

Presence of US, European states 'root cause' of problems in region: *Leader*



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the root cause of the West Asia region's problems is the presence of the United States and a number of European countries false-

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of elites and scientific talents in Tehran on October 02, 2024. khamenei.ir

ly claiming to advocate peace. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Iranian elites, scientific talents and top ranks at the country's university entrance exam, in the capital Tehran on Wednesday, Press TV reported. The meeting took place after the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) fired a massive barrage of long-range missiles at the Israeli-occupied territories in reprisal for the entity's recent assassination of the top leaders and commanders of the resistance front.

"In our region, the root cause of problems, which leads to conflicts, wars, concerns and hostilities and such like, results from the presence of the same people who claim to advocate peace and tranquility in the region; that is America and some European countries," the Leader said. "If they get themselves out of this region, beyond a shadow of doubt, these conflicts, these wars, these clashes will come to a complete halt, and the countries of the region will be able to govern themselves, govern their region, and live together in peace, blessing and prosperity." The United States and its western allies have been providing Israel with unstinting support in the realms of finance, logistics and intelligence since

October last year, when the occupying regime launched a merciless war on Palestinians in Gaza. As part of its vicious attempts to expand the scope of war to other fronts across the region, Israel embarked on indiscriminate bombings of southern regions in Lebanon and targeted killings of the Hezbollah resistance movement's senior officials and commanders as well as Iranian military advisors in Syria and Lebanon. The IRGC's operation on Tuesday night was carried out in response to the assassination against the leaders of resistance, not least Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and the military commanders of the IRGC and the Lebanese resistance movement.

Eight Israeli soldiers killed in fighting with Hezbollah

The Israeli military said its combat losses in southern Lebanon increased to eight on Wednesday as battles between Hezbollah fighters and Israeli troops in southern Lebanon intensified on Wednesday. The military had announced the death of the first soldier earlier in the day, AFP reported. Hezbollah has said its fighters earlier today were able to repel and inflict losses on Israeli troops in Odaiseh and Yaroun. The Lebanese group said it targeted the Merkava tanks with guided rockets in the village of Maroun al-Ras on the eastern side of the border. Earlier, Hezbollah claimed a deadly ambush against Israeli



troops in the same area. On Tuesday, Israel's attacks on Lebanon killed at least 55 people. The Lebanese Army said Israeli troops had staged two brief incursions before withdrawing, adding one of its soldiers had been wounded in an Israeli drone strike. The Israeli military told residents to evac-

uate more than 20 areas in south Lebanon, a day after issuing a similar call. Lebanon's disaster management agency said 1,873 people have been killed since Israel and Hezbollah began trading cross-border on October 7. The spike in violence has forced hundreds of thousands more to flee their homes.

Iran's patience snapped after assassinations Iranian armed forces warn Israel against retaliation

International Desk

Iranian officials said the country exercised self-restraint after Israel's assassination of Hamas leader in Tehran, but ran out of patience following the continuation of the regime's massacre in the region. On Tuesday, Iran launched a missile attack on Israel's military positions in response to the assassinations of leaders of Hamas, Hezbollah resistance movements, an Iranian top commander as well as the regime's ongoing deadly aggression against Gaza and Lebanon. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday that the Americans and Europeans told Tehran that they are trying to establish a cease-fire in Gaza within a week and called on Iran not to take any action against Israel. "We waited for peace, but they (Israelis) expanded their bloodshed and were emboldened," Pezeshkian said upon his arrival in Qatar's capital, where he is scheduled to meet the country's officials and take part in an Asian conference. "We want security and peace, it is Israel that assassinated Haniyeh in Tehran," he added. Chief of General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major



General Mohammad Baqeri also said the country exercised self-restraint after the regime's assassination of the Hamas leader in Tehran on July 31 but ran out of patience following the assassination of Hezbollah's secretary general and a top Iranian commander. Baqeri said that "the situation was no longer tolerable" after the assassinations of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Iran's military advisor Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan during Israeli airstrikes on the southern suburb of Beirut on Friday.

Military targets

According to Bagheri, the targets of the "heroic" operation that served as a "response to many of the Zionists' crimes" included three of the Israeli regime's main airbases.

He named the bases as the headquarters of the regime's Mossad spy agency, which he identified as the "center for terrorism," the regime's Nevatim airbase that houses its F-35 warplanes, and the Hatzerim base that was used for enabling Nasrallah's assassination. The targets also featured the regime's strategic radars, the centers housing the regime's tanks and personnel carriers, and the center accommodating those of the regime's forces that partake in massacres against Palestinians in Gaza. Israel's military said on Wednesday that several missiles fired by Iran hit inside Israeli air force bases but did not cause any casualties or damage.

'Successful' operation
Iran's Defense Minister Brig-

adier General Aziz Nasirzadeh said the retaliatory operation has been more than 90% successful. He said that no civilian sites were among the targets. During a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Iranian president said the operation against Israel proved that the regime's Iron Dome missile interception system is "more fragile than glass." The Iranian president noted that "Iran does not seek war, yet it is not afraid of it either," emphasizing that the Islamic Republic knows no limits when it comes to protecting the security, authority and dignity of its people and the country. Bagheri also asserted that the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces were completely prepared to respond to the potential repetition of such atrocities on the part of the regime.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Blasts, shooting around Israeli Embassies in Nordic capitals

Police in Denmark and Sweden said on Wednesday they were probing explosions and gunfire around Israeli embassies in their capitals which took place amid spiraling West Asia East tensions. In Denmark, police said three Swedish nationals had been arrested after two

blasts were reported in the "immediate proximity" of the Israeli Embassy in Copenhagen in the early hours of Wednesday, according to AFP. Swedish police said the Israeli Embassy in Stockholm had been targeted in a shooting on Tuesday just before 6:00 pm (1600 GMT).

No injuries were reported from the incidents. "Two explosions occurred at 3:20 am at the Israeli Embassy. It is our preliminary assessment that it was due to two hand grenades," Jens Jespersen of the Copenhagen police told a press conference. Swedish police said in a

statement that information indicated the Israeli Embassy building had been hit by shots on Tuesday evening. Since the outbreak of the Israel's war on the Gaza Strip in October 2023, which has left more than 41,000 dead, several incidents apparently targeting Israeli interests in Sweden have been reported.