

Leader: Missile strike 'least punishment' for Israel

Palestinian, Lebanese resistance against occupation 'legal'

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has described as legitimate Iran's latest retaliatory strikes on the Israeli-occupied territories and said the move was the least punishment for the regime's crimes and atrocities. Delivering a public sermon at the weekly Friday prayer to a huge number of worshippers at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla mosque in central Tehran, Ayatollah Khamenei hailed "the brilliant work" of Iran's Armed Forces in launching a missile strike on the Tel Aviv area, stressing that it was "completely legal and legitimate."

"The brilliant work of our armed forces was completely legal and legitimate. What our armed forces did was the least

punishment for the usurping Zionist regime over the astonishing crimes of this wolf-like regime and rabid dog of America," the Leader said. Ayatollah Khamenei added, "Whatever duty the Islamic Republic has in this regard, it will fulfill with strength and fortitude. We will neither delay nor hurry in carrying out the task." He underlined that, "What is logical and reasonable and the opinion of the political and military decision makers will be done in the future if necessary, just like it was done."

The prayer in Tehran followed a commemoration ceremony for Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah who was assassinated in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut. Ayatollah Khamenei last led Friday prayers

in January 2020 after Iran fired missiles at a US army base in Iraq, in response to a strike that martyred anti-terror commander Brigadier General Qassem Soleimani. Ayatollah Khamenei described Nasrallah as "my brother, my dear and my pride, the beloved face of the Islamic world, and the eloquent voice of the nations of the region, [and] the shining jewel of Lebanon." The Leader noted, "We are all saddened and mournful for the martyrdom of Dear Sayyed. This is a great loss and we are deeply saddened, but our mourning does not mean depression, distress and despair."

Praising the sacrifices of Nasrallah, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "He was the high flag of resistance against oppressive and predatory demons - an el-

loquent voice and a brave defender of the oppressed. He was a source of encouragement and valor for fighters and rights seekers. His popularity and influence had gone beyond Lebanon, Iran and Arab countries, and now his martyrdom will increase this influence."

Al-Aqsa Storm 'internationally legal'

The relentless defense of the Lebanese people for the Palestinians, he said, is "legal, reasonable, logical and legitimate, and no one has the right to criticize them for entering this battle."

By the same token, the Al-Aqsa Storm operation of Palestinian fighters inside the Israeli occupied territories in October 2023 was "right and internationally legal," he added.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei delivers a public sermon in Tehran, on October 4, 2024.

● khamenei.ir



"The Palestinian nation has the right to stand against the aggressors, and no court has the right to protest to the Palestinian nation for standing against the usurping enemy of Palestine." Ayatollah Khamenei said the adamance of the US

and its allies on protecting Israel is a "cover for the deadly policy of turning the usurping regime into their tool to take over all the resources of this region and use it in major global conflicts." The Leader called on Muslims to unite against the

world's arrogant powers and transgressors who are still following their policy of divide and conquer with all kinds of tricks in the Islamic states. He also said the time has come for the Islamic Ummah to overcome the plots of the enemies.

Asian actors can present new model in int'l ties: Pezeshkian

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran believes that Asian actors are able to introduce and represent a new model of constructive relations in the modern international relations based on "justice and multilateralism."

Addressing the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) summit in Qatar's capital on Thursday, the Iranian president said, "We all belong to a geographical area which is rich in tremendous culture, history and civilization, that is called Asia."

Pezeshkian said that many of Asian countries' collective interests depend on unity and the creation of a wide network of constructive cooperation between the continent's countries.

He called sports diplomacy as one of the best ways to increase regional interactions, which strengthens relations between governments and people-to-people relations. The Iranian president said Iran has always focused on Asia which has a high position in the world trade network. "The largest economic projects in the world, the world's financial, innovation, technological and commercial centers, the most populated consumer markets in the world, the world's richest natural resources and energy, and the most important rail and sea corridors in the geographical area of the Far East to the Persian Gulf all are located in this continent," Pezeshkian said. The Iranian president who ar-

rived in Doha on Wednesday, also held a meeting with the Persian Gulf country's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. During a joint presser, Pezeshkian said Iran and Qatar have a mutual will to enhance the level of cooperation in various areas, including trade and transportation. Also on Wednesday, Iran and Qatar signed six agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoU), paving the way for cooperation in various fields, including economy and culture. They covered such areas as collaboration on the development of Iran's Bandar-e Dayyer on the Persian Gulf coast, bilateral trade, cooperation in the health and welfare sectors as well as a joint cultural cooperation

program by the end of March 2027 and a sports cooperation scheme that will go on until 2026.

Iran's frozen assets

Upon his return to Tehran from a Doha, Pezeshkian said Iran has reached a "good understanding" with Qatar on the \$6 billion in Iranian funds that are being withheld by Doha after their release from South Korean banks. "In Qatar, we have \$6 billion in assets. The issue was discussed during a meeting between the governors of the two countries' central banks, as well as the meeting with the Qatari emir; We reached a good understanding in this regard," he said. In August 2023, Iran and the United States agreed to a Qa-



tar-brokered deal to secure the release of some \$6 billion of Iranian funds that had remained frozen in two South Korean banks since 2018 under the pretext of US sanctions. The money was successfully transferred to bank accounts in Doha. Later, however, American media reported that the US had



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian takes part in the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue summit in Qatar's capital Doha on October 3, 2024.

● president.ir

reached a "quiet understanding" with Qatar to stop Iran from accessing its funds.

Iran backs 'simultaneous' cease-fire efforts in Gaza, Lebanon

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Friday said Tehran backs efforts for a simultaneous cease-fire by the Israeli regime in both the Gaza Strip and Lebanon. "We support the efforts for a cease-fire, provided that first, the rights of the Lebanese people are respected and it is accepted by the (Hezbollah) resistance, and second, that it comes simultaneously with a cease-fire in Gaza," he said during an unannounced visit to Beirut. Addressing reporters in the Lebanese capital, Araghchi also promised harsher retaliation if Israel strikes Iran in response

to the country's Tuesday missile attack on the regime's military sites. He said the attack was "legitimate self-defense based on the UN Charter." "Unlike Israel, which targets residential areas, we only attacked military centers," Araghchi said. "We do not intend to continue the attacks unless the Zionist regime chooses to continue its attacks." The remarks came after the Islamic Republic launched hundreds of missiles towards Israel's military, espionage and intelligence bases all over the occupied Palestinian territories as part of Operation True Promise II on October 1. The attacks were in re-

sponse to the regime's deadly aggression against Lebanon and other regional nations as well as targeted killing of leaders of the resistance front, including Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and Abbas Nilforoushan, a senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). Araghchi said his presence in Beirut at a time when the regime was taking the city under constant aggression, indicated Iran's "continued strong and steadfast" support for the Lebanese nation and resistance. Since late last month, Israel has intensified its at-



Iran's Minister Foreign Abbas Araghchi gives a press conference in Beirut, Lebanon on October 4, 2024.

● AFP

tacks on Lebanon, including ground operations in its southern regions. Five days of ground invasion and two weeks of airstrikes by the regime in Lebanon has killed more than 2,000 people, the Lebanon's health ministry said. More than 1 million people have been driven from their homes, including tens of

thousands under Israel's evacuation orders in almost 100 border towns and villages. The Lebanese resistance group said it shelled Israeli troops in a border area of south Lebanon on Friday, in the latest such clash on the frontier. Several Israeli soldiers have also been killed in the attacks.

Invitation for Tender



First Announcement

شرکت ملی مس‌ساز ایران

National Iranian Copper Industry Co. (NICICO)

intends to hold a tender for "procurement of Rotary Blasthole drilling machines with a diameter of 9 7/8 & 13 inches". In order to get more information, please refer to the official website of company as below:

<https://en.nicico.com/>