

# Western support for Israel imperils global security: *Pezeshkian*

'Iran views punitive response to aggression as legitimate right'

## International Desk

The Iranian president said the international bodies' silence on Israeli atrocities as well as Western countries' support for the regime encourage further perpetration of crimes and endanger global security.

Masoud Pezeshkian made the remarks in a phone call with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday.

"The silence of international bodies on the unprecedented and inhumane crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza and the terrorist acts of the regime in the region, in addition to certain European countries' support for the entity are irresponsible and in violation of international regulations," the Iranian president said.

He noted that such practices have emboldened the regime to continue its crimes, and have threatened regional and international peace and security.

Talks between the two leaders came as Iran has vowed to avenge the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh who was killed in an attack in Tehran on July 31.



Keir Starmer

Iran has blamed Israel for the Haniyeh's killing, who had traveled to Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Pezeshkian. Israel has not commented. The attack came hours after an Israeli strike in Lebanon's capital Beirut killed a senior commander of Hezbollah.

## 'Punitive response'

Pezeshkian emphasized that while Iran believes that war is not in anyone's interest, the Islamic Republic views punitive response to aggression as the legitimate right of countries and a proper mechanism to stop atrocities and brutalities.

Starmer told Pezeshkian he was deeply concerned by the situation in West Asia and called on all parties to "de-escalate and avoid further regional confrontation."

"There was a serious risk of miscalculation and now was the time for calm and careful consid-



Masoud Pezeshkian

eration," Downing Street cited Starmer as saying, adding that he had underlined his commitment to an immediate cease-fire, the release of all prisoners and captives and increasing humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The focus should be on diplomatic negotiations, Starmer said. The British prime minister also asked Pezeshkian to refrain from launching an attack on Israel in retaliation for the assassination of Haniyeh.

It was the first call between a UK prime minister and an Iranian president since March 2021 when former British leader Boris Johnson spoke to former Iranian president Hassan Rouhani.

Fears of a wider conflict in the West Asia have been growing following the assassination of the Hamas leader and a senior Hezbollah commander.

The UK also issued a joint statement with the US, France, Italy and Germany, urging Iran to end

its threats of an attack on Israel. They called on Iran to "stand down its ongoing threats of a military attack against Israel and discussed the serious consequences for regional security should such an attack take place." In response, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani criticized the Western call for restraint.

"The declaration by France, Germany and Britain, which raised no objection to the international crimes of the Zionist regime, brazenly asks Iran to take no deterrent action against a regime which has violated its sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said in a statement.

Iranian president Pezeshkian also held a separate phone call with Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Monday, during which the Iranian president said regional and international peace, stability and security are a centerpiece to Iran's foreign policy. Referring to the war in Gaza, the Iranian president said the Israeli regime is violating all international treaties and regulations and pressing ahead with its genocide in the besieged Palestinian territory.

## President urges critics to avoid prejudgment about cabinet

### National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian reacted to the criticisms directed at his cabinet lineup, calling on critics to "wait for the cabinet to start work and criticize it based on its performance."

Pezeshkian's comments came after a number of individuals in Iran's Reformist camp criticized the proposed list of ministers submitted to the Parliament on Sunday.

In a message posted on his X account on Tuesday, the Iranian president called the Iranian people as the great asset of the government, praising their attention and sensitivity towards proposed cabinet members as valuable. He noted that "indifference to the conduct of politicians has now turned into criticism. This means we have taken a step forward."

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

During separate meetings on Sunday with

representatives from the provinces of Fars, Sistan and Baluchestan, and Kerman, the president said that one of the cabinet's main features is its cross-partyness, adding that the formation of the cabinet focused on the criteria of capability, expertise, and relevant experience of individuals.

The president presented his cabinet's lineup in a letter to Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, with the legislative body officially commencing the process of reviewing the proposed ministers' qualifications.

Pezeshkian urged all members of Parliament and national elites to assist the government in appointing managers and officials of executive agencies based on the stated qualities.

In response to the issues raised by the representatives, the president emphasized that the new government will allocate the country's resources with care and precision, considering priorities and areas of deprivation in pursuit of justice and rights.

## Gaza school attack 'deliberately timed to cause max casualties': *Probe*

### International Desk

A new investigation has revealed that a recent deadly Israeli attack on a school in the Gaza Strip was "deliberately timed to cause maximum casualties," with a "large number of displaced people deliberately targeted."

Al Jazeera's Sanad verification agency has probed the details of Israel's Saturday morning attack on Al-Tabi'in School, which killed more than 100 people, including women and children. To reach its findings, Sanad examined survivors' testimonies, photos of the remnants of bombs used in the attack, images showing how the bombs penetrated the ceilings of the mosque attached to the school, and documentation of the explosion's immediate aftermath.

Based on the evidence, Sanad said Israel's military fired the two guided missiles used in the attack to coincide with dawn prayers. The mis-

siles "penetrated the mosque's roof, passed through the first floor, where the women's chapel is located, and exploded on the ground floor, where the men's chapel is situated," said Sanad in its report.

Sanad challenged the Israeli military's claims that the attack targeted Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad fighters it said were in the men's prayer hall at the time. It pointed out that the strikes occurred during prayer time in a mosque serving displaced civilians. "The evidence strongly suggests a deliberate and calculated attack aimed at causing widespread loss of life," Sanad said.

The UN Security Council was set to hold an urgent meeting prompted by the devastating attack on Al-Tabi'in School.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in a letter to the parliament speakers across the world underlined that the UN Security Council

is obliged to take serious and immediate action to stop Israel's crimes in Gaza, which are being carried out with the direct support of the United States and some Western countries.

Since the beginning of Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip in October, the regime has killed at least 39,929 and wounded 92,240 others.

## Sole survivor

On Tuesday, an Israeli strike killed 10 members of a family in the territory's southern district of Khan Yunis, leaving only one survivor - a three-month-old girl, a medic told AFP.

"This is the worst place I've ever seen in my life and in the entire world."

This is how the Egyptian-American physician, Dr Adam al-Hamwi, described the situation in Gaza, comparing the tragic scene to his 30-year career in medicine, during which he worked in countries that witnessed wars such as Syria, Iraq and Bosnia.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Proposed cabinet a ...

However, it is worth considering that a reformist **Page 1 >** nominee is not necessarily a guarantee of success through countless issues, such as those pertaining to women's dress code and moral policing. On the contrary, a non-reformist figure may be more adept at reaching a consensus with other power brokers, thereby resolving these contentious issues in a more serene and amicable atmosphere.

At its core, the notion that the entire cabinet ought to hail from the reformist political camp is misguided. It

is important to remember that Pezeshkian's support base extended beyond reformists to include moderates, centrist Conservatives, and even supporters of Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in the election runoff. Staying true to his promise of an inclusive government, the president has incorporated representatives from across the political spectrum into his cabinet, even welcoming ministers from the previous administration.

Another critical factor to consider is the makeup of parliament, which has the power to approve or reject the proposed ministers.

The revolutionary Conservatives, who are politically at odds with Pezeshkian and the reformists, hold the majority in parliament. Consequently, to secure votes of confidence for his ministerial picks and expedite the formation of his government, the president must actively engage with them. Pezeshkian's vision for domestic and foreign policy centers on engagement, not conflict, and the composition of his proposed cabinet lineup reflects a framework designed to advance engagement on both the domestic and international fronts.

If parliament is genuinely committed to addressing the concerns of the people,

it should lend its support to the government in this endeavor, always keeping the national interest at heart. While the government and parliament each have their distinct powers and duties, lawmakers ought to bear in mind the marked difference in voter turnout between the latest parliamentary and presidential elections. Pezeshkian's victory in the presidential election signifies the people's endorsement of his platform and their yearning for change and effective problem-solving. Parliament has a responsibility to respect this mandate and not dampen the hopes of the people by withholding votes of confidence for the cabinet.