

Iran excoriates EU stance on trio islands in Persian Gulf



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Sinwar's Path of Resistance Will Continue

Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar holds the child of a Palestinian fighter, who was killed in fighting with Israel, with a Kalashnikov rifle in his hand during a rally in Gaza City on May 24, 2021. EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP

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Dialogue best option for Iran, Europe



By Abdolreza Farajirad
Ex-Iranian diplomat
in Europe

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

A joint statement by the European Union and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council regarding the Iranian triple islands has sparked widespread criticism in Iran. This is not the first time the EU has issued a joint statement with the GCC on this matter, but its stance has shifted significantly since its previous position, which was in line with those of China and Russia, emphasizing the need to refer the dispute to international courts. However, the latest statement takes a more aggressive tone, claiming the islands belong to the UAE, despite historical documents and evidence. Nevertheless, this statement does not seem to reflect the EU's official and strategic stance on Iran and the triple islands, but rather a reaction demonstrating their criticisms against Tehran. In reality, it appears to be a form of political pressure on Iran.

There are several reasons for such a development. Firstly, the strained relations between Iran and Europe in recent years have contributed to this situation. It is unfair to attribute the blame solely to one side, as both Europe and Iran are responsible. Europeans are at fault for failing to preserve the JCPOA after the US withdrawal. Iran is also to blame for its lack of serious dialogue with Europeans over the past three years, which has led to a rift in their ties. [Page 2 >](#)

Martyrdom of Sinwar and Israel's Pyrrhic victory

By Faezeh Sadat Yousefi
Guest contributor

PERSPECTIVE

With the martyrdom of Yahya Sinwar, the great architect of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, the Zionist regime of Israel, which has no achievement other than assassinating resistance leaders, tries to present the martyrdom of the Hamas leader as a source of its success. This is while the security situation in the occupied territories has become increasingly critical after the martyrdom of several Hamas commanders and Ismail Haniyeh. Even after the martyrdom of its leader Sinwar, Hamas continues its martyrdom and combined operations against Israel. For example, yesterday, alongside military operations across Gaza, a martyrdom operation targeted two Zionist soldiers on the Jordan border. Hebrew media, reporting on this operation, noted that similar attacks can be expected in the future. Moreover, the achievement for which Israel is running a media campaign was not part of its planned efforts. The incident in which Sinwar is said to have been martyred was accidental and not based on intelligence operations like the regime's previous targeted assassinations.

Yesterday, NBC News also highlighted the martyrdom of the Hamas leader, outlining the future of this movement from the analysts' perspective. According to former US intelligence analysts, in the past, killing leaders of militant groups in Gaza or elsewhere in the Middle East provided only temporary benefits for Israel, without resulting in a permanent defeat or even significant changes in their operations. [Page 2 >](#)



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Iran, Tanzania ready to expand bilateral relations: Agriculture minister



Economy Desk

Iran and Tanzania have a lot in common, said Minister of Agriculture Gholamreza Nouri-Qezelgeh, adding that the cultural interests of both sides pave the ground for the development of relations. Speaking in a meeting with Tanzanian Deputy Foreign Minister Dennis Lazaro Londo in Dar Essalam on Friday, the minister stated that the Iranian government has attached high priority to the joint economic commission of the two countries, which shows the will of Tehran in developing relations with Tanzania, IRNA reported.

According to the historical background, cooperation between Iran and Tanzania could be developed in the fields of agriculture, petrochemicals and tourism, he noted.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian president have emphasized the expansion of relations with the African continent including Tanzania, he said, expressing hope that the signing of cooperation documents to bring the developing relations into a new phase. A sum of 11 documents have been drafted in different areas for the public and private sectors of both sides, which will be signed on Saturday in the Joint Commission of Iran-Tanzania, the minister announced.

Speaking for his part, Lazaro Londo said the visit by the Iranian minister is expected to pave the ground for the further development of Tehran-Dodoma relations.

Referring to the presence of traders accompanying Nouri-Qezelgeh to Tanzania, the deputy minister expressed hope that the result of the visit as well as the signing of memoranda of understanding will bring fruitful results for both nations.

"It is important for us to use Iran's capacity in various fields including petrochemical, industry and agriculture," Lazaro Londo said.

Iran, Pakistan agree to remove trade barriers

Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak said on Friday that Tehran and Islamabad have agreed to promote ties for removing trade barriers. The trade organizations of the two countries are fully ready to implement this decision - removal of trade barriers - and Pakistan's Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan is scheduled to visit Tehran in the next two months to discuss an agreement on the finalization of the free trade list, Atabak was quoted as saying by IRNA.

Once free and preferential trade is established between two countries, some tariffs would be reduced, he said. "We should agree on the tariffs before that. We have reached an agreement on some of them, and the rest have not yet been agreed upon," the minister added, expressing hopes the two neighboring countries reach an agreement on the rest of the tariffs.

Atabak and Kamal Khan discussed trade ties between their countries on Wednesday, agreeing that

those relations should be further promoted. The two ministers met in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

According to Pakistani media, they held a productive meeting committed to facilitating smoother business interactions between the two countries. During the meeting, the Iranian minister invited his Pakistani counterpart to visit Iran, an official announcement said

on Wednesday.

They emphasized the need to boost economic ties through increased bilateral trade and investment. They also explored avenues for collaboration in sectors of mutual interest.

It was pointed out that there is enormous potential for bilateral trade, which is yet to be realized. They discussed the potential for Pakistan and Iran to cooperate more closely in the regional market and beyond, leveraging the SCO platform to facilitate trade growth and regional stability.



Raising gasoline production 'on agenda': Deputy minister



Economy Desk

The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company said according to the Seventh Development Plan (2024-28), increasing gasoline production to 129 million liters per day

is on the agenda.

Mohammad-Sadeq Azimifar who is also a deputy oil minister explained that focusing on increasing the production of high-quality goods by utilizing the capacity of existing refineries along with completing prioritized proj-

ects of higher progress is on the agenda of his company, Shana reported.

He stated that a 38-percent growth was registered in liquid fuel delivery to the country's power plants during March 20 to October 13, adding that by in-

creasing the feed of refineries and operational measures, the NIORDC helped increase the production of gasoline, diesel, and furnace oil in recent Iranian months. During the first seven months of the current Iranian year (started March 20), gas-

oline consumption has increased by 7% (1.6 billion liters) compared to the same period last year, the official said, noting that the increased figure for consumption was met by using NIORDC's transmission and distribution capacities.

Russia warns Israel against attack on Iran's nuclear facilities

Russia warned Israel against even a hypothetical possibility of an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities as it would be "catastrophic," said Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov.

"We have repeatedly warned and continue to warn and caution [Israel] against even hypothetically considering the possibility of an attack on [Iran's] nuclear facilities and nuclear infrastruc-

ture. This would be a catastrophic development and a complete rejection of the existing postulates in the sphere of nuclear security," the senior diplomat said, reported TASS. On the evening of October

1, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the elite unit of Iran's armed forces, launched a massive ballistic and hypersonic missile attack against Israel in retaliation for the deaths of top leaders of

Hamas, Hezbollah and the IRGC.

Tehran said that 90% of the missiles successfully hit their designated targets.

On October 11, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei

Lavrov said at a press conference in Laos that carrying out threats to strike Tehran's peaceful nuclear facilities in response to an Iranian missile attack on Israel would be a very serious provocation.

Dialogue best option...

The second reason is related to the developments in West

Asia and the Gaza and Lebanon conflicts. Europeans view Iran as the primary supporter of the Resistance Front and believe that by applying political pressure, they can influence Tehran's level of support for resistance groups. Moreover, Europeans think that Iran is geopolitically weak for the time being.

The third reason, which is more significant, is the EU's claim of Iran's military cooperation with Russia against Ukraine. Although Tehran has denied these allegations, Europeans assert that Iran's assistance and supply of ballistic missiles to Russia is a certainty, which has led to their dissatisfaction with Iran. From the EU's perspective, Russia currently poses a security threat to Europe, and Iran's military cooperation with Russia has made Tehran a security threat as well. Consequently, the EU has entered a security phase in its relations with Iran. Therefore, the joint statement by the EU and the

GCC is a high-level pressure tactic aimed at forcing Iran to make concessions on its relations with Russia, West Asian developments, the nuclear file, and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, it seems that the EU's stance and pressure on Iran are a mistake. The new Iranian government has repeatedly expressed its willingness to cooperate and engage in dialogue. The EU's approach, however, closes the door to dialogue and cooperation. Moreover, the claim that the triple islands belong to the UAE will have no international impact and will only increase public resentment in Iran toward Europe. Iranians are extremely sensitive about their territorial integrity, as seen in the widespread public criticism of China and Russia. It appears that a better approach between Iran and Europe would be interaction and dialogue. It would be fitting for the EU to pursue a diplomatic path, especially since the new Iranian government has made interaction and balancing its foreign policy a priority.

Martyrdom of Sinwar ...

Furthermore, American officers say that after this assassination, Hamas still has thousands of armed fighters in the field and will focus on strengthening its weakened capabilities.

In addition, the Hebrew newspaper Haaretz emphasized that previous assassinations of Hamas leaders have shown that the movement has neither changed its policies and ideology nor collapsed. After each assassination, new leaders emerged, and Hamas continued to recover and grow stronger than before.

Field developments in both Lebanon and Hamas since the start of the Al-Aqsa Storm have shown that Israel's assassination strategy has not been able to undermine the structural integrity of the resistance. In fact, both Hezbollah and Hamas have escalated their struggle and launched more intense attacks against Israel after the assassination of their leaders.

Will the war End?

After the discovery of the body of the architect of the Al-Aqsa

Storm, some speculation in political circles suggested a ceasefire could be attainable under the claim of Hamas' weakening. According to US sources, former officials of the country stated yesterday that now a ceasefire, the return of hostages, and even the withdrawal of Israeli military forces from Gaza could be possible.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also mentioned, following the martyrdom of Sinwar, that the Biden administration intends to renew its efforts with allies and partners to end the war in Gaza and carve out a new way forward. Bruce Riedel, a former CIA officer and national security official in the Middle East, stated, "This is an opportunity for Israel to declare victory and accept a ceasefire. A ceasefire in Gaza could lead to a reduction in regional tensions." However, Netanyahu, after the martyrdom of Sinwar on Thursday, without referring to a potential ceasefire or prisoner exchange negotiations, said in a recorded video, "Our duty is not yet finished." He further emphasized that "we will continue

with full force until all captives are home." The subtext here is that Israel will continue its atrocities, as any halt in the war would mean defeat. Another important issue in drawing up the ceasefire is its terms, which the United States deliberately manipulated in recent negotiations (following Haniyeh's martyrdom) to maximize the regime's benefit, an effort that Hamas rejected. In this regard, Hamas reiterated yesterday its conditions for a ceasefire while emphasizing the continuation of its struggle. Al-Hayya, deputy head of the Hamas movement in Gaza, addressed the Zionists, saying that Zionist prisoners will never be freed unless the aggression stops, the occupiers fully withdraw from Gaza, and Palestinian prisoners are released. The Qassam Brigades also, in a statement detailing Sinwar's bravery, declared, "If the criminal enemy thinks that by assassinating great resistance leaders like Sinwar, Haniyeh, Nasrallah, al-Arouri, and others, it can extinguish the flame of resistance or force it into retreat, it is deluded."

Exploring heritage at Garmsar's Museum of Ethnic Groups

Iranica Desk

Garmsar is a city in Semnan Province and serves as a junction for the northern railway connecting Gorgan and Mashhad, with the main road from Tehran to Mashhad running alongside it. The city is situated 110 kilometers from Semnan, the provincial capital, and 95 kilometers from Tehran.

Formerly known as Khaar, Garmsar covers an area of approximately 5,182 square kilometers. The Garmsar plain extends 48 kilometers from east to west and 27 kilometers from north to south.

One of the most notable attractions in Garmsar is the Museum of Ethnic Groups, where visitors can learn about the diverse ethnicities of Iran. This museum, also known as the Baqeri House, was built in the early Pahlavi era and was officially established as a museum in 2010. Garmsar is unique in Iran for its diverse population, which includes Turks, Arabs, Lurs, Gilaks, Baluchs, and others, earning it the nickname 'Island of Ethnic Groups of Iran.'

The history of the museum dates back to the Qajar era when it was originally constructed as a garden house in the style typical of the period. It was established as the Museum of Ethnic Groups in 1931 by the late Mirza Ali Agha Baqeri, a notable benefactor of Garmsar, and was transformed into the museum in 2011, highlighting its diverse ethnic community. The museum has been

registered on Iran's National Heritage List.

The Museum of Ethnic Groups, or Baqeri House, is located on Ayatollah Kashani Boulevard, Salman Farsi Street, in Shahid Faisali Alley. The building consists of two floors and features various sections, including a water reservoir, bathhouse, and a beautiful courtyard. Remarkably, all parts of this ancient structure have remained intact. A picturesque pond in the middle of the courtyard adds special charm to the space. The construction utilized traditional materials such as raw brick, plaster, clay, wooden beams, and straw clay, with uniquely artistic brickwork enhancing its beauty.

The museum comprises seven display halls housing around 130 items, including traditional clothing, agricultural tools, livestock items, books on different ethnic groups, kitchenware, and nine statues that portray the attire, lifestyle, and professions of various ethnicities for public viewing.

Garmsar is one of the beautiful cities in Semnan Province, attracting many visitors each year. For those interested in the races and ethnic groups of Iran, the Museum of Ethnic Groups in Garmsar is a must-visit destination. The city showcases unique beauty in every season, but spring is particularly regarded as the best time to explore the museum and other local attractions. Visitors can enjoy the exhibits and capture beautiful souvenir photos.



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Nature's masterpiece at Behdeh Village of Hormozgan Province

Iranica Desk

Behdeh Village, located 38 kilometers from Parsian in Hormozgan Province, is one of the region's most beautiful locales, celebrated for its unique natural, cultural, historical, and social attributes, making it a notable tourist destination.

Efforts are underway to attract visitors by preserving the village's traditional architecture and local customs while harnessing its natural resources. These initiatives aim to generate income and promote sustainable development for the community.

Although precise information

about the village's establishment is scarce, archaeological artifacts and pottery discovered during well-digging suggest that the area has a history dating back approximately 3,000 years.

Geographically and climatically, Behdeh village reflects the prevailing conditions of the region, characterized by a warm and dry climate, mild winters, and hot, humid summers. With its pristine nature and numerous historical sites, Behdeh has been designated as the sixth tourism target village in Iran.

Giry Konar Cave lies in a mountainous region southwest of Behdeh, adjacent to agricultur-

al lands. In the western part of the mountains, local residents constructed a tunnel to channel rainwater from Giry Konar to the agricultural fields of Behdeh. This impressive structure has become one of Behdeh's historical attractions, drawing many visitors each year.

The presence of medicinal plants, such as thyme and other local flora, enhances the beauty of the area, while the stunning mountains and breathtaking valleys provide trails for hikers. The route to Giry Konar Cave is relatively easy to navigate, as most of the journey is along a well-paved road, with only a short dis-

tance on an unpaved secondary road.

Owsiyeh water basin is one of the most renowned ones in Parsian, located northwest of Behdeh village at the end of a beautiful and picturesque valley. This basin is set in an untouched and scenic area that attracts numerous tourists each year. The water supply for Owsiyeh comes from seasonal rivers during the rainy season, and due to its great depth and the impermeability of the underlying layers, water is always present in the basin.

When rainwater cascades down from the mountains, it collects in the basin, having no

outlet other than evaporation by the sun. Over time, the water takes on a dark greenish color (often referred to as "sludge green"), which is the reason for the naming of this location (meaning "Black Water"). On the way to the water basin, visitors pass through colorful, Martian-like mountains before entering a valley characterized by extraordinary erosional shapes and various types of rocks, captivating every viewer.

Faryab Valley

The Faryab Valley, located in the northwest of Behdeh, is a stunning natural landscape that showcases the grandeur of

the unique Creator of the universe. The presence of springs, along with lush surroundings adorned with fiery-colored flowers and oleander blossoms during Nowruz celebrations, captivates every viewer.

In this picturesque valley, several watermills were constructed in ancient times by the hardworking people of the region. These mills harness the power of water from the upstream springs to rotate their wheels, grinding the locals' wheat and making the bread from this divine blessing a centerpiece on community tables. This location is situated 35 kilometers northwest of the village.



● yjc.ir

Resistance's new strategy going 'beyond Haifa'

By Faezeh Sadat Yousefi
Guest contributor

ANALYSIS
EXCLUSIVE

While the Zionist regime, relying on the "Dahiya Doctrine," attempted to change the balance of power in the northern occupied territories through a massive bombardment of Lebanon within a tight timeframe, the escalating attacks by Hezbollah have established a different reality in the current conflict.

The deadliest attack by Hezbollah, which involved firing dozens of missiles at the regions of Nahariya and Akka on Sunday (Oct. 13) evening, managed to change the rules of engagement and establish a new equation in the war. It is noteworthy that the designation of this deadliest attack by Hebrew media, which reported four casualties, occurred under conditions of censorship. In this context, a former French army colonel and commander of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon stated in an interview with RT that Israel is denying the events.

Hezbollah continues to shape the equation of "Haifa versus Dahiya" and, in the next step, "Tel Aviv versus Beirut," with no day passing without the skies over Haifa being adorned with resistance missiles. While the escalating insecurity in the north hinders the goal of returning refugees, strategic areas like Haifa are also at risk of being evacuated. Accordingly, the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon has threatened that the occupied city of Haifa will become as uninhabited as other cities in northern occupied Palestine. Moreover, the Lebanese resistance has taken a step further by raising its threats, announcing that it will implement a new equation. In this regard, Sheikh Naeem Qassem, the deputy secretary-general of Hezbollah, emphasized: "In the new equation, as the martyr commander Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has requested, we will target Tel Aviv, Haifa, and beyond Haifa."



Israeli security forces examine the site hit by a rocket fired from Lebanon, in Kiryat Bialik on Sept. 22, 2024.
● ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

Changing balance of terror

The Zionist regime attempted to establish a level of balance of terror in its favor through successive strikes against Hezbollah in Lebanon and by taking the initiative. However, the extensive counter-operations by the Lebanese resistance and the reactions of Israeli officials have shown that Israel's strategy of maintaining a balance of terror against Hezbollah has backfired. Attacks on strategic centers, along with direct hits by missiles on targeted banks, have proven the inefficiency of defense systems and instilled fear within the occupied territories.

Following Hezbollah's successful combined operations against the Israeli base in southern Haifa, Herzi Halevi, the Chief of Staff of the Israeli army, described the drone attack during his visit to the Golan Heights base, which was targeted, as serious and painful. Yoav Galant, the Israeli Minister of Defense, during his visit to the same

base, emphasized the necessity of defending against these drones, reflecting the regime's fear of resistance drones.

Other variables have also played a role in changing this balance, including:

Inefficiency of defensive systems: The Zionist regime, which measures its success in war by claiming the protection of its defense systems, now faces an unbelievable reality due to the precise strikes of missiles and drones from the resistance hitting strategic targets and infrastructures. The inefficiency of these defense systems has broken down the defensive structure, placing the entire area of the occupied territories under the threat of resistance. The introduction of the American THAAD defense system into Israel's defensive architecture is also an attempt to compensate for this inefficiency.

Lack of deterrence: While the Zionist regime relied on the "Dahiya Doctrine" to attempt to quickly alter the balance of

power in northern occupied territories through extensive attacks on Lebanon, the escalating attacks by Hezbollah have established a different reality in the current conflict. The deadliest attack by Hezbollah, which involved firing dozens of missiles at the regions of Nahariya and Akka on Sunday evening under the code name "Labayka ya Nasrallah," was able to change the rules of engagement and establish a new equation. It is important to note that the designation of this attack as the deadliest by Hebrew media, which reported four casualties, occurred under conditions of censorship.

In this context, a former French army colonel and commander of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, during an interview with RT, pointed out Israel's secrecy regarding casualty figures, stating that the regime is in denial about the events. Hezbollah continues to shape the equation of "Haifa versus Dahiya" and, in the next phase, "Tel Aviv versus Beirut," with

days passing without the skies over Haifa being adorned with resistance missiles. While the increase in insecurity in the north has hindered the goal of returning refugees, other strategic areas, such as Haifa, are also at risk of depopulation. Accordingly, the Islamic Resistance of Lebanon threatened that the occupied city of Haifa would become uninhabited like other cities in northern occupied Palestine.

However, the Lebanese resistance has taken it a step further by escalating its threats and announcing that it will implement a new equation. In this regard, Sheikh Naeem Qassem, the deputy secretary-general of Hezbollah, stated, "In the new equation, just as the martyr commander Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah requested, we will target Tel Aviv, Haifa, and beyond Haifa." This is in conjunction with the Israeli army and the expansion of threats against the occupying regime.

A Glimpse of Hezbollah's capabilities: After assassinating



"The massacre of people" has been the only outcome for the Zionist regime since the onset of the Gaza war and its expansion to Lebanon. The Zionists now find themselves in a position of failure to achieve their declared objectives, such as the destruction or even containment of Hamas, the release of prisoners, and the forced displacement of people.



Israeli Iron Dome air defense system fires to intercept rockets that were launched from Lebanon on Sept. 22, 2024.

● BAZ RATNER/AP



A drawing paper (reads "where I hear the sound (b)") lies on the rubble of a destroyed building at the site of Monday's Israeli airstrike in Aito village, northern Lebanon on Oct. 15, 2024.

● HUSSEIN MALLA/AP



The blood of killed people on the rubble of a destroyed building at the site of Monday's Israeli airstrike in Aito village, northern Lebanon, Oct. 15, 2024.
● HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah and several Hezbollah commanders, the Zionist regime continued its ongoing attacks on Dahiya in Beirut, believing that Hezbollah's structure had collapsed. However, the Lebanese resistance initiated a new phase of war against the regime following the Israeli airstrikes on Dahiya. Large-scale attacks using advanced weapons, based on precise operational planning deep within occupied territories and targeting key positions of the regime, such as the port of Haifa, are part of the actions in this phase.

On the other hand, Hezbollah manages the second phase of the war, the ground war in southern Lebanon, through guerrilla operations, preventing the expected advances of the Israeli army. Therefore, the Lebanese resistance continues to maintain its striking power against the Zionist regime while also elevating its levels of confrontation, executing operations more decisively and effectively. Meanwhile, the increasing casualty figures among the Zionists and the panicked reactions from their officials serve as evidence of the success and impact of these attacks, indicating that Hezbollah has maintained its capabilities even after targeting its leaders.

Intelligence and security failures

Alongside the military blows received from the resistance and Hezbollah in recent days, the Zionist regime is also experiencing intelligence failures in its psychological war against the resistance. The unsuccessful assassination attempt of Wafiq Safa and the fruitless attack on the Mezzeh area of Damascus to target resistance commanders, as well as the misinformation regarding the commander of the Quds Force, General Qaani, are examples of this. Additionally, the inability to intercept resistance projectiles and the element of surprise in their attacks highlight another aspect of the Zionist regime's intelligence and security failures.

Quagmire of survival threats

"The massacre of people" has been the only outcome for the Zionist regime since the onset of the Gaza war and its expansion to Lebanon. The Zionists now find themselves in a position of failure to achieve their declared objectives, such as the destruction or even containment of Hamas, the release of prisoners, and the forced displacement of people. Despite a year of heavy bombardment and the occupation of the Gaza Strip, they are closer than ever to a complete defeat. This situation prompted Netanyahu to rename the war as the "Resurrection War," emphasizing its existential importance for the regime's survival. Moreover, current assessments indicate that the escalation of the war by the regime will only further entrench the Zionists in the quagmire of failure, thereby threatening their existence even more. Following Hezbollah's deadly operations, the Israeli media outlet Haaretz warned that Israel's false pride and arrogance would have catastrophic consequences for the regime and the region.

Inability in calculations

The 38 operations carried out by the Lebanese resistance within 24 hours, one of which targeted the Golani Brigade, not only affirm Hezbollah's internal power stability but also reveal the confusion and weakness in the regime's calculations. The Zionists currently have no assessment of when the war will end and are resorting solely to a strategy of crime and slaughter to eliminate perceived threats. The Guardian noted that the Zionist regime lacks a strategic outlook for its future and militaristic ambitions, and the current conditions will have dire consequences for the regime. Amidst the confusion among the officials of the Zionist regime and the absence of a coherent plan to overcome the crises, the Lebanese resistance has yet to fully utilize all its capabilities in the current battle.

Witnesses to Israeli strike on Gaza hospital saw 'so many people burning'

Warning: This story contains details which some people may find upsetting



By Mallory Moench
Journalist

Witnesses to an Israeli air strike and resulting fire at a tent camp in a Gaza hospital compound have shared with the BBC their horror and helplessness at seeing people injured and killed in the flames.

One mother called it "one of the worst scenes we've witnessed", while an injured girl said she heard screaming as people tore down their tent to get them out. A man said he had "broken down" as he was "unable to do anything" to help those who burned to death.

The strike hit the Al-Aqsa Hospital [Martyrs] compound in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, in the early hours of Monday, igniting a fire that burned makeshift shelters for displaced people. At least four people were killed and dozens injured, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

The BBC has verified the location of a video that shows what appears to be a person on fire. Other footage captures people rushing to extinguish the flames amid screams and explosions sending fireballs into the night sky.

The Israeli military said it had targeted Hamas fighters operating inside a command centre in the car park, after which a fire broke out "likely due to secondary explosions". The military said the incident was under review.

Charity Doctors without Borders (MSF), which has staff working at Al-Aqsa, told the BBC "it had no knowledge" of a Hamas centre and said "the hospital functions as a hospital".

The UN's humanitarian affairs agency said in a statement that "people burned to death" and "atrocities must end", while a spokesperson for the White House National Security Council called the footage "disturbing". The spokesperson told the BBC's partner CBS that the images and video of what appear to be displaced civilians burning alive following an Israeli air strike are deeply disturbing and we have made our concerns clear to Israel.

"Israel has a responsibility to do more to avoid civilian casualties — and what happened here is horrifying, even if Hamas was operating near the hospital in an attempt to use civilians as human shields." Witnesses said the strike happened at about 01:15 local time on Monday (23:15 BST on Sunday). It hit an area between buildings filled with makeshift shelters, next to an outdoor outpatient waiting area that had no one there at night, Anna Halford, MSF's emergency coordinator in Gaza who was not at the hospital during the strike, said in a phone call from Deir al-Balah.

Hiba Radi, a mother who was living in a tent behind the hospital, told a BBC freelancer in Gaza she woke up to the sound of "explosions and fires erupting around the tents". "There were explosions everywhere, and we were shocked at whether this was gas or weapons," she said. "This is one of the worst scenes we've witnessed and lived through," she added. "We've never seen destruction like this before. It's hard, really hard." Atia Darwish, a photographer who recorded some of the verified videos, told the BBC it was a "big shock" and he was "unable to do anything" watching people burn. "I was so broken down," he said. Um Yaser Abdel Hamid Daher, who also lives at the hospital, told the BBC "we've seen so many people burning that we started feeling like we might burn like them". The injured included her son, and his wife and children. Her granddaughter Lina, 11, who had shrapnel in her hand and leg injuries, said she had heard people screaming. "Our neighbour's daughter was injured in her head and her dad was killed. And our other neighbours were killed. The people next to us tore down the tent to get us out," she said. Her grandmother said the family "lost their tent and everything they had; they have nothing left". The health ministry reported on Monday that more than 40 people were injured and four killed. MSF on Tuesday shared a higher toll, saying five people had died, their bodies burned by the time they were recovered,



and 65 injured. Forty of the injured - 22 men, eight women and 10 children - stayed at al-Aqsa. The others were transferred to different hospitals, with eight going to a specialist burns unit. Ms Halford said her colleagues were treating burns victims "who will almost certainly not survive", saying "there is very little you can do for burn victims of that severity". "You come home with the smell of it on your clothes. It's a viscerally affecting experience. It stays with you," she said. Monday's strike was the seventh on the hospital site since March, and the third in two weeks, Ms Halford said. When she arrived at the hospital after the most recent hit, she said she found people picking through twisted metal and burned debris to salvage any belongings. Another mother the BBC spoke to whose children suffered burns injuries had already evacuated from north Gaza - and now has nothing. The acting chief of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said the strike occurred in an area where north Gaza residents had been told to relocate. "There really is no safe place in Gaza for people to go," the statement read.

The article first appeared on BBC.

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Palestinians react to a fire after an Israeli strike hit a tent area in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, on Oct. 14, 2024.
● ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

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The UN's humanitarian affairs agency said in a statement that "people burned to death" and "atrocities must end", while a spokesperson for the White House National Security Council called the footage "disturbing".



Palestinians look at the damage after an Israeli strike hit a tent area in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, on Oct. 14, 2024.
● ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP



A Palestinian man reacts to a fire after an Israeli strike hit a tent area in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, on Oct. 14, 2024.
● ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

Iranian wrestlers vying for team titles on return to U23 Worlds

Sports Desk

Iran's Greco-Roman and free-style squads will be will set sights on team crowns when the Wrestling U23 World Championships kick off in Tirana, Albania, on Monday.

Iranian wrestlers were unlucky to miss out on last year's event in the Albanian capital after being denied entry visas by the European country.

Fardin Hedayati, world junior champion in 2023, will headline the Greco-Roman team in Tirana as he will be among the favorites for the ultimate prize in the 130kg contests.

The Iranian, who defeated Turkish great Riza Kayaalp in June's Ranking Series event in Budapest, will see competition from Ukrainian Mykhailo Vyshnyvetskyi – victorious over Hedayati in the 2022 world U20 final – as well as Belarusian Pavel Hlinchuk, competing as a neutral athlete, who won the 97kg gold last year, and Turkey's Muhammet Bakir.

Ali Ahmadi Vafa (55kg), Mohammad-Mahdi Gholampour (60kg), and Ahmadreza Mohsennejad (67kg) will represent Iran on the back of gold-winning campaigns in in September's U20 World Championships in Pontevedra, Spain.

Erfan Jarkani will be looking to improve on his under-20 bronze when stepping onto the mat in



the 63kg contests, while Daniel Sohrabi will chase a second world under-23 gold in the 72kg event, having won the 67kg title in 2022.

Yassin Yazdi will take part in the 87kg event as a former world

junior silver medalist, with Ali Oskou (77kg), Mohammad Naqoussi (82kg), and Shayan Habib Zare' (97kg) completing the lineup of the Iranian Greco-Roman squad. In the freestyle competitions, Amirreza Ma'soumi will be

the superheavyweight to beat in the 125kg contests as the Iranian prodigy will go after a sixth world age-group gold medal in three years following his dominant display in Pontevedra.

Also a reigning world junior champion, Ali Rezaei will be part of the 74kg contests, perhaps the most competitive category in Tirana, which features two former world under-20 gold medalists in Dzhabrail Gadzhiev



Fardin Hedayati (blue), pictured during his famous victory over Turkish great Riza Kayaalp in June's Ranking Series event in Budapest, will represent Iran in the Greco-Roman 130kg contests at the upcoming U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania.

● KOSTADIN ANDONOV/UWW

of Azerbaijan and American Mitchell Mesenbrink, as well as Asian senior champion Kota Takahashi of Japan.

Amirhossein Firouzpour (92kg) will be in Albania for his third U23 World Championships, having won the bronze in 2021 and gold in 2022. The Iranian will be the favorite for the gold along with Russian Mustafagadzhi Malachdibirov, who won the under-20 title in Pontevedra.

Ebrahim Khari will be the Iranian 61kg participant, looking to build on his under-20 silver in September, though defending champion Bashir Magomedov will still be the wrestler to beat in the weight class.

Mahdi Yousefi (79kg) and Abolfazl Rahmani (86kg) will also hope to improve on their world junior bronze medals, with Mahdi Hajilouei getting his 92kg campaign underway as a former world U20 silver medalist.

Ali Mo'meni (57kg), Abbas Ebrahimzadeh (65kg), Sina Khalili (70kg) are the other members of Iran's 10-man freestyle team.

Iranian men, women victorious in Canoe Polo World Championships

Sports Desk

Iranian men's and women's teams claimed a couple of victories on the third day of the ICF Canoe Polo World Championships in Deqing, China.

Iranian men bounced back from a 6-5 loss to New Zealand earlier on Friday to beat the United States 10-4 in Group MS.

The result left Iran in the third place behind New Zealand and

Malaysia in the group table.

The Iranian team had finished third in the four-team group in the previous round and will be competing for the 15-18 classification. Iran will conclude the group phase against Malaysia and Hong Kong today.

Elsewhere, Elaheh Pourabdian, Melika Boroun, and Atousa Eslami were on the scoresheet as Iranian women came out 3-2 winners against Spain, before

falling to a defeat by the same scoreline against European champion the Netherlands later in Group WP.

Iran is third in the group with three points, trailing the Dutch women and Singapore.

Iranian girls will be back in action against Team GB and Switzerland today before squaring off against Singapore on Sunday.

The top two of the group will progress to the semifinals.



● CANOEICF.COM

Nadal 'emotionally ready' for Davis Cup farewell



● REUTERS

BBC – Rafael Nadal says he feels emotionally prepared for ending his career at next month's Davis Cup Finals but the Spaniard will only contest the singles if he is "ready to win".

The 22-time Grand Slam champion announced last week that he will retire from tennis after representing Spain in Malaga, where the Davis Cup will be held from 19-24 November.

Nadal, 38, is currently competing at the Six Kings Slam exhibition event in Saudi Arabia and will face long-time rival Novak Djokovic for the final time on Saturday.

"Emotionally, I'm sure I'll be ready. Physically and in terms of tennis level, there remains a month left to prepare," Nadal said after losing to Carlos Alcaraz on Thursday.

"I will try to be in good shape to help the team to win. If I

don't feel ready for the singles, I'll be the first one to say.

"Be 100% sure, I will not be on court if I don't feel ready to win my match."

After losing his semi-final 6-3 6-3 to compatriot Alcaraz, whom he partnered in doubles at the Olympics and could do so again at the Davis Cup, Nadal will meet Djokovic in the third-place match.

Serb Djokovic, the only man to have won more Slams than Nadal with 24, was beaten 6-2 6-7 (0-7) 6-4 by world number one Jannik Sinner, who will face Alcaraz for the \$6m (£4.5m) prize money.

"To have Novak in front [of me], it's like a nostalgic thing," said Nadal, who has won 29 of his 60 meetings with Djokovic.

"We've played each other a lot, so it'll be fun to play each other again one more time in this match. Hopefully we can create

a good show and good level of entertainment."

On Alcaraz, who at 21 has already won four majors and looks set to battle 23-year-old Sinner for years to come, Nadal said: "He's going to do very well with what he's got. He's learning all the time.

"We can see he's developing in every way. But of course I'll be ready whenever he wants to call me."

Saudi Arabia has invested heavily in sport since 2021, when the country's Crown Prince made it a key part of his strategy to diversify the economy.

However, the kingdom has been criticised for its human rights violations and accused of that investment and the hosting of high-profile events to improve its international reputation – a process known as 'sportswashing'.

Sinwar's path of resistance will continue

International Desk

Palestinian resistance group Hamas confirmed that its leader, Yahya Sinwar, was killed by Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip. In a statement on Friday, Hamas heralded Sinwar as a hero who "ascended as a heroic martyr, advancing and not retreating, brandishing his weapon, engaging and confronting the occupation army at the forefront of the ranks." The Palestinian group said it would take strength from the death of Sinwar. "Yahya Sinwar and all the leaders and symbols of the movement who preceded him on the path of dignity and martyrdom and the project of liberation and return will only build our movement and resistance in strength," Qatar-based official Khalil al-Hayya said in a video statement broadcast by Al Jazeera. He also said Israeli captives held in Gaza will not return

until war on Gaza stops and Israeli forces withdraw from the besieged and bombarded territory. Hamas's armed wing Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades vowed to keep fighting Israel until the "liberation of Palestine." "Our fight will not stop until Palestine is liberated, the last Zionist is expelled, and all our legitimate rights are regained," the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades said in a statement. "The criminal enemy is delusional if he thinks that by assassinating the great leaders of the resistance such as Sinwar, Haniyeh, Nasrallah, Al-Arouri and others, he can extinguish the flame of the resistance or force it to retreat. Rather, it will continue and escalate until the legitimate goals of our people are achieved." Sinwar was named the group's paramount leader on August 6, as a successor to former political chief

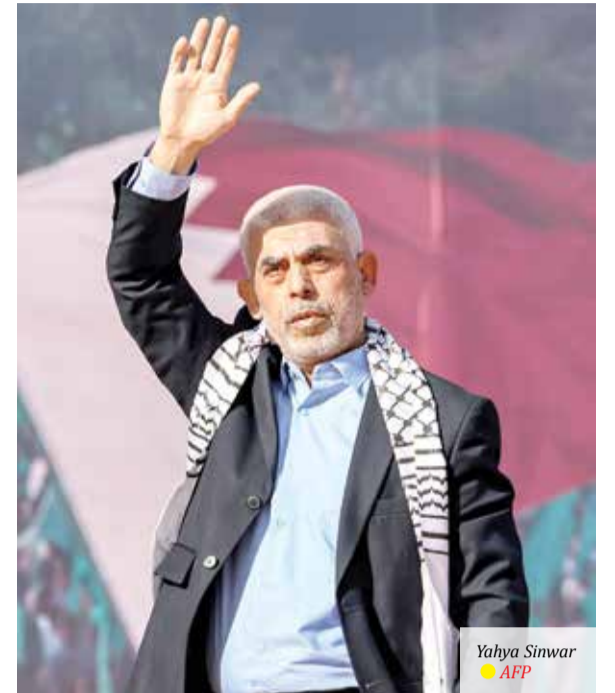
Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Tehran on July 31. Sinwar has been in Gaza, defying Israeli attempts to kill him since the start of the war. Born in a refugee camp in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, Sinwar, 62, was elected as Hamas' leader in Gaza in 2017. The leader, who spent half his adult life in Israeli prisons, was the most powerful Hamas leader left alive following the assassination of Haniyeh.

Unstoppable crimes

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian in a statement said Sinwar's assassination is a clear sign of the unstoppable crimes of the "occupying and child-killing Zionist regime." Citing remarks by Haniyeh, Pezeshkian said that the Israeli regime should know that killings of resistance leaders will make no disruption in the resistance of

the Islamic Ummah against oppression and occupation. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the leader of Hamas "bravely fought to the very end on the battlefield." "Yahya Sinwar did not fear death but sought martyrdom in Gaza," the Iranian foreign minister wrote on X. Araghchi said Sinwar's fate was a "source of inspiration for resistance fighters across the region, Palestinian and non-Palestinian." Lebanon's Hezbollah movement mourned the killing of Hamas leader. "We offer our deepest condolences," the movement said in a statement, vowing to continue "support for our Palestinian people." Yemen's Ansarullah movement also said on Friday they mourned Hamas leader following his killing by the Israeli military. "My sincere condolences and great blessings to the

Hamas movement and the dear Palestinian people for the great leader Yahya Sinwar receiving the medal of martyrdom," a spokesman for the group wrote on X, adding that "Gaza and the Palestinian cause are destined for victory, no matter how great the sacrifices." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called his killing a milestone but vowed to keep up the war. "The war, my dear ones, is not yet over," Netanyahu told Israelis late on Thursday, saying fighting would continue until hostages are released. The US President Joe Biden said Sinwar's death provides the opportunity for a "day after" in Gaza without the group in power. "Yahya Sinwar was an insurmountable obstacle to achieving all of those goals. That obstacle no longer exists. But much work remains before us." The Kremlin said it was more concerned about the



Yahya Sinwar
AFP

"humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza and Lebanon. "For us, the main thing is the consequences for civilians that we are seeing... The humanitarian catastrophe that is observed both in Gaza and in Lebanon is the subject of our serious concern," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Iran, Egypt call for immediate end to Israeli brutalities in Gaza, Lebanon

Iran and Egypt condemned Israeli atrocities against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip as well as the Lebanese nation, demanding an immediate cessation of the appalling brutalities. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi met in Cairo on Thursday and exchanged viewpoints on the latest developments in West Asia. They underlined the urgency of stopping Israeli aggression and crimes in Gaza and Lebanon, and preventing the dangerous escalation of insecurity that could drag the entire region into war and have destructive consequences. The two officials also stressed the need to dispatch humanitarian supplies to the refugees. Araghchi expressed his

deep concerns over the ongoing Israeli aggression against Gaza and Lebanon and stressed the importance of utilizing all diplomatic capacities to prevent the escalation of tensions in the region and alleviate the suffering of Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. For his part, Sisi voiced Egypt's concerns over current developments in the region. The Egyptian president stressed the need to prevent the conflict from further escalating. He said all capacities need to be used in order to stop Israeli atrocities and crimes in Gaza and Lebanon. During his stop in Turkey on Friday, the Iranian foreign minister said the regional countries share concerns about the possible spillover of the Israeli war on Gaza and Lebanon into West

Asia. Since early October 2023, Israel has been waging brutal two-front aggression that has killed at least 42,438 people in the Gaza Strip and 2,350 others in Lebanon so far and assassinated several resistance leaders. In response to Israel's acts of assassinations, Iran carried out a missile attack earlier this month on Israel's military sites. Tel Aviv has threatened to attack Iran and Tehran has vowed to give a "crushing" response to any provocation. Araghchi visited Turkey as part of a diplomatic marathon to de-escalate the situation in the region as Israel pushes its deadly aggression against Lebanon and Gaza. He has so far traveled to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt and Iraq.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran excoriates EU stance on trio islands in Persian Gulf

Kharrazi: EU's support for UAE 'brazen hostility' toward Iran

International Desk

Iran has strongly condemned a joint statement of the European Union and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) about three Persian Gulf Iranian islands, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi saying, "Era of European malign 'divide & rule' interference in our region is long over." Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations denounced the joint statement, stating that Europe is embarking on a misguided and perilous path vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic. In a post published on its official X account on Thursday, the mission stated that while European leaders acknowledged during high-level negotiations with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 79th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York that mutual concerns could be resolved through dialogue, they have surrendered to baseless allegations regarding Iran's

sovereignty and territorial integrity. "Yet, in Brussels, they have recklessly ignored international law and the UN Charter, allowing themselves to become pawns of unfounded claims regarding Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity," the post read. Earlier, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi strongly condemned the irrelevant and meddling EU-GCC statement against Iran, stating it carries many messages. "The three islands have always belonged to Iran, and will forever remain as such," the foreign minister asserted, noting, "Era of European malign 'divide & rule' interference in our region is long over." The Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world. However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid claim to the islands.



The islands fell under British control in 1921 but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored. Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, urged the UAE to "end enmity towards Iran over its territorial integrity," saying that instead of resorting to others, who have economic motives in supporting the UAE's claim, return to dialogue to resolve the dispute based on historical facts. Kharrazi said that the EU's support for the UAE is the "brazen hostility" towards Iran on the pretext of the

alleged Iran's support for Russia in the Ukraine war. He also said that the EU's stance has no legal value and is merely a political position to attract aid and financial resources from the rich Persian Gulf countries, especially the UAE, to compensate for the heavy costs of their participation in the war in Ukraine. Iran's government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani Mohajerani in a post on her X account said, "Iran's territorial integrity is not an issue that foreigners dare to talk about." "The European Union and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council are not in a position to comment on the great land of Iran," Mohajerani said.

Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Flare Package for Belal Project, Tender No. 974108

Second Announcement

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to Purchase of Flare Package for Belal Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 14 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC 's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Ms.Mahabadpour with Tel:+9821-82841057 under sign for any inquiries and more information.



Social Desk

In Iran, women are not legally prohibited from riding motorcycles, and no law explicitly states they are not allowed to do so. However, based on a loophole in Article 20 of the "Traffic Violation Law," the responsibility for issuing motorcycle licenses falls under the purview of the Islamic Republic's law enforcement, which has consistently shied away from issuing licenses to women simply because the law mentions "men." This omission has led to a lack of clarity, leaving women in a gray area. The issue of female motorcyclists is not a new one; it has been a contentious topic for years, with ongoing debates about the legal, cultural, and societal implications. Nevertheless, policymakers have yet to take a stance on recognizing women's right to ride motorcycles. A sociologist believes that the reason for the inaction is that policymakers in Iran are hesitant to rock the boat and make any changes to the existing laws regarding women. Although there is no law that explicitly prohibits women from riding motorcycles, the lack of clear legislation has resulted in financial and safety risks for women. They are unable to access standardized training, and if they do own a motorcycle, they are not entitled to third-party insurance. This legal vacuum has serious consequences. Despite these challenges, women have found ways to circumvent the system, just as they have with other restrictions. For instance, some have dressed in men's clothing to gain entry to sports stadiums or have pushed the boundaries of what is considered acceptable in terms of hijab. It appears that the number of female motorcyclists in large cities has increased over time. Interviews with several female motorcyclists reveal that they have received more positive feedback in recent years, although they still face some sexist harassment. For instance, Bahar from Isfahan has been riding a motorcycle for almost two years now. She had dreamed of doing so for about eight years, but her family had been opposed to it after she was once arrested for riding a bicycle. However, after the protests of 2022 following the death of Mahsa Amini, she made up her

mind to take the plunge. "I decided to give motorcycling a try, but I made sure to wear a hijab, as I believe I'm helping to raise awareness about women riding motorcycles, and I don't want to give anyone an excuse to criticize me," says Bahar. At first, people were shocked to see her on a motorcycle, and some men would even shout "Astaghfirullah!" (a phrase used to express shock or disgust) as she rode by. Some men would also make sexist comments, such as "Why don't you go sit behind a washing machine or stove?" On several occasions, men would even try to intimidate her by swerving their cars in front of her motorcycle, trying to throw her off balance. "However, there were also supportive men. Once a man pulled up next to me and offered words of encouragement. One time, a man even helped me when I was struggling to get my motorcycle onto the center stand, and on rainy days, men would often warn me to be more careful. Women also showed their support, cheering me on and telling me to keep riding." Although Bahar has always passed by the police with fear and anxiety, she has never been flagged down over the past two years. Despite her positive experiences, Bahar still cannot shake off the feeling of unease and has a key unanswered question. "I still don't understand why we were denied the right to ride motorcycles – a simple desire – for so long. While no law prohibits women from riding as passengers, why can't they be riders? I still don't have an answer to that question." Raha is another woman who is passionate about motorcycling and often rides her motorbike in Tehran. "I've never had a bad experience, but people are often surprised to see me on a motorcycle. They'll stare, cheer me on, or give me a thumbs-up. Even a police officer once gave me a nod of approval. Drivers are usually considerate and give me space on the road. A few days ago, a bus driver even warned me about a police checkpoint ahead, and I managed to avoid it by hid-

Female motorcyclists experience

From catcalls to evading police

In Iran, a growing number of women are hitting the road on motorcycles, despite a loophole in the traffic law that has effectively barred them from obtaining licenses. Undeterred by the obstacles, women are finding creative ways to ride motorbikes, with some receiving encouraging responses from the community. Now female bikers are calling on policymakers to recognize their right to ride.



ing behind the bus. I have never been stopped by the police because I am watchful and keep running away from cops. However, I'm always on edge, worried about getting caught by the traffic police. Unfortunately, I'm more concerned about getting stopped than about controlling my motorcycle or worrying about thieves and muggers and road hazards. If I get into an accident, I'll be at fault because I don't have a license. With the current economic situation, many people can't afford cars, and motorcycles are a convenient alternative for short distances." Sousan is another woman who occasionally rides her brother's motorcycle, but she has not bought one herself because she cannot get a license. She has even consulted with a lawyer about the possibility of getting a license, but it seems unlikely. "I know that if I buy a motorcycle, I'll want to use it all the time, so I've decided to use my brother's bike for now. In general, I've received positive feedback from people, who often say 'good for you!' when they see me riding. However, some men still make sexist comments, saying things like 'why don't you go sit behind a washing machine?' I've tried to get used to these negative reactions, but they still hurt."

Lack of courage to make changes

To delve deeper into this issue, we spoke with a sociologist to shed light on why Iran's laws regarding women's motorcycling, like many other areas, are lagging behind the rest of society. "Ms. Nafiseh Azad" pointed out that while women's presence in public spaces is relatively new, it is still met with significant restrictions. "Society still views certain places, times, and modes of transportation as off-limits to women," she explained. "This may seem irrational at first, but in reality, it's part of a broader trend where women are establishing their presence in public spaces. Women are no longer confined to their homes or neighborhoods; they're now navigating entire cities and making their presence felt."

Ms. Azad also is of the opinion

that Tehran's poor traffic management and inefficient public transportation systems make it a city that's difficult to navigate without a car. However, women face two major hurdles: First, owning a car is less common among women due to the higher cost, and second, women's use of the city is more diverse and complex than men's due to their multiple responsibilities, including shopping, childcare, and maintaining family relationships. As a result, women tend to travel more frequently over medium distances.

Furthermore, Ms. Azad argued that the city's infrastructure encourages people to use motorcycles, and many men who own cars prefer to use motorcycles to avoid traffic, traffic restrictions, and red lights. Consequently, women's decision to use motorcycles is, to a large extent, a product of the city's circumstances. When objective conditions necessitate it, societal changes occur. Not all women who ride motorcycles are consciously fighting for a cause, although they are, in effect, doing so. Rather, the practical demands of their daily lives have driven them to take to the roads.

Ms. Azad continued, it appears that policymakers are hesitant to make any changes to laws related to women, seemingly paralyzed by fear and anxiety. These issues aren't fundamental problems that contradict higher laws. Of course, there has always been resistance to women's mobility in all societies, such as the opposition to women's cycling in the West in the past. However, this type of resistance to recognizing women's rights reveals that policymakers lack the courage to make changes. The restriction on women's motorcycling is absurd, given that women can obtain a Class-A driver's license or ride as passengers on motorcycles, but not drive themselves. Policymakers could simply let this issue slide, resist it, or issue a statement, and society would move on. Alternatively, they could easily make it legal, provide women with licenses and training, and require them to wear helmets, but it seems that Iranian policymakers have chosen the first approach.

The article originally appeared on the Persian-language news website khabaronline.ir.