary arrangements for holding presidential elections. A similar event occurred in the early years following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, where elections were held after the passing of the then-President within the legal timeframe, leading to the formation of a new government. Now, there is the capability for elections to be held on time and for a new government to take office. Therefore, as the Leader has stated there would be no disruption in the management of the country in the wake of the incident.

MP commends FM's successful neighborly policy



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

An Iranian lawmaker praised Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the foreign minister, as a valuable asset in the country's Foreign Ministry, citing the reduction of tensions and misunderstandings in the region between Iran and its neighbors as a significant achievement during his time in the foreign policy arena.

In an interview with Iran Daily, Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi said Amir-Abdollahian was among the diplomats who gradually progressed through his educational and professional stages at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gaining a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of work in the ministry and the Islamic Republic's approaches in foreign policy, especially in the Middle East and the areas of Resistance [against arrogant powers and Zionism].

The member of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission called Amir-Abdollahian a loyal diplomat to the Islamic Republic, the Leadership, and the ideals of the Islamic Revolution and martyrs, stating that he had a very positive outlook on the interaction between the field of action and diplomacy, establishing very good relations with governmental sectors, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps forces, and also Parliament members.

"Since he entered the field of foreign policy, he played a very influential role in the country's foreign policy apparatus in de-escalating relations with neighboring countries. We have witnessed instances of this in relations with countries in Central Asia, Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region, and East Asian countries," he added.

As a member of the Iran-Vietnam and Iran-Tajikistan parliamen-

tary friendship groups, Rahimi said Amir-Abdollahian's emphasis and attention to details for resolving issues were commendable in relations with these two states during the visits of the Tajik and Vietnamese parliament speakers to Iran in August and December respectively.

"Amir-Abdollahian was a seasoned diplomat and a great asset to the country's foreign policy apparatus, and this bitter incident (his death in the helicopter crash) is considered a great sorrow for all of us," he said.

The Iranian parliamentarian explained the important fields pursued during Amir-Abdollahian's tenure as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, saying "The first axis was the resolution of tensions and misunderstandings with our

neighbors, exemplified by the improvement of relations with Saudi Arabia and the UAE".

"He also made significant efforts to enhance relations with Egypt and Jordan. Additionally, in managing tensions with Azerbaijan, Amir-Abdollahian was highly effective," Rahimi said, adding that, "Moreover, he adeptly addressed issues in Iran's relations with Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. When border issues arose between Iran and Pakistan, Amir-Abdollahian demonstrated expertise in resolving them".

The Iranian MP emphasized that the foreign minister's prioritization of improving relations with neighbors and efforts in regional tension reduction should continue to guide foreign policy in the future.

Rahimi said that the next axis of actions initiated by Amir-Abdollahian, which he launched and executed well, was his very positive interaction with representatives in Parliament and his belief in public diplomacy and parliamentary diplomacy.

"In this context, many representatives who were prominent on the global stage were regularly invited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His last appearance in Parliament was his discussion with the National Security Commission last week".

The lawmaker mentioned that Amir-Abdollahian had been inviting representatives to various parliamentary commissions and areas in the past few weeks, requesting their progress reports and incorporating their perspectives in diplomatic matters. He praised Amir-Abdollahian's positive engagement with Parliament as a significant factor.

Rahimi highlighted Amir-Abdollahian's strong relationships with regional Resistance groups as his third key feature, emphasizing "the importance of Palestine and Iran's support for resistance groups, which are part of the policies and ideals of the Islamic Revolution that should continue under the next Minister of Foreign Affairs".

The MP believed that the fourth positive characteristic of Amir-Abdollahian was his belief in consultative and specialized work. "For instance, if there were discussions about appointing individuals to various responsibilities or the need for certain changes and reforms within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amir-Abdollahian used to address these issues by forming councils".

The lawmaker emphasized that these traits should be pursued by the next Minister of Foreign Affairs in the country.

