# Leader: West trying to take Syria out of regional equations



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Western countries are trying to remove Syria from the regional equations through new methods.

The Westerners and their acolytes in the region tried to overthrow Syria's political system and remove it from the regional equations through the war they waged against the country,

but they did not succeed, Ayatollah Kahmenei told visiting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Thurs-

"Now they want to use other methods, including

promises that they never fulfill, in order to take Syria out of the regional equations," he added.

Assad traveled to Tehran to offer condolences over the loss of late president Ebra-

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) and Iran's acting President with Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in Tehran on May 30, 2024

him Raisi and his companions in a helicopter crash on May 19.

Ayatollah Khamenei hailed Syria's "distinguished identity" in the region, saying it is owed to the Syrian nation's resistance.

The distinguished identity of Syria, the Leader said, was formed during the late Hafez Assad's era with the founding of the resistance front and standing against the West.

'This identity has always contributed to the national unity of Syria," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei also lauded President Assad for his firm stand, saying "everyone should see the special privilege of the Syrian government, that is, resistance, in front of their eyes".

The Leader stressed the need for Syria and Iran to strengthen relations given that the two countries are "the pillars of the axis of resistance".

#### 'Cost of resistance lower than compromise

President Assad touched on the evolution of resistance in the region, saying after more than 50 years, it has become a religious and political approach.

Assad said his position has always been that any retreat against the West would lead to its advances.

"I announced a few years ago that the cost of resistance is lower than the cost of compromise, and this issue is now very clear to the Syrian people, Syrian president said.

"Your remarks had important points, but one point was more important to me, when you emphasized that 'the more we retreat, the more the other side will come forward'," Ayatollah Khamenei responded.

### **Hopefuls** register for president



#### **National Desk**

Iran on Thursday began the formal registration of presidential candidates ahead of a snap vote next month to replace the late president Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash.

The 14th presidential elections were originally slated for 2025 but were brought forward following Raisi's unexpected death on May 19.

Presidential hopefuls have until Monday to apply for the vote now scheduled for June 28.

Former parliament speaker Ali Larijani, who was barred from standing in the 2021 presidential race, submitted his candidacy on the second of the registration.

He told journalists that one of his "priorities" if elected would be to "resolve the issue of (US) sanctions" and improve the country's economy.

Among other high-profile hopefuls who registered for the contest were former governor of the central bank Abdolnasser Hemmati, who also ran in the 2021 presidential election, and former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili who registered on Thursday.

Former lawmaker Mostafa Kavakebian and incumbent parliamentarian Mohammadreza Sabaghian also submitted their applications at the Interior Ministry on Thursday.

Candidates must be between the ages of 40 and 75 and have at least a master's degree, according to Iran's electoral law.

A final list of candidates will be announced on June 11 by the Guardian Council.

## UNGA pays tribute to Iran's late president

**International Desk** 

The United Nations General Assembly held a plenary meeting on Thursday to pay tribute to the late president of Iran Ebrahim Raisi and his entourage, who died in a helicopter crash on May 19. Following the observing of a minute of silence, Dennis Francis, president of the General Assembly, offered his deepest condolences to the government and people

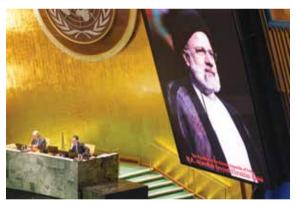
He said president Raisi "led his country's contribution to shape the tenets of our multilateral system and international cooperation", according to the UN official



A picture of late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi is displayed as the United Nations General Assembly holds a tribute to him at UN headquarters in New York KENA BETANCUR/AFP

website. Francis also hon-

ored the memory of late foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian — "a consummate diplomat who faithfully stood alongside president Raisi in representing Iran on the global stage". Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres also extended his condolences to the families. the government and people of Iran, President Raisi led



Iran at a challenging time for the country, the region and globally, he said.

"In these difficult times, international and regional cooperation are needed more than ever" in order to build confidence, prevent conflict and resolve disputes, Guterres said. To this end, he assured the Iranian people that the United Nations stands in solidarity with them and in the quest for peace, development and fundamental freedoms. Additionally, Burundi's

UN Ambassador Zéphyrin Maniratanga, who spoke on behalf of African nations, praised the Iranian president as a "distinguished leader who devoted his life to serving his nation and fostering international cooperation particularly with African countries."

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN Munir Akram spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. 'We take solace in the historical contributions of the former Iranian President to the vision and mission of the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation, notably its central cause of the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and the protection of the sanctity of holy mosque of Al-Quds Sharif," he said.

Speaking for the Non-Aligned Movement, the representative of Uganda emphasized that Raisi and Amir-Abdollahian were "instrumental" in strengthening cooperation among members of the bloc.

Raisi, Amir-Abdollahian and six others were killed on May 19, when their helicopter crashed in foggy weather in the mountains in northwest Iran.

### You're standing on ...

The oppression has seen transferred "thousands terrorism and incessant Zionists seizing Pales-Page 1 > tinians' country and then subjecting them to "the harshest of pressures and tortures," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

"The genocide [that is being exercised] by the apartheid Zionist regime today serves as the continuation of [the same] severely oppressive behavior," the Leader stated, referring to the Israeli regime's genocidal war against Gaza that has claimed the lives of more than 36,000 Palestinians since its onset in October last vear.

Describing the process of usurpation of the Palestinian land, Ayatollah Khamenei noted how Zionist capitalists, who were being aided by the British government, gradually of terrorists" to Palestine following the World War. Those, the Leader added, killed and displaced tens of thousands of Palestinians before forming the Israeli regime there.

Ayatollah Khamenei, however, described the United States as "the greatest supporter of the usurping regime" following the initial patronage that was provided for the regime by the British.

The American administration, the Leader said, had been providing the regime with continual political, economic, and arms support, and had even "recklessly" paved the way for its production of nuclear weapons.

"The American administration and its partners have not even as much as frowned upon this state oppression," the letter read. "The 'resistance front," it added, "rose amid this dark and bleak atmosphere, and the formation of 'the Islamic Republic' in Iran contributed to its expansion and strength."

Nevertheless, American and European media agencies, which were being influenced by Zionist money and bribery, have been introducing this "human and courageous resistance as terrorism," the Leader noted.

Ayatollah Khamenei then asked whether a nation, which was fending for itself against Zionist occupiers inside its own land, was to be considered as "terrorist."

This situation, though, was changing and a different fate awaited the sensitive West Asia region, the Leader asserted.

First Announcement

### Appendix Number 1

Announcement of the public invitation proposal number 1102115 for investors Pre-qualification assessment.



National Iranian Copper Industry Co. (NICICO) intends to "purchase the electrical energy required by the Sarcheshemeh copper complex in the amount of approximately 600 GWH/year in Kerman province through the construction of a large-scale solar power plant with a capacity of 320 MW by investor in the form of a 21-year long-term guaranteed purchase contract (three periods of 7 years) based on the B.O.O. method" through public invitation as pre-qualification of investors.

In order to get more information, it is necessary to refer to the official website of this company as described below:

https://en.nicico.com/