

Pezeshkian calls for global action to rein in Israel

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian called for a joint action by all countries to rein in the Israeli regime and stop its crimes and genocide in the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian president made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, whose country alongside Egypt and the United States have been mediating a cease-fire agreement in recent weeks to put an end to months of Israel's brutal onslaught on Gaza. Pezeshkian expressed hope that all other countries that adhere to the international law would stand together to force the supporters of Israel to contain the regime and stop its crimes in Gaza. Appreciating Qatar's efforts to establish a cease-fire in Gaza, Pezeshkian said human rights and all international legal rules are violated in Gaza every hour and minute, but countries claiming to defend human rights are not only staying silent on Israel's atrocities but are supporting the perpetrator.

The Qatari foreign minister said his country would continue its efforts to achieve a cease-fire in



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) shakes hands with Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in a meeting in Tehran on August 26, 2024.
president.ir

the besieged Palestinian territory, stressing that Doha counts on Iran's constructive role in this regard.

More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli military action since the beginning

of its devastating war on Gaza in last October. The Palestinian Health Ministry says more than 16,000 of those deaths were children.

Alongside the fatalities, nearly 60% of buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed and

nearly two million Palestinians have been displaced by the Israeli's army and face a grave humanitarian crisis.

Before his meeting with Pezeshkian, the Qatari official also held a separate meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi who

said Iran supports any cease-fire agreement acceptable to Palestinian resistance groups in Gaza. Araghchi added that Iran welcomes Qatar's efforts to swiftly stop Israel's crimes against the "oppressed Palestinian people and to establish cease-fire in Gaza."

Haniyeh assassination

The visit by the Qatar's top diplomat to Iran came as tensions remain high in the region following Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31. Iran has blamed Israel for the assassination and has vowed to punish the regime for the killing of Haniyeh who had traveled to Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Iranian president.

On Monday, Abbas Araghchi told his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani that Iran's response to Israel would be "definite, calculated and accurate."

Unlike the Israeli regime, Iran does not seek to increase tensions in the region although it is not afraid of it, Araghchi added. Meanwhile, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri said on Monday that the assassination of the Hamas leader cannot be forgotten and revenge for Haniyeh's blood by the Axis of Resistance and Iran is "certain."

General Baqeri underlined that the Islamic Republic and the Axis of Resistance will separately act in this regard.

Hezbollah strike bespeaks Israel's loss of deterrence power: *Iran*

Iran said on Monday that Israel had lost its deterrence power and that the strategic balance in the region had shifted against it, following attacks by the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah.

Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets and drones at Israel early on Sunday in response to the regime's assassination of Fuad Shukur, a senior Hezbollah commander, in southern Beirut last month.

Israel's military also said it had struck Lebanon with around 100 jets to thwart a larger attack, in one of the biggest clashes in more than 10 months of

border warfare.

"Despite unbridled support from its sympathizers like the United States, Israel could not predict the time and place of a limited and managed response by the resistance. Israel has lost its deterrence power," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani wrote on X. Kanaani said Israel "now has to defend itself within its occupied territories," and that "strategic balances have undergone fundamental changes" to the detriment of Israel.

"The passage of time is not in favor of the Zionist regime and its supporters," the Iranian spokes-

man warned.

Kanaani said Israel may be able to distort or conceal certain realities regarding Hezbollah's retaliatory attacks "but it knows well that the existing facts will not be changed." Israel has reportedly banned coverage of the damage inflicted by Hezbollah strikes. The Telegraph, quoting sources, reported that the Israeli regime issued a censorship decree, requiring reporters to obtain permission before publishing "damage caused by rocket attacks to strategic infrastructure or to military bases" to avoid "harm to Israeli forces on the ground."

Dozens killed in armed attacks in SW Pakistan



Gunmen in southwestern Pakistan killed at least 38 people in three separate attacks on Monday, officials said, while the military said security forces killed 21 insurgents, marking one of the deadliest days of violence in the restive Baluchistan Province, with reports of other shootings and destruction in

the area as well. Twenty-three people were fatally shot overnight after being taken from buses, vehicles and trucks in Musakhail, a district in Baluchistan, senior police official Ayub Achakzai said. The attackers burned at least 10 vehicles before fleeing, according to AP.

In a separate attack, gunmen killed at least nine people, including four police officers and five passersby, in Baluchistan's Qalat district, authorities said. The bodies of six people were found in Bolan, where insurgents also blew up a railway track. They also attacked a police station in Mastung and attacked and burned vehicles in Gwadar, all districts in Baluchistan. No casualties were reported in those attacks.

The military said 14 security forces were "martyred" while responding to the attacks. Those appeared to be included in the overall death toll.

"Sanitization operations are being conducted and the instigators, perpetrators, facilitators and abettors of these heinous and cowardly acts,

targeting innocent civilians, will be brought to justice," the military said in a statement.

Baluchistan has been the scene of a long-running insurgency in Pakistan, with an array of separatist groups staging attacks, mainly on security forces. The separatists have been demanding independence from the central government in Islamabad. Although Pakistani authorities say they have quelled the insurgency, violence in Baluchistan has persisted.

The attack in Musakhail came hours after the outlawed Baluch Liberation Army separatist group warned people to stay away from highways as they launched attacks on security forces in various parts of the province.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Syria's Assad terms Turkey rapprochement efforts as unsuccessful

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said efforts to mend ties with Turkey had so far brought no tangible results.

"The initiatives did not yield any results worth mentioning despite the seriousness and genuine keenness of mediators," Assad said on Sunday in a speech to the Syrian parliament, referring to recent conciliation efforts by Russia, Iran and Iraq. Turkey severed ties with Syria in 2011 after the outbreak of the foreign-backed war in Syria, in which An-

kara supported rebels, Al Jazeera reported.

"The solution is openness," Assad said. "Restoring a relationship requires first removing the causes that led to its destruction." The Syrian president also made clear that while he wants Turkish troops to withdraw from Syria, that was not a condition for talks.

"It's not correct what was announced by some Turkish officials recently, that Syria said if there is no withdrawal, it will not meet with the

Turks," Assad said. "This talk is far from reality," he added.

In July, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has been a fervent supporter of Syrian rebels, said he would extend an invitation to Assad "any time" for possible talks to restore relations.

Assad said later that month that he was open to meeting Erdogan but it depended on the encounter's "content", noting Turkey's presence in Syria was a key sticking point.

