

Hamas is alive, will remain alive despite Sinwar's loss: *Leader*

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the resistance front remains unstoppable despite the martyrdom of its "prominent figures."

In a message on Saturday, a day after Palestine's Hamas resistance group confirmed the death of its leader Yahya Sinwar in Gaza, Ayatollah Khamenei extended his condolences to his family, comrades, and all those devoted to jihad (struggle) for the sake of God.

He praised Sinwar for his significant role in confronting the "aggressive enemy," describing him as a "shining figure" of resistance and struggle.

"He was a shining figure of resistance and struggle. With a steely resolve,

he stood firm against the oppressive and aggressive enemy," he wrote.

"With wisdom and courage, he struck it (the enemy) hard, leaving behind the irreversible blow of October 7 in the history of this region. And then, with dignity and pride, he ascended to the heavens of the martyrs."

The Leader also emphasized the unwavering trajectory of the resistance front, stating that it remains unstoppable despite the martyrdom of its "prominent" figures.

"Someone like [Sinwar], who spent a lifetime fighting against the usurping and oppressive enemy, deserves no end other than martyrdom. His loss is certainly painful for the resistance front, but this

front did not stop advancing with the martyrdom of prominent figures such as Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Fat'hi Shaqaqi, [Abdel Aziz] Rantisi, and Ismail Haniyeh, and it will not slow down in the slightest with the martyrdom of Sinwar, God willing. Hamas is alive and will remain alive," he said, referring to Hamas leaders all assassinated by Israel.

He reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's commitment to supporting the resistance fighters.

The Palestinian resistance group said on Friday that 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.

Hamas's armed wing Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades also 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 group said in a statement. On Friday, Hamas confirmed that Sinwar was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza's Rafah city. 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. 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.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) meets the late leader of Palestine's Hamas resistance group Yahya Sinwar in Tehran on February 12, 2012. [khamenei.ir](#)

Iran: 3+3 cooperation format bespeaks regional will to settle disputes

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called the 3+3 regional cooperation platform a symbol of the member states' determination to settle regional disputes by regional countries.

Addressing the third meeting of the 3+3 regional cooperation platform in the Turkish city of Istanbul on Saturday, the top Iranian diplomat welcomed the progress in peace talks between Azerbaijan and Armenia, saying that respect for territorial integrity, national sovereignty, internationally recognized borders and not threatening to use force is a requirement for sustainable peace in the region.

The 3+3 consultative platform, comprising the three South Caucasus countries of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan plus Russia, Turkey, and Iran, was established in an attempt to settle regional issues without foreign interference. The dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region had been at the center of the three rounds of the talks. The land-locked region has always been internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan though it is mostly populated by ethnic Armenians.

Azerbaijan won the 2020 war, regain-



ing much of the Nagorno-Karabakh. Another battle in September left the entire territory under the control of the Baku government after months of blockade. The first 3+3 meeting was held in Moscow, Russia, in December 2021 at the level of deputy foreign ministers and without the presence of Georgia.

The second was held in Tehran on October 23 with the participation of the foreign ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia and Turkey.

In a post on X on Friday, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry said Tehran is ready to promote stability and friendship in the Caucasus region based on respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all regional states. "Iran stands ready to work with other partners to make the Caucasus a sphere of stability, friendship, and prosperity based on respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality, and territorial integrity of all regional states," Esmail Baghaei wrote.

Netanyahu's residence targeted by Hezbollah drone

Iran's FM: Israel's policies turn region into powder keg

International Desk

Israel said a drone targeted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence on Saturday, as Hezbollah launched a barrage of projectiles into the occupied territories.

Netanyahu's office claimed that the prime minister and his wife were not at their residence in the central town of Caesarea during the drone attack and there were no injuries.

Israel has not said whether the targeted building was part of the Netanyahu's residence nor the extent of any damage.

The Israeli occupation forces admitted that the regime's air defenses were unable to intercept the drone as it pierced through occupied territories.

Netanyahu's warmongering policies have led to deaths of nearly 45,000 people in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon over the past year.

Possibility of all-out war

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned of

the possibility of an ever-expanding war in the West Asia region, describing as a "powder keg" the situation in the strategic area following Israel's heightened escalation in the besieged Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon.

Araghchi made the remarks after discussing various regional and bilateral issues with his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan on the sidelines of the meeting of the 3+3 South Caucasus Regional Cooperation Platform in Istanbul on Saturday.

"The region has turned into a powder keg, which can put the world in grave danger, and the possibility of war is still high and no one wants this except the Zionist regime, but we are ready for any scenario," he added. Araghchi censured Israel as the "most important source of insecurity" across the globe and said the regime did not scruple to breach international law.

Fidan, for his part, said Tel Aviv is trying to drag Tehran into the war and threatens to target Iran's nuclear facilities.



"We do not want war and we must exercise restraint. A truce should be declared in Gaza and Israel must abandon any threats and aggression."

Hezbollah's attacks

Hezbollah said on Saturday that it fired rockets at northern Israel, including at a military base near the city of Haifa on Saturday.

The group also said it fired a rocket salvo on the northern town of Safid after the Israeli occupation army reported 115 projectiles launched from Lebanon on Saturday. Late last month, Israel dramatically stepped up its air strikes on Lebanon and sent in ground forces after nearly

a year of cross-border exchanges.

Since late September, the war has left at least 1,418 people dead in Lebanon, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures, though the real toll is likely higher.

Israel also hammered Gaza with air strikes, with an overnight raid on Jabalia in the north killing 33 people.

Gaza's civil defense agency said Saturday more than 400 Palestinians were killed in the north of the territory over the past two weeks during an ongoing military assault Israel. The regime's strikes have claimed the lives of more than 42,500 Palestinians since October 2023.

Iran hosts joint IMEX 2024 naval drills in southern waters

International Desk

Naval drills hosted by Iran with the participation of several foreign countries kicked off in the Indian Ocean on Saturday.

The exercises, dubbed IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) 2024, are aimed at boosting "collective security in the region, expand multilateral cooperation, and display the goodwill and capabilities to safeguard peace, friendship and maritime security," as reported by Iran's state media.

Participants would practice tactics to ensure international maritime trade security, protect maritime

routes, enhance humanitarian measures and exchange information on rescue and relief operations.

Rear Admiral Mostafa Tajeddini, the spokesman of the joint naval drill, said the exercise, hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy, naval division of the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization, started in the First Naval Region of the Iranian Navy in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Saturday. He added that naval forces from several foreign coun-

tries like Bangladesh, India, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand have taken part in the maritime exercise along with their Iranian counterparts.

Tajeddini noted that the combined naval exercise would include specialized meetings and workshops in order to transfer expertise to the participating forces. He stated that units taking part in the joint naval drill will play out various scenarios such as fire control, search and rescue operations as well as oil spill recovery and clean-up methods. The naval exercise is held

under the motto of "Together for a safe and secure Indian Ocean," Tajeddini said. It carries the message of peace, friendship, empathy and collective participation.

The IONS features 24 Indian Ocean littoral states, which gather biennially for multilateral meetings and naval exercises.

The IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues.

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