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and hospitals are destroyed in this manner, it's unbearable for any free human being, let alone us, who are Muslims and consider them our brothers.

I firmly believe that the first step towards addressing this issue is for the Islamic countries to unite and collectively condemn the disturbing trend that has emerged in the Middle East, Gaza, and Lebanon. If we all protest together, they won't dare to do this easily. But if they think Iran should respond and others should just watch, the Zionist regime won't mind, and then we'll be at odds with each other.

**Are you prepared to support a two-state solution, and do you believe it's a viable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian issue?**

That's their responsibility. If the Palestinians who are there have come to the conclusion that they should act in this way, we have no problem with it. In fact, our problem is that we don't want to tolerate the injustice, oppression, and cruelty inflicted on Muslims. They must determine their own fate, and we'll respect whatever decision they make.

The solution we think is right is to hold a referendum, based on the democracy they claim to defend, and let everyone vote. Whatever the outcome, we'll respect it.

**To what extent are you prepared to create new grounds for dialogue with the West, based on which sanctions could be lifted, and is this a priority for your government at present?**

We have no fight with anyone. We want what is rightfully ours, and we're ready to talk to anyone we

need to in this regard. We're committed to what we signed and agreed upon. We're not seeking nuclear bombs, and we're not looking to develop them. What we're doing is for our own defense, so we can protect ourselves if someone like the Zionist regime comes along and wants to bomb us at will. If those in Gaza and Lebanon had the ability to defend themselves, the Zionist regime wouldn't dare to kill innocent people so easily. Because they have no defensive capabilities, or the tools they have are no match for the Zionist regime's capabilities, the Zionists feel emboldened to kill everyone, cut off their access to water, food, and medicine, and the world just watches, and no one defends them.

We don't want to be defenseless in the world, and that's why we're doing what we're doing to increase our defensive capabilities and ensure our security, so they don't dare to attack us so easily. We've never been interested in starting a war with any country, and we never will be. Look at Iran's history 100 or 200 years ago; we've never initiated a war. We believe we should live in peace and security with our neighbors in the region. This is what we're after, to sit down with the world and talk, and for them to be assured that we're not seeking nuclear bombs. Since we don't want to pursue such things, we have no problem with inspection and evaluation. However, it's not that they can dictate what we should do, and then not uphold their own commitments. We'll uphold our commitments, and they should uphold theirs, and then we'll discuss the rest.



We, Islamic countries, are to blame for our lack of unity and cohesion. We're to blame for not standing up for the rights of Muslims in the region and instead fighting among ourselves. This is a major problem. We need to resolve our differences, and regional peace and stability can be achieved through our cooperation and solidarity.

**Are you willing to give concessions to make such a dialogue possible?**

What concessions? We will engage in dialogue as equals. They should respect us, and we will respect them. If they don't respect us and try to humiliate us, we won't accept humiliation.

Today, even in the UN, the debate on development and peace is ongoing. If they want to humiliate us, we, as Muslims, prefer death over humiliation and won't accept it. However, on an equal basis, within the framework of international norms, we'll sit down and talk, and we'll cooperate on what's beneficial for the world, for us, and for them.

**Have there been any direct or indirect talks between you and the US government, aside from the issues related to Gaza, security cooperation, or the nuclear issue?**

There have been indirect talks on the nuclear issue, and discussions are ongoing. We're also willing to talk to European countries again. We're not looking for war, we're not looking for insecurity, we're not terrorists. They're the terrorists who come to countries and kill people in front of everyone's eyes, and then say they've killed terrorists.

**Do you support talks with the US, regardless of who wins the next election, Kamala Harris or Donald Trump?**

We have no problem with dialogue, but those who engaged in dialogue did not adhere to it. Since they intervened in the region, they have always tried to create problems for us, from the behavior on August 19, [1953] against [prime minister] Dr. Mos-

sadegh to the current events. Whenever an issue arises in our country, they start supporting those who want to overthrow the government and attempt to undermine our Islamic government or Islamic Republic. Whenever they want to speak to us honestly and sincerely, we will have no problem with such discussions. However, unfortunately, we have not seen this honesty in the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), and it is the same in other areas as well.

We signed the JCPOA, but they (Americans) ripped it up. We were fulfilling our obligations, and they (IAEA) were monitoring us intensively every day. We didn't obstruct their monitoring efforts. If we had wanted to act differently, we would have blocked their access. But it was the US that unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA. So, how can we trust them if they sign another agreement, only to tear it up again? Nevertheless, indirect talks are currently underway with some Americans, and they are making progress. However, the outcome depends on the other side's commitment to the agreement.

**If talks between you and the US and the West take place, what issues do you think are suitable for discussion, aside from the nuclear issue?**

We're a country, and there are international laws and the UN. We don't want anything except our rights and to be treated according to the law. If they act according to the law, we won't have a problem with anyone. We don't have any special demands or requests. They imposed sanctions on us, which are against international law, and they use force to prevent other countries from doing business with us. Other countries are afraid of them and don't do busi-

ness with us. That's the reality we face in the world.

**The head of the IAEA recently said he wants to meet with you and has requested deeper cooperation with Iran. Do you have a roadmap to address the agency's concerns?**

The roadmap is already written and approved in the JCPOA. We signed it, and they signed it. We're committed to it, and they should be committed to it too. We're ready to follow the same path.

**After your election victory, you said that your relations with neighboring countries, especially those in the Persian Gulf, are a priority. How do you plan to pursue this, and how will this path be reflected in the security, political, and economic situation?**

Before coming to the United States, I visited Iraq and met with the president and the Kurdistan region. I also visited Basra. Here, I've had meetings with the Turkish president and will have meetings with the president of Pakistan. We are interested in holding talks with [officials] from all countries in the region, drafting strategic plans, and exchanging ideas with them. We want to create a win-win situation where we help each other and create a framework for Islamic countries to grow and become self-sufficient, without relying on foreign powers.

We'll continue to pursue this path and try to increase our connections with other countries, in terms of parliamentary cooperation, judicial cooperation, government cooperation, security cooperation, economic cooperation, social cooperation, and cultural cooperation.

