

Funerals held for Haniyeh in Tehran, Doha, elsewhere

International Desk

Iran and Qatar held separate funeral ceremonies for Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on Thursday and Friday, respectively, after he was assassinated by the Israeli regime in Iran's capital Tehran. Massive crowds took part in funeral processions both in Tehran and Doha.

The Hamas chief was in the Iranian capital to attend Tuesday's swearing-in ceremony of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian. Haniyeh and his security guard were killed in an Israeli attack on his residence in northern Tehran early Wednesday. On Thursday, the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei led funeral prayers for the Hamas politburo chief and his security guard at Tehran University.

In a statement issued the day before, Ayatollah Khamenei warned the Israeli regime of a "harsh response" for the assassination of Haniyeh, saying it is the Islamic Republic's duty to avenge the blood of the Palestinian resistance leader. "The criminal and terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dearest in our homeland and left us bereaved, but it also prepared the ground for a harsh punishment for itself," the Leader said.

'Our duty to react'

Addressing the Thursday cer-

emony, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said the Israeli regime is desperate in the face of resistance fighters, adding that the regime's crimes are rooted in its inability to counter the resistance forces.

Qalibaf said the era of "hit and run" for Israel and its main ally US has come to an end.

"It is our duty to react in the right place and at the right time," he pointed out.

Last farewell in Doha

Also in Qatar, thousands of people bid farewell to the Hamas leader on Friday.

The people gathered at the Arab country's largest mosque, where Haniyeh's casket, draped in a Palestinian flag, was taken before leaving again for burial in Lusail, north of Doha.

Dozens of foreign dignitaries and representatives from Palestinian groups and factions, including senior Fatah figure Mahmoud al-Aloul also attended the funeral ceremony in Doha.

Iran's Vice-President Mohammad-Reza Aref, heading an Iranian delegation, also took part in the ceremony.

Before leaving for Doha, Aref said that the message of the Iranian people and the Islamic Revolution is solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine.



Iranians take part in a mass funeral for slain Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on August 1, 2024. [khamenei.ir](https://www.khamenei.ir)

Funerals in other countries

Several other Muslim countries, including Pakistan, Indonesia, Turkey, and Yemen also held funeral ceremonies for the Hamas leader.

Moreover, the assassination of Haniyeh in Tehran drew condemnation from many countries across the world.

US President Joe Biden said

that the assassination of Hamas leader "doesn't help" the talks over a potential cease-fire in Gaza.

Biden added that he was "very concerned" about rising tensions in the Middle East. "We have the basis for a cease-fire. He [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu] should move on it, and they [Hamas] should move on it now."

Meanwhile, airlines are canceling flights to Israel as concerns grow over the possible escalation of conflict in the region after the assassination of Haniyeh.

Over the past few days, Air India, Germany's Lufthansa Group, US carriers United Airlines and Delta Air, and Italy's ITA Airways said they had suspended flights to Tel Aviv.

UNSC members slam Israel's assassination of Hamas leader

International Desk

Members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) condemned Israel's assassination of Hamas Politburo Chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, while permanent representatives the US, UK, and France raised what they claimed was Iranian support for destabilizing actors in the region. The UNSC convened for an emergency session at the request of Iran on Wednesday evening, hours after Haniyeh was killed in an attack on his residence in the Iranian capital, where he had attended the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's newly-elected President Masoud Pezeshkian a day earlier. Chinese ambassador Fu Cong strongly called the incident a "blatant attempt to sabotage peace efforts."

Violation of Iran's sovereignty

Algeria's envoy Amar Bendjama described Israel's attack as an "act of terror" that violated international law and Iran's sovereignty, pushing the world to "the precipice of catastrophe." "This is not merely an attack on one man. It is a vicious assault on the very foundations of diplomatic relations, the sanctity of state sovereignty and the principles that underpin our global order," Bendjama said.

Serious blow to cease-fire

Russian representative Dmitry Polyansky repeated his country's condemnation of Hani-



AFP

yeh's assassination, saying that the repercussions of the attack was "dangerous" for the entire region. "This is a serious blow, primarily to mediation negotiations between Hamas and Israel focused on a cease-fire in the Gaza Strip," Polyansky said. He warned that Israel's "heinous practice of targeted assassination of high-profile political and military figures" was bringing the Middle East to the brink of a "region-wide war."

US, UK defend Israel

During the session, US and UK envoys defended Israel with US envoy Robert Wood saying that Israel had a right to defend itself against "attacks from Lebanon's Hezbollah and other terrorists." Wood called on the high body to consider additional measures against what he termed actions that threaten regional peace and security. He also said that the US had no connection to Haniyeh's assassination.

Wood accused Iran and resistance groups of triggering the risk of regional conflict but noted that a "broader war is neither imminent nor inevitable." British UN Ambassador Barbara

Woodward emphasized that increasing violence was in no one's interest.

"Long-term peace will not be secured by bombs and bullets," Woodward said.

She also reaffirmed the UK's unwavering commitment to Israel's security, saying that Israel had the right to self-defense.

Iran's caution

In his address to the emergency meeting, Iran's Ambassador to the UN Amir-Saeed Irvani warned of attempts by Israel to expand the scope of its aggression against the Gaza Strip to the entire region.

"The warmongering leaders of this rogue regime have shown complete disregard for the basic norms and principles of international law," Irvani stressed.

He stressed that the United States, as a strategic ally of the regime and its main supporter, was also responsible for the Israeli crime.

"This act could not have occurred without the authorization and intelligence support of the US," Irvani said. Reuters, Press TV and Anadolu Agency contributed to this story.

Iran says will use its legitimate right to punish Israel

International Desk

Iran said it will definitely use its inherent and legitimate right to punish Israel after the regime assassinated Hamas chief in the Iranian capital on Wednesday. Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani in a phone conversation with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres reiterated Iran's "inherent right" to self-defense and reciprocal action after Israel's assassination of Ismail Haniyeh.

"The Zionist regime's terrorist act of assassinating Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran did not only violate the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Islamic Republic, but also endangered regional and international peace and stability," Bagheri Kani said on Thursday, a day after Haniyeh was assassinated in the Israeli act of terror. He further referred to Wednesday's meeting of the UN Security Council, during which the United States and European countries prevented the body from denouncing Haniyeh's assassination. The aggressive Israeli action will put regional peace and stability at risk, he warned, calling on the international community to stand up against the regime. Haniyeh, who was in Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's newly-elected President Masoud Pezeshkian, was assassinated along with his bodyguard, in an Israeli attack on his residence in northern Tehran early on Wednesday. The terrorist act came hours after Israel assassinated Fuad Shukur, a

senior commander of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, in Beirut.

The UN chief, for his part, said that he had condemned the two attacks by the Israeli regime in Beirut and Tehran in a statement. Meanwhile, he acknowledged that under international law, Iran has the right to legitimate self-defense in response to violations of its national security and territorial integrity.

Additionally, Bagheri Kani talked over the phone with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Friday. Bagheri Kani emphasized that Iran will definitely use its legitimate right to punish the Israeli regime.

Bagheri Kani also held separate talks with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf. During the conversation, he said Iran will "decisively and effectively" punish Israel for crossing the Islamic Republic's red line.

In a separate phone call with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Bagheri Kani vowed that Iran would undoubtedly bring the "notorious and criminal" Israeli regime to justice.

"The Zionists have caused bloodshed in Gaza in the past 10 months and now they have expanded the scope of their crimes to Beirut, Tehran, and Yemen," he said, warning that, "if the terrorist criminals are not stopped, they will seriously endanger regional and international peace and security." Safadi, for his part, condemned the Israeli crime as a violation of Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Nasrallah: Response to Israel's killing of Hezbollah commander 'inevitable'

Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah warned that the group was bound to respond to Israel's assassination of its top military commander, saying his death and that of the Hamas leader "crossed" red lines.

In a speech broadcast at the funeral of Shukur on Thursday, Nasrallah said "the enemy, and those who are behind the enemy, must await our inevitable response."

He said that fighting has entered "a new phase" after Israel's assassination of Fuad Shukur and Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh.

The Hezbollah chief said Israel has "crossed red lines" in the assassinations and that it must expect "rage and revenge on all the fronts supporting Gaza."

A number of countries had asked Hezbollah to retaliate in an "acceptable" way or not at all. But he said it would be "impossible" for the group not to respond, he added.

"There is no discussion on this point. The only things lying between us and you are the days, the nights and the battlefield," Nasrallah added in an address to Israel. "I'm not saying we reserve the right to respond at the appropriate time and place," said Nasrallah. "Absolutely not. We will respond. That's final."

Nasrallah reiterated that Hezbollah was not behind the Saturday rocket attack on the Druze town of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights in which 12 children were killed.

He said Hezbollah would have admitted if it had made a mistake and killed civilians, and suggested it could have been an Israeli interceptor that hit Majdal Shams.

Israel, he said, deliberately carried out the rocket attack in order to make up an excuse for the assassination of resistance commanders. "The motive behind the Majdal al-Shams rocket strike was to pit the Druze community in the occupied Golan Heights against local Shia Muslims. Hezbollah would have acknowledged responsibility had it committed a mistake that led to the death of civilians," Nasrallah said.

Nasrallah stated that Israeli authorities rushed to pin the blame for the Majdal Shams attack on Hezbollah as soon as they found out that the majority of the fatalities were children.

The Hezbollah chief denounces the strike in Beirut that killed Shukur as "an act of aggression and not simply an assassination."

Nasrallah said Hezbollah is "paying the price for its support for Gaza and the Palestinian people" but the movement is now beyond the support phase, declaring an "open battle on all fronts."

The only way to end the war on the Lebanese front is for Israel to stop its "aggression" in Gaza, he added.

He underlined that Israel and its Western sponsors must await a harsh and painful response to the assassinations.

"Our response will certainly come. We are looking for a real and very calculated response. The Axis of Resistance will fight on wisely and courageously," Nasrallah said.

Israel has not commented on Haniyeh's killing but it announced that it had "eliminated" Shukur, describing him as Hezbollah's "most senior military commander" and Nasrallah's "right-hand man".