

# Leader: Iranians show loyalty at president's funeral



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting with the families of the victims of the recent helicopter crash in the capital Tehran on May 25, 2024.

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Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the massive turnout of Iranian people in funeral processions for the late President Ebrahim Raisi is a testament to the nation's loyalty to the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a Saturday meeting held in the capital Tehran with the families of

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and six of their companions who lost their lives in a helicopter crash in the northwestern Iranian province of East Azarbaijan last week. Pointing to the enemy's propaganda and claims regarding the estrangement of Iranian people from the Islamic Republic, the Leader

said, "This incident, before the very eyes of the world and in practice, proved the attachment and loyalty of the Iranian nation to the president and those who embodied the mottoes of the Revolution," Press TV reported. Praising President Raisi as a manifestation of the mottoes of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Mr. Raeisi relied on the slo-

gans of the Revolution and the words of the Imam from the very beginning when he ran for the elections, and the whole world knew him as the president of the Revolution." "When people support and honor this man in such a great way, it means supporting the slogans of the Revolution," he stressed. Ayatollah Khamenei noted that working for the people

and serving the public was the most prominent feature of the martyrs of the incident. He touched on the epic funeral processions in the cities of Tabriz, Qom, Tehran, Shahr-e-Rey, Birjand, Mashhad, Maragheh, Zanjan and Najafabad, saying, "This glorious funeral showed that the Iranian nation is alive." Expressing his condolences

to the families of the victims, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Recounting the services and efforts of Mr. Raisi and Mr. Amir-Abdollahian in the domestic and foreign front is a long and detailed story." Meanwhile, a ceremony honoring the former president and his associates was conducted by the Leader at Imam Khomeini's Hosseiniyeh in Tehran. Millions gathered in various cities across the country to commemorate the martyrdom of the president and his companions as part of ceremonies held following the Leader's declaration of five-day national mourning over the tragic loss. Dozens of world leaders, presidents, ambassadors, and international personalities as well as high-profile figures of the Axis of Resistance have over the past days participated in ceremonies across Iran to pay homage to the martyrs. On Sunday, the helicopter carrying Raisi and his companions crashed as it was on its way to Tabriz, the capital of Iran's East Azarbaijan Province, from a location on the border with the Republic of Azerbaijan where the Iranian president had opened a major dam project.

Raisi's good neighbor policy 'outstandingly' successful: **Caretaker president**

#### National Desk

Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber on Saturday hailed late president Ebrahim Raisi's "outstanding" success to cement ties with neighboring nations under his "good neighbor policy". "One of the most outstanding achievements of Ayatollah Raisi was the promotion of Iran's relations with neighboring and allied Muslim countries," Mokhber told Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid who visited Tehran to pay tribute to president Raisi who died on May 19 when his helicopter went down in northwestern Iran killing all eight people onboard including foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. Mokhber said Iran lost two "great persons" in the aerial crash who played a key role in strengthening "the Axis of Resistance" it is fighting against the United States and Israel. Rashid said Raisi's loss was a "great and irreparable tragedy" for Iraq and the entire region. Rashid's visit to Tehran followed a visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani to Tehran to meet with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and attend the funeral procession. In recent days, numerous world leaders, presidents, ambassadors, and international figures, along with prominent members of the Axis of Resistance, have attended various ceremonies in Iran to honor the tragic loss of President Raisi. Meanwhile, during a phone call with Mokhber on Friday, Saudi Crown Prince Bin Salman offered condolences for the death of Raisi and his companions. Bin Salman accepted an invitation from Iran's acting president to visit the country. He emphasized that Saudi Arabia will continue to enhance relations with Iran, a goal that was also pursued by President Raisi and Amir-Abdollahian. "Tehran and Riyadh play a crucial role in the region and the Islamic world, and through strengthening bilateral ties, the two nations can pave the way for a promising future in the region," he said. Also on Saturday, the UN office in Geneva hosted a memorial service for last Sunday's victims. The session was conducted by envoys from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, who paid tribute to the late Iranian president and his entourage. On Friday, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres paid tribute to Raisi and Hossein Amir-Abdollahian by visiting the Islamic Republic's mission in New York.

## Rafah invasion stokes Israel's further isolation

International pressure piled on the Israeli regime as the occupying entity forges ahead with a large-scale ground invasion in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah after the Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered Tel Aviv to swiftly stop its military aggression against the densely-populated area, where more than one million Palestinians have taken refuge. In its ruling on Friday, the UN's top court stated that the occupying regime must "immediately halt its military offensive, and any other action in the Rafah governorate, which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physi-

cal destruction in whole or in part." The ruling has deepened Israel's rift with the United States over the offensive, which faces mounting international condemnation. Despite providing Israel with untrammelled support in the fields of intelligence, finance and logistics since the regime started its barbaric aggression on the besieged Gaza Strip last October, the administration of US President Joe Biden has opposed a major offensive in Rafah and is pressuring its ally to avoid a full-scale onslaught in the southern Gaza city. Earlier in the month, the White House announced it was pausing a shipment of some 3,500 bombs, includ-

ing massive 2,000-pound explosives that the Biden administration said were leading to civilian deaths, with the US president warning during a CNN interview that, "If they go into Rafah, I'm not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah." American officials in pressuring Israel had suggested that a major offensive in Rafah was a red line that would undermine stalled negotiations on a deal to return Israeli captives in Gaza. "When it comes to Rafah, we've made known for a long time our concerns about a full-on military assault of Rafah and the damage that that could do to

civilian population absent a clear and credible plan to protect it," Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Israel, however, has shown no signs that it intends to change course after the ICJ's ruling, with political analysts saying the regime's persistence in launching a full-scale aggression on Rafah would lead to the further isolation of the illegal entity. The top court's ruling came just days after Norway, Ireland and Spain said they would recognize a Palestinian state, and the chief prosecutor of a separate international court sought arrest warrants for Israeli prime minister Benjamin

Netanyahu over the regime's months-long onslaught on Gaza. Netanyahu's office claimed in a statement in defiance of the ruling that the allegations regarding Israel's genocide in Gaza was "false, outrageous and morally repugnant." The Israeli premier also claimed that, "Israel is acting...consistent with its moral values and in compliance with international law." War cabinet minister Benny Gantz, who spoke with Blinken, said Israel had set out on a "just and necessary campaign" following the October 7 attack and added that it would keep going, despite the ruling. "The State of Israel is committed to continue fighting

to return its hostages and promise the security of its citizens - wherever and whenever necessary - including in Rafah," he said in a statement. Israel launched its atrocious onslaught against the Gaza Strip, targeting hospitals, residences, and houses of worship since Palestinian resistance movements launched a surprise attack, dubbed Operation al-Aqsa Storm, against the usurping regime on October 7. At least 35,857 Palestinians have been killed, most of them women and children, and another 80,293 individuals have sustained injuries. More than 1.7 million people have been internally displaced during the war as well.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Raisi respected by peers ..

Additionally, the participation of various world leaders in his funeral procession proved that the good neighborliness policy of Raisi's administration, spearheaded by the sincere efforts of the martyred foreign minister, had borne fruit. The widespread public participation in his funeral and the love that they showed for him elsewhere also elevated Iran's political standing and credibility among the world's countries.

We should leverage this new atmosphere, which has fostered a sense of solidarity and national unity within our society as well, to enhance the dynamism of our foreign policy. This policy is not tied solely to Raisi or Amir-Abdollahian but rather to the policy of the Islamic Republic. However, the key point is that these individuals implemented this strategy with strength and determination. I hope that the interim president and foreign minister will continue this policy

with the same vigor and determination. Considering the support shown by Iranians for their political leaders, I believe we will have a presidential election with a high turnout. The martyrdom of the esteemed president Raisi and foreign minister Amir-Abdollahian has shown that the country's path is toward further strengthening the bond between the nation and the government. This will, in turn, enhance Iran's international standing and credibility.