

Pezeshkian presents cabinet to Parliament for confidence vote

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian submitted the list of his new cabinet members to the Parliament, less than two weeks after he was sworn in before the country's legislators.

Pezeshkian presented his cabinet's lineup in a letter to Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Sunday, with the legislative body officially commencing the process of reviewing the proposed ministers' qualifications, Press TV reported.

The list of Pezeshkian's proposed cabinet members is as follows:

-Alireza Kazemi for Ministry of Education
-Sattar Hashemi for Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
-Esmail Khatib for the Ministry of Intelligence
-Abdolnaser Hemmati for Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance



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-Abbas Araghchi for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-Mohammadreza Zafarghandi for Ministry of Health and Medical Education
-Ahmad Meydari for the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare
-Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh for Ministry of Agri-

culture Jihad
-Amin-Hossein Rahimi for Ministry of Justice
-Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh for the Ministry of Defence
-Farzaneh Sadegh for Ministry of Roads and Urban Development
-Mohammad Atabak for

Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade
-Hossein Simaei Sarraf for Ministry of Science, Research and Technology
-Abbas Salehi for Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance
-Eskandar Momeni for Ministry of Interior

-Reza Salehi-Amiri for Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts
-Mohsen Paknejad for Ministry of Oil

-Abbas Aliabadi for the Ministry of Energy
-Ahmad Donyamali for Ministry of Sport and Youth
Among the proposed ministers is Abbas Araqchi for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who joined the Iranian Foreign Ministry in 1989 and served as chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Organization of Islamic Conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in the early 1990s.

Araqchi also served as ambassador to Finland from 1999 to 2003, and Japan between 2007 and 2011. The senior diplomat worked as the former political deputy at the Foreign Ministry from 2017 to 2021, also serving as Iran's chief nu-

clear negotiator in talks with the P5+1 in former President Hassan Rouhani's government.

Abdolnaser Hemmati for Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance is an academic, politician and economist who served as the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) from 2018 to 2021. Hemmati ran as a candidate in the 2021 Iranian presidential election, being the sole representative from the Moderate Front of Iranian politicians, and was placed third overall in the results.

The Iranian Parliament's specialized commissions started deliberations on Pezeshkian's cabinet lineup as of Sunday afternoon and in two work shifts during the next four days. The proposed ministers are also slated to be discussed in the Parliament's plenary sessions as of August 17.

Hezbollah launches 'squadrons of drones' at Israel after Sidon attack

The Lebanese Hezbollah launched on Saturday explosive-laden drones at a north Israel army base following the killing of a Hamas commander in south Lebanon a day earlier, the resistance movement said.

Hezbollah launched "squadrons of explosive-laden drones" at the Michve Alon base near the Galilee town of Safed "in response to the attack and assassination carried out by the Israeli enemy in the city of Sidon" on Friday, it said in a statement, AFP reported.

Hezbollah's media office said it was "the first time" the group had targeted that base.

The movement said it hit the positions of Israeli officers and troopers at the outpost "with swarms of attack drones, striking them directly and inflicting confirmed casualties."

The retaliation came a day after an Israeli attack targeted a vehicle in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, assassinating Samer al-Hajj, a field commander with al-Qassam Brigades, which is Hamas' armed wing. The Palestinian resistance movement has acknowledged losing al-Hajj to "a treacherous Zionist strike."

The Israeli regime has been conducting near-daily attacks against the southern parts of Lebanon since October 7, when it launched a genocidal war on Gaza.

Hezbollah has been responding with strikes aimed both at retaliating against the regime and supporting the war-hit Gazans.

Announcing the Saturday strike, Hezbollah likewise underlined that it staged the reprisal "in support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in support of their brave and honorable resistance."

The regime, which waged wars against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006, has, meanwhile, been repeatedly threatening to expand its attacks into another wholesale military onslaught against the country.

Hezbollah has vowed to defend the Lebanese soil with all its resources.

China supports Iran in defending security, sovereignty: FM

Iran to hit back at Israel within 'int'l principles'

International Desk

China supports Iran in defending its "sovereignty, security and national dignity," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Iran's acting foreign minister in a phone call on Sunday, according to a statement by China's Foreign Ministry.

Wang repeated Beijing's denunciation of the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31, saying the strike had violated Iran's sovereignty and threatened regional stability, Reuters reported.

Iran has vowed to "harshly punish" Israel over the assassination.

In a series of posts on X so-

cial media platform on Sunday, Baqeri said Iran is seeking to prevent realization of the Israeli regime's "dream" of triggering an all-out regional war.

At the same time as trying to confront the Israeli provocations of further regional hostilities, the Islamic Republic was seeking to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of the regime within the framework of the international law and the United Nations Charter, Baqeri added.

In the Sunday phone call, Wang also told Iran's acting foreign minister that the killing of Haniyeh had "directly undermined the Gaza ceasefire negotiation process and undermined regional peace and stability." "China supports Iran in defending its sovereignty, security and national dignity in accordance with the law, and in its efforts to maintain



regional peace and stability, and stands ready to maintain close communication with Iran," Wang was quoted as saying.

'Inherent defense right'

Also, in a telephone conversation with Belgian Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib on Saturday, Iran's interim foreign minister highlighted his country's inherent right to respond to Israeli acts of aggression in accordance with "international principles and the UN Charter." He said Iran will "legitimate-



ly" and "decisively" make Israel pay for its crimes, including the assassination of the Hamas chief.

Baqeri said that Israel has destabilized West Asia with its strikes on Gaza and Lebanon and the "coward" assassination of Haniyeh on Iranian soil.

For her part, Lahbib voiced deep concern over the unfolding developments in West Asia, saying, "Brussels is worried about the deterioration of the situation in the region as lack of control over the state of affairs will result in a full-blown war." She expressed support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and denounced the construction of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Lahbib added that Belgium supports the right of return of Palestinian refugees and at the same time seeks im-

position of sanctions against extremist Israeli settlers.

The top Belgian diplomat underlined the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, stating that all parties should exercise maximum restraint in light of the worsening situation in West Asia and that continued consultation between Tehran and Brussels is highly required in this regard.

Baqeri also held a similar phone conversation with Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp.

The two exchanged views over the Israeli assassination of Haniyeh and the Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people in Gaza City that killed more than 100 Palestinians and wounded dozens of others. Baqeri told Veldkamp that Western countries would have lectured others on the defense of human beings and human rights and employed all their capacities in case the attack on the al-Tabin school in Gaza City's al-Daraj neighborhood had been carried out by an entity other than the Zionist regime.

He criticized some European countries for remaining silent on Israel's terrorist acts which contravene international law, pointing to

the Israeli violation of Iran's national sovereignty and security following Haniyeh's targeted killing in Tehran.

"Such measures have resulted in the continuation of the Zionist regime's brutalities and uptick in its atrocities," he noted.

'Heartbreaking' attack

Veldkamp, for his part, voiced concern regarding the escalation of tensions in West Asia, saying the Israeli attack on the al-Tabin school in Gaza was "heartbreaking."

He also called for a ceasefire and the dispatch of humanitarian aid convoys to Gaza. Also, in a telephone conversation with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi on Saturday, Baqeri Kani called upon all Muslim countries to join forces and deter the Israeli regime through effective and unified measures.

Marsudi, for her part, emphasized that Israeli crimes, including Haniyeh's killing in Tehran, pose grave danger to international peace and security.

"Indonesia condemns the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, and considers it as an example of violation of the national sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran," she stated.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



IRGC holds military drills in western Iran

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) is holding military drills in the western Kermanshah Province that will continue until Tuesday, a local official told IRNA on Sunday.

The drills, which started on Friday, are ongoing

in an area near the cities of Qasreshirin and Gilanegharb close to the border with Iraq to "enhance combat readiness and vigilance" Morad Babakhani, a deputy governor of Qasreshirin said.

Babakhani said the exercises were being con-

ducted by an artillery and missile unit of the Najaf Ashraf Base of the IRGC's Ground Force.

The drills are taking place as Iran has vowed to retaliate against Israel after the killing of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh on July 31 in Tehran.

IRGC's deputy commander Ali Fadavi said on Friday that the Islamic Republic of Iran's Leader's orders regarding the harsh punishment of Israel and revenge for Haniyeh's blood were clear and would be implemented in the "best possible way."