



Leader raps 'nontactical' retreat against enemy

National Desk
Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei rebuked nontactical retreat in all fields, including military

or political ones, stressing that such retreat will precipitate divine wrath. His remarks came as Iran is preparing to avenge Israel's assassination of the Hamas leader, Ismail

Haniyeh, who was killed in an attack in Tehran on July 31. 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. Since then, there have been many diplomatic efforts by many countries, especially regional ones, to persuade Iran not to re-

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (c) meets organizers of the National Congress of Martyrs of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province in Tehran on August 14, 2024. khamenei.ir

tialiate against Israel. "According to the Qur'an, nontactical retreat in any field, whether military or political, publicity and economic fields, will bring about divine wrath," he told a group of provincial government, military and religious authorities on Wednesday. The Leader said Iran's adversaries try to overstate their power as a main tactic in their psychological war. The Leader said Iran's adversaries have always tried to instill fear in the nation and force it to retreat on the military field. "Since the victory of the Revolution, they have been trying to impress the notion that we should fear America, Britain, and the Zionists." "If the governments that today surrender to the demands of the arrogant powers rely on their nations and their own capabilities and recognize the reality of the enemy's power without exaggeration, they can render those demands ineffective." Ayatollah Khamenei also

said the result of exaggerating the enemy's power in the cultural field is a feeling of passivity, being attracted to the enemy's culture, and belittling one's own culture. "The result of such passivity is accepting the lifestyle of the other side and even using foreign words and expressions." Ayatollah Khamenei had earlier warned Israel of a "harsh punishment," saying Iran sees it as its duty to avenge the blood of Haniyeh. Iran has also dismissed calls by France, Germany and the United Kingdom to stand down its threat against Israel after the assassination of Haniyeh. Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry, said in a statement on Tuesday that the request "lacks political logic and contradict principles of international law" and also "constitutes public and practical support" for Israel. The European countries "raised no objection to the international crimes" of Israel and "impudently asked Iran not to respond to a violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said. Kanaani said Iran was determined to deter Israel and called on the three countries to "once and for all stand up against the war in Gaza and the war-mongering of Israel."

Russia says Ukrainian forces stopped from advancing in Kursk region



Russia said it had repelled attempts by Ukrainian forces to push deeper into Kursk region in five areas after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said his forces were advancing. "The attempts by enemy mobile units using armored equipment to break through deeper into Russian territory have been repelled," the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement. Zelensky on Wednesday said Ukraine's army was advancing in Kursk where it launched a surprise offensive last week, AFP reported.

"In the Kursk region, we are moving further. From one to two kilometers in different areas since the beginning of the day. And more than 100 more captured Russian servicemen over the same period... This will speed up the return home of our boys and girls," Zelensky said. The Ukrainian army entered Russia's Kursk region on August 6, capturing dozens of settlements in the biggest offensive by a foreign army on Russian soil since World War II. Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said Ukraine would create a "buffer zone" in the region to prevent Russian cross-border strikes.

"The creation of a buffer zone in the Kursk region is a step to protect our border communities from daily hostile shelling," he said.

The neighboring Russian region of Belgorod declared its own state of emergency, as the governor warned the situation was "extremely difficult" due to Ukrainian shelling and drone attacks.

Since launching its military operation in Ukraine in February 2022, Russia has captured territory in southern and eastern Ukraine and subjected Ukrainian cities to missile and drone barrages.

Ukraine said Tuesday it would not hold on to Russian land it captured and offered to stop raids if Moscow agreed a "just peace".

"The sooner Russia agrees to restore a just peace... the sooner the raids by the Ukrainian defense forces into Russia will stop," Foreign Ministry spokesman Georgiy Tykhov said.

US okays \$20b in arms sale to Israel

'2,100 babies' under two killed in Gaza

International Desk
The United States has approved another \$20 billion in weapons transfers to Israel despite high civilian casualties from the regime's strikes in the Gaza Strip during its 10 months military campaign in the besieged Palestinian territory. The arms include more than 50 F-15 fighter jets, Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles, or AMRAAMs, 120 mm tank ammunition and high explosive mortars and tactical vehicles, and come at a time of intense concern that Israel may become involved in a wider West

Asia war. However, the weapons are not expected to get to Israel anytime soon as there are contracts that will take years to fulfill. Much of what is being sold is to help Israel increase its military capability in the long term, the earliest systems being delivered under the contract aren't expected until the 2026 timeframe. "The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to US national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives," the State De-

partment said in a release on the sale. The Biden administration has had to balance its continued support for Israel with a growing number of calls from lawmakers and the US public to curb military support there due to the high number of civilian deaths in Gaza. It has curbed one delivery of 2,000-pound weapons amid continued airstrikes by Israel in densely populated civilian areas in Gaza.

US 'unlimited support'
In a statement, the Palestinian Hamas resistance group said the move "comes within the framework of [the US's] unlimited

support and full adoption of the brutal aggressive behavior of this rogue entity [Israel] from international regulations and laws." "The continuation of the US administration's financial and military support to the Zionist entity confirms once again that it is a full partner in the war of genocide, ethnic cleansing and brutal massacres against our Palestinian people," Hamas's statement added. According to the Gaza health ministry, 39,965 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in Israel's attacks since October. The Euro-Mediterranean



Human Rights Monitor reported that out of nearly 17,000 Palestinian children killed by Israel in the Gaza Strip, about 2,100 were babies under the age of two. "The number of Palestinian children - whether infants or children in general - killed by the Israeli army

is horrifying, and the rate of their killing is unprecedented in the history of modern wars," said the Geneva-based organization. The regime's atrocities are not limited to Gaza. It has been also killing Palestinians elsewhere in the occupied territories. The regime has also killed more than 500 people in Lebanon since it began its military campaign in Gaza. Since October, the Israeli occupation army has been exchanging fire with Lebanon's Hezbollah group which has conducted military operations against the regime's military targets to support Palestinian resistance in the Gaza Strip.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Responsible friendship or ...

Secondly, drawing on the works of French philosopher Jacques Derrida, particularly his concepts of "friendship to come" and "responsible friendship," I have addressed Pezeshkian's administration. Responsible friendship, in this context, entails three key elements: reflective and independent support, inquisitive companionship, and self-sacrificing actions. Friendship to come also evokes a sense of openness and hope for the future, aligning with a commitment to gradu-

al and prudent progress from the current challenging situation toward a better tomorrow. Taking these into consideration, I believe that the coercive and reclusive actions of certain influential figures during and after the election, despite their deep understanding of political intricacies and the systemic capabilities, do not reflect responsible friendship. Rather, they smack of hasty and impulsive moves, akin to "jumping the gun." This is not about adopting blind optimism or an overly emotional ap-

proach; it's about recognizing the value of timing. Leaving Pezeshkian to face the challenges alone at this critical juncture is like handing the advantage to rival forces who are eagerly waiting to dash even the faintest glimmers of hope for the Iranian people. Effective political action demands effort, perseverance, and pragmatic strategizing in uncertain terrains. For the sake of Iran's future and its advancement, we must take the time to reflect, endure, make sacrifices, and above all, exercise patience.