

Iran summons German envoy over Islamic center closure



A police officer stands outside the "Blue Mosque", housing the Islamic Centre of Hamburg, northern Germany, on July 24, 2024.
 dpa

The Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the German ambassador on Wednesday after the closure of an Islamic center in the northern city of Hamburg over what Berlin claimed to be propagating extremism and

Islamic ideology as well as support for the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah. "Following the action of the German police which closed a number of Islamic centers, the German ambassador was summoned today to the ministry of foreign affairs," the ministry said in a statement on social media platform X. Germany's Interior Ministry said it had "banned the Hamburg Islamic Center and its affiliated organizations throughout Germany to date, as it is an Islamist extremist organization pursuing anti-constitutional objectives." Berlin accused the Islamic Center Hamburg (IZH) and its affiliated organizations of undermining the German state and promoting an "Islamist-extremist ideology opposed to human dignity, women's rights, an

independent judiciary, and democratic governance." Germany's Interior Ministry also said 53 properties associated with the IZH were searched across eight German states following a court order, and four mosques were shut. Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned Germany's "hostile action," and said it was "contrary to the fundamental human rights principles." "Unfortunately, what happened in Germany today is a clear example of Islamophobia and a confrontation to the teachings of the Abrahamic religions," it said. The ministry hailed "valuable and unforgettable services of Islamic centers, including the Hamburg Islamic Center, in explaining the religious teachings of Islam, promoting the principle of dialogue and religious tolerance, as well as combating extremism."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran rebukes UN report on 'extra-judicial' executions in 1980s



The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry roundly dismissed the last report by the outgoing UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the country as part of attempts by enemies to tarnish the image of the Islamic Republic. In a statement on Wednesday, Nasser Kanaani said Javaid Rehman, the outgoing UN rapporteur, who has been misappropriating his position to serve the terrorist Mujahidin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), has pursued the policies of the terror group in the final days of his tenure. Kanaani underlined that the allegations raised by Rehman lack credibility and are totally rejected. In his last report on Iran dated July 17, Rehman called for a probe into unsubstantiated claims that Iran had committed "summary, arbitrary and extra-judicial executions" in the 1980s.

Pezeshkian: Tough decisions needed to run country

National Desk

Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday that his administration has to make "tough decisions" because it is not

possible to run the country with the ongoing methods. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting of the supreme provisional councils in Tehran on Wednesday. "We definitely will emerge

victorious with unity," he underlined, adding that he cannot do anything by himself. "We are not going to make a decision without people's participation and imple-

ment a policy without people's support," he said. Pezeshkian won the presidential election in the second round of the vote on July 5. He garnered more than 16 million votes

against ex-nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, who secured upwards of 13 million out of over 30 million votes cast, with the voter turnout standing at almost 50 percent.



Wave of protests breaks out against Israel's genocide in Gaza

International Desk

Several cities in the world were the scene of fresh anti-Israel demonstrations as Israel continues its devastating war on the Gaza Strip. American protesters against the Gaza war staged a sit-in at a congressional office building Tuesday ahead of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's address to Congress, with Capitol Police making multiple arrests. Netanyahu arrived in Washington Monday for a visit that includes meetings with President Joe Biden and a

Wednesday speech before a joint session of Congress. Dozens of protesters rallied outside his hotel Monday evening, and on Tuesday afternoon, hundreds of demonstrators staged a flashmob-style protest in the Cannon Building, which houses offices of House of Representatives members. Organized by Jewish Voice for Peace, protesters wearing red T-shirts that read "Not In Our Name" took over the building's rotunda, sitting on the floor, unfurling signs and chanting "Let Gaza Live!"



After about a half-hour of clapping and chanting, officers from the US Capitol Police issued several warnings, then began arresting protesters — binding their

hands with zip ties and leading them away one-by-one. "I am the daughter of Holocaust survivors and I know what a Holocaust looks like," said Jane Hirschmann, a native of Saugerties, New York, who drove down for the protest along with her two daughters — both of whom were arrested. "When we say 'Never Again,' we mean never for anybody." The demonstrators focused much of their ire on the Biden administration, demanding that the president immediately cease all arms shipments to Israel. "We're not focusing on Netanyahu. He's just a symptom," Hirschmann said. "But how can (Biden) be calling for a cease-fire when he's sending them bombs and planes?"

Protests in UK

Workers and trade unionists from Workers for a Free Palestine blockaded the Foreign, Commonwealth and

Development Office in central London. They called on Foreign Secretary David Lammy and the new Labour government to meet their own demands on the previous government by

Gaza. France will deploy hundreds of police officers to secure Israel's opening Olympic football match against Mali in an initial security test before the Games' opening ceremony. Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said 1,000 security personnel will be deployed. The Palestinian Olympic Committee this week called for Israel to be excluded from the Games in an open letter to International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach. The letter accused Israel of breaching the traditional Olympic truce with its ongoing war on Gaza, which has claimed the lives of more than 39,000 Palestinians — mostly women and children — since October.

Strikes on Khan Yunis

Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip killed at least 121 Palestinians killed and wounded hundreds of others in southern Khan Yunis in just 24 hours. Two United Nations agencies said an estimated 150,000 people have fled the southern city of Khan Yunis since Monday. Louise Wateridge, from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), made said on Wednesday that the Palestinians fled the city after Israel announced the latest evacuation order. "Over 80% of the Gaza Strip has been placed under evacuation orders or designated as no-go zones by the Israeli military," Wateridge said.

Iran arrests 20 terrorists, including two Daesh ringleaders



The Iranian security forces have arrested 20 foreign terrorists, including two ringleaders of Daesh terrorist group, Intelligence Minister Esmaeil Khatib said. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Khatib said his forces have captured the 20 terrorists in 12 separate operations in recent weeks, Tasnim News Agency reported. Most of the arrestees had illegally crossed the border, the minister said. He noted that 12 of the 20 people arrested in Iran had infiltrated into the country to carry out terrorist operations. Khatib added that two of the arrestees were the ringleaders and the Daesh and Takfiri groups who were affiliated with the countries that are not even neighbors of Iran.

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