

Leader: Killing of Hezbollah commanders not to crush Lebanese group



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of war veterans and resistance activists in Tehran on September 25, 2024. [leader.ir](#)

Khamenei said. The organizational strength and human resources of Hezbollah is very strong, he added, and will not be critically hit by the killing of a senior commander, even if that is clearly a loss. «Therefore, they have won until today, and by God's grace, with God's power, the final victory in this battle will belong to the resistance front and the Hezbollah front,» the Leader noted.

Israel's new offensive against Hezbollah has killed 569 people since

Monday according to Lebanon's health minister. The deadliest assault on Lebanon in nearly two decades follows nearly a year of war between Israel and the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas in Gaza. Since the beginning of Israel's war on Gaza nearly a year ago, Hezbollah has been targeting Israel's positions in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Ayatollah Khamenei said Hezbollah and other resistance forces are so far the winners of the war, one reason of which is Israel's massacre of women and children in Palestine and Lebanon. «If the evil Zionist regime had been able to defeat the fighting forces, whether in Gaza, the West Bank, or in Lebanon, it would not

have needed to show its face to the world in such a dark and ugly way through committing crimes against homes, schools, hospitals, children, and women,» the Leader said. «Since the regime has not been able to win over the resistance force, it is forced to pretend to win by hitting women, children, defenseless people and cars on the road, schools and hospitals. So, it has failed so far.» In this war against Lebanon and Palestine, the Leader said, «The infidel and evil enemy has the most equipment and the US is behind him.» «The Americans say they are not involved and have no information, they say the opposite. They both have information and are involved and they need the

victory of the Zionist regime,» he said. «For the upcoming election, the current American government needs to show that it has supported the Zionist regime and had it win the war. Of course, they also need the votes of American Muslims, so they pretend that they are not involved.» Ayatollah Khamenei said the Israeli enemy has money, weapons, facilities, and global propaganda apparatus, while on the opposing side, «the believers and the fighters in the way of Allah do not even have a tenth of those facilities.» «Nevertheless, the one who wins is the side of the fighters in the way of Allah. The Palestinian resistance is victorious. Hezbollah is victorious.»

International Desk

The assassination of Hezbollah commanders will not bring the group to its knees, Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatol-

lah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday, after Israel hit senior figures in the resistance movement during days of devastating air strikes across Lebanon. «Some of the effective and

valuable forces of Hezbollah were martyred, which undoubtedly caused damage to Hezbollah, but this was not the sort of damage that could bring the group to its knees,» Ayatollah

Iran aims to play 'constructive role' in world affairs: Pezeshkian

International Desk

Iran's president said he wants to open a «constructive» chapter in his country's international relations even as he made clear that other countries need to do their part.

«I aim to lay strong foundations for my country's entry into a new era, positioning it to play an effective and constructive role in the emerging global order, remove obstacles and challenges and organize my country's relations based on the needs and realities of today's world,» Masoud Pezeshkian said during his first speech at the UN General Assembly's annual gathering of world leaders.

«I entered the election campaign with a program based on reforms, national unity, constructive interaction with the world and economic development and I managed to gain the trust of my compatriots at the elections,» Pezeshkian added.

He also referred to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal from which the United States withdrew in 2018 and reimposed illegal sanctions on Iran. Efforts to revive the pact have failed so far.

«We are ready to engage with participants of the 2015 nuclear deal. If the deal's commitments are implemented fully and in good faith, dialogue on other issues can follow,» Pezeshkian said. Directly addressing the American people, Pezeshkian listed a number of Iranian

grievances — from sanctions to the 2020 killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in a Trump-era US drone strike — and then urged «all states pursuing a counterproductive strategy towards Iran» to «learn from history.»

«We have the opportunity to transcend these limitations and enter into a new era. This era will commence with the acknowledgement of Iran's security concerns and cooperation on mutual challenges,» he said, appealing anew for sanctions relief.

«I hope that this message from Iran is carefully heard today,» the president concluded.

Iran seeks peace

Pezeshkian also said Iran pursued peace for the entirety of the international community, asserting, «We want peace for all and are not after engaging in war and fighting with anyone.»

«Take a look at the contemporary history of the region. Iran has never acted as an initiator of any war,» the president said, adding that the country had, in all cases, «just heroically defended itself in the face of others' aggression and caused the aggressors to regret [their transgressions].»

Regional unity

«We have spoken about the necessity of regional unity and formation of a strong region,» the president stated. «Our region suffers from war, sectarian tensions, terrorism, extremism, drug smug-



Masoud Pezeshkian

gling, shortage of water resources, refugee crises, environmental destruction, and foreign interference,» Pezeshkian said, adding, «We can address these common challenges towards ensuring a better future for the next generations.» Citing an instance of Iran's advocacy for peace, he mentioned the country's favoring realization of sustainable peace and security for both Ukraine and Russia, which have been engaged in a conflict since 2022.

The Islamic Republic, he said, lays emphasis on the need for expedient cessation of military conflict in Ukraine, supports whatever peaceful resolution, and believes that the crisis can only be resolved through negotiation.

Israel's atrocities

Pezeshkian also touched upon the Israel's actions in the region, Pezeshkian said the Israeli regime has been defeated in its genocidal war on the Gaza Strip and now cannot «repair its myth of invincibility» through resorting to barbarism against Lebanon.

He was referring to the regime's failure in the face of the Gaza-based resistance movement Hamas in the Palestinian territory and the escalation of the regime's attacks against Lebanon since the onset of the war.

As part of the escalation, the regime carried out extensive airstrikes against southern and eastern Lebanon on Monday, killing at least 569 people, including 50 children and 94 women, and wounding 5,000 others.

Pezeshkian said, «The insane Israeli barbarism in Lebanon should be stopped before setting the region and the world on fire.» «Naturally, the blind and terrorist crimes of the past days and the extensive aggression against Lebanon that shed the blood of thousands of innocent people will not remain unanswered,» he added.

«Those governments that stand in the way of cessation of this terrible catastrophe and still call themselves defenders of the human rights, have to bear the consequences [of these atrocities],» the president noted.

President: Iran seeks regional unity, cooperation with Europe

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said that his government seeks to bring about unity in Iran and among regional countries, adding that Iran is ready to further cooperate with the European countries as well. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in a meeting held on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Iranian president announced Iran's readiness for negotiation on resolving differences, including Iran's nuclear program.

In a separate meeting with Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic, Pezeshkian described the cooperation between Iran and Serbia as useful and constructive in the bilateral and international arenas, saying that the two countries have good mutual capacities to expand cooperation and improve their relations.

The Serbian president appreciated the constructive positions of Iran in supporting the territorial integrity of his country and said the two countries en-



joy many capacities to improve relations and strengthen cooperation.

'Trustworthy partner'

China's top diplomat Wang Yi pledged to support Iran in safeguarding its security against «external forces» in a meeting with Iranian president, China's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

The top diplomat promised China would «always be a trustworthy partner.» «China will continue to support Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, security, territorial integrity, and national dignity,» Wang said on Tuesday, according to a foreign ministry statement. China is a close partner of Iran, its largest trade partner.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (1st R) meets with French President Emmanuel Macron (1st L) on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters in New York City, US, on September 24, 2024. [LUDOVIC MARIN/AFP](#)

Pezeshkian described relations between the two countries as deep-rooted and historical and said, «We attach great importance to the relations with China and we want to deepen and develop cooperation in all fields.»

The Iranian president said the two countries should join hands to promote multilateralism in the world and not allow the coercive powers to impose their demands on other nations.

Borrell underscores renewed nuclear diplomacy with Iran

International Desk

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell underlined the importance of renewed nuclear diplomacy with Iran, expressing his continued readiness to facilitate a diplomatic solution that addresses the concerns of different sides.

Former US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the UNSC-endorsed agreement in May 2018, imposing severe economic sanctions against Tehran while Iran was adhering to its commitments under the deal and even continued to do so for a year

after the US withdrawal.

Tehran scaled back its commitments to the JCPOA in a series of pre-announced and clear steps after witnessing the other parties' failure to secure its interest under the agreement.

Since then, especially at the beginning of the presidency of Joe Biden in the United States, there have been efforts to revive the nuclear deal but they have failed so far. Iran has blamed the lack of political will on the part of Biden's administration to undo the damage caused to the multilateral nuclear deal by the previous US administration. However, the new government



in Iran led by President Masoud Pezeshkian has expressed its willingness to resume talks on the issue.

UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi said on Tuesday he had sensed a greater willingness by Iranian officials to engage with the agency in a more meaningful way after talks in New York, and that he hoped to travel to Tehran in October.