

# Leader: Israel needs to realize Iran's clout

Israeli strikes 'should neither be exaggerated nor downplayed'

## International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Israel needs to understand the power and determination of Iranian nation after the regime launched a strike on Iran on Saturday.

"They (the Israelis) need to understand the power, determination, and innovation of the Iranian nation and its youth," he told a group of people in a meeting in Tehran on Sunday.

"How to convey this power and resolve of the Iranian nation to the Zionist regime is for our officials to determine, and what is in the best interest of the nation and the country should be done." Ayatollah Khamenei said that the regime's miscalculation should be disrupted.

The Leader further emphasized that Israel's evil act should "neither be exaggerated nor downplayed." Four Iranian Army offi-

cers were killed in the attack. In the early hours of Saturday, Israeli warplanes used the space available to the US military in Iraq to fire long-range air-to-air missiles in Iran's Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces in flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter.

Iran said that the attack was successfully intercepted and countered by the country's air defense system and that it only caused "limited damage" to radar sites. The Israel's aggression was a response to Iran's missile attack on the regime's military sites on October 1, itself a retaliation for the assassination of the leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah resistance groups and an Iranian commander.

## 'Definite response'

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said that the Islamic Republic's response to the act of aggression will be

"definite and calculated."

"Even though the Zionist regime's military action against Iran was all out of despair and turned into another defeat for the entity, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers itself entitled to self-defense within the framework of the inherent right of legitimate defense and under Article 51 of the UN Charter," he said on Sunday.

"The response to this act of aggression will be definite and calculated," the parliament speaker warned.

According to Qalibaf, a comparison between Operation True Promise II and the usurping regime's latest action attests to the deterrence power of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## US involvement

Also on Sunday, Iran's foreign minister pointed to the US role in Israel's attack on Iran, saying that Washington's complicity

in the Israeli act of aggression against Iran is "quite clear" as it has provided the regime with military equipment and airspace to conduct the terrorist raid.

His remarks came a day after US officials claimed that Washington was not directly involved in the Israeli assault.

"The least they (the Americans) did was to provide a space corridor for the Zionist regime, as well as the equipment they already supplied [to Israel] somehow for participation in this operation."

The top diplomat also noted that the United States bears responsibility for its "completely obvious" partnership in the occupying regime's atrocities and escalation of tensions in West Asia.

He further said that Israel is committing crimes in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon using US weapons and enjoying Washington's political support.

"It is a well-proven fact that without the US, Israel has no power

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of people in Tehran, Iran, on October 27, 2024.

© khamenei.ir



in the region," Araghchi emphasized.

## Letter to UN chief

Abbas Araghchi also sent a letter to the UN chief and the head of the Council "demanding an urgent meeting of the Security Council to take a decisive position in condemning this aggression," a ministry statement said. In his letter, Araghchi said "most

of the projectiles fired were intercepted by Iran's defense systems" but the attack led to damage at "the target points," as well as the death of four Army servicemen.

He said the Israeli attack was a "clear violation of the sovereignty" of Iran which "reserves the inherent right... to respond to this criminal aggression."

## UN chief 'shocked by harrowing levels of death, injury, destruction' in north Gaza

### National Desk

UN chief Antonio Guterres said Sunday he was "shocked by harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction" in north Gaza, where Israeli forces are carrying out deadly strikes for several weeks.

"The plight of Palestinian civilians trapped in North Gaza is unbearable," Guterres's spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

"The Secretary-General is shocked by the harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction in the north, with civilians trapped under rubble, the sick and wounded going without life-saving health care, and families lacking food and shelter."

The spokesman said that according to Gaza's health ministry, hundreds of people have been killed in recent weeks and

more than 60,000 others were forced to flee.

"Repeated efforts to deliver humanitarian supplies essential to survive -- food, medicine and shelter -- continue to be denied by the Israeli authorities, with few exceptions, putting countless lives in peril," Dujarric said. "In the name of humanity, the Secretary-General reiterates his calls for an immediate ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, and accountability for crimes under international law."

On Saturday, dozens of Palestinians were killed after an Israeli strike destroyed several buildings in a residential area of Beit Lahiya in besieged northern Gaza, with the Health Ministry describing it as a "horrific massacre". According to witnesses and medical sources, at least



45 people were killed on Saturday evening with dozens more wounded.

Palestinian Wafa news agency reported that many of the killed and injured are children, women and the elderly. Rescue efforts are being hampered due to a lack of ambulances and civil defense services, as Israeli forces have blocked access to the area, it said.

Northern Gaza has been under a three-week ground assault by Israeli forces who are forcibly displacing tens of thousands of residents out of the area.

## One dead, dozens hurt in Israel truck ramming

A driver rammed his truck into a crowd at a bus stop in central Israel on Sunday, killing a man and injuring more than two dozen people, medics and police said.

In a separate incident, Israeli soldiers killed a man who tried to stab them during an operation near Jerusalem, the military said.

The truck ramming happened on Ahron Yariv Boulevard in Ramat HaSharon near Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial hub, AFP reported. Preliminary police findings showed the truck driver also hit a bus that had stopped at the same station to drop off passengers, the police said in a statement.

At least 29 people were injured, including several in serious condition, emergency service providers Magen David Adom said in a statement. Police did not say whether it was an attack, but added that civilians at the scene shot dead the truck driver.

One of those hurt died later of his injuries, said the hospital where he was taken for treatment. Paramedic Elijor Yosef, who arrived at the bus stop after the ramming, said he saw eight people "trapped under the truck".

"A number of further casualties were either lying or walking near the truck," he was quoted as saying in the Magen David Adom



statement. Palestinian resistance group Hamas, in a statement, said the "heroic ramming attack" that was carried out near "Mossad headquarters... was in response to the crimes committed by the Zionist occupation" against Palestinians.

Elsewhere, a man who tried to stab a group of soldiers was killed in

Hizma, a Palestinian town near Jerusalem. Since the Israeli war on Gaza began on October 7 last year, there have been several retaliatory attacks in Israel carried out by Palestinian fighters. At least 30 people, including Israeli soldiers, have been killed in such attacks in Israel, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

## Israel's defense-offense ...

These operations were not just responses to specific incidents but served as broader warnings. With "True Promise 2," Iran extended its reach by targeting Israeli interests deep within the occupied territories. This escalation was aimed not only at the Zionist entity but also at sending a clear message to the United States, underscoring Iran's capability to disrupt the Middle Eastern balance of power if its sovereignty is threatened. By targeting the heart of the occupied entity, Iran aimed to deter future incursions, signaling that any perceived threat would be met with a robust, far-reaching response.

### True Promise 3

Iran's position became unmistakably clear as it established decisive "deterrence equations" for Israel. Operation True Promise 1 was launched in response to the bombing of the Iranian consulate in Syria, sending a clear message that attacks on Iranian interests abroad would not go unanswered. Subsequently, following the assassinations of key allies, Ismail Haniyeh and Hassan Nasrallah, Operation True Promise 2 delivered an even stronger warning, demonstrating Iran's willingness

to escalate in defense of its regional allies. With the Zionist entity's attack on Iranian territory, Iran is signaling that the third "True Promise" operation is set to be faster and more destructive. This progression from symbolic retaliation to concrete deterrence underscores Iran's strategy that any violation will be met with a decisive and overwhelming response. Through these operations, Iran has succeeded in establishing a framework of deterrence, demonstrating its capability to defend its interests and its allies with increasing force.

Iran's advanced air defense a 'game changer' Iran's defense strategy is built on a blend of indigenous and acquired technologies, honed over years of enduring sanctions. This has driven Iran to develop a unique self-sufficiency in military technology, resulting in an air defense system highly adaptable to regional threats and the demands of modern warfare.

Iran's air defense systems, including the Bavar-373, rival the Russian S-300 system, and Iran has continued to strengthen its defense infrastructure against high-tech incursions. In recent Israeli attacks,

Iranian defenses even targeted Israeli assets on the Iraqi airspace, demonstrating the extended range and precision of these systems. This development not only deters Israeli strikes but also sets a new standard for deterrence across the Middle East, where military posturing frequently leads to real confrontations.

## Red lines of engagement

Iran's approach to "deterrence" is not mere rhetoric. It has defined and enforced red lines, and the consequences of crossing them are swift and strategically calculated. The True Promise operations serve as clear markers of these boundaries. When the Zionist entity targeted Iranian consulate, Iran responded not only with precision but with an unwavering commitment to punish the aggressor. For Iran, actions against its interests in Syria and the broader region are met with reciprocal measures that underscore its capability to confront any threat, thereby establishing a new pattern of engagement.

The assassinations of figures closely associated with Iran's allies, such as Ismail Haniyeh and Hassan Nasrallah, further highlight Iran's strategy, which extends

beyond physical retaliation to addressing political and symbolic challenges to its regional influence. Iran has demonstrated that even such provocations will not go unanswered and that it possesses the military means to reshape the strategic landscape if its interests or allies are endangered.

The evolution of Iran's defensive capabilities has significant implications that reach beyond its borders. Middle Eastern states have long been shaped by regional power struggles, with alliances and rivalries defining much of the geopolitical landscape. Iran's proactive deterrence posture complicates these relationships, as regional powers that have long relied on Western military support may need to reconsider their security frameworks and possibly align more closely with Tehran rather than Washington. For the United States, traditionally a dominant military presence in the region, Iran's fortified position presents a challenge. Iran's capability to protect its borders against advanced technologies limits the operational flexibility of the United States and its allies and signals a shift in the regional balance of power, potentially forcing other players to reassess

their alliances.

Iran's recent military developments demonstrate its ability not only to defend its territory but also to engage in offensive maneuvers that could alter regional dynamics. Through a series of carefully calibrated operations, Iran has asserted a deterrence policy that complicates its adversaries' strategies. These developments have positioned Iran as a critical power broker in the Middle East, one that regional and global actors must contend with in the coming years.

The coming years will undoubtedly require a delicate balance as Iran's military posture and the reactions it provokes shape the future of the region. Iran's continued enhancement of its defensive and offensive capabilities may establish a model of deterrence that other nations might look to adopt or learn from.

In this intricate landscape, Iran's emergence as a formidable military power is compelling the international community to reconsider long-held assumptions about power and security in the Middle East. The next phase will likely determine not only Iran's role in the region but also the future alignment of regional alliances.