

IRGC chief: US root cause of all political, military tensions worldwide

International Desk

The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) called the United States the root cause of all political and military tensions, crimes, massacres and occupation in the world.

Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks in an address to a rally held in the capital Tehran to commemorate the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance, also known as the National Student Day.

Referring to the US crimes as well as military and political interference in other countries, including the deadly atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, a CIA-backed 1953 coup in Iran, its wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and killings of Black people and Indian-Americans in the US, Salami said this is the real face of the United States. For the past 45 years and since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, the US has tried to turn all Islamic lands

into battlefields. However, he underlined that the US policies have failed in the region. Salami pointed to the US failure in defeating the Iranian nation by supporting the former dictator of Iraq Saddam Hossein during the 1980s war on Iran as well as imposing sanctions on Iran. He also referred to the US failure in implementing the project of the Abraham Accords to normalize relations between the Israeli regime and Arab countries as another defeat for Washington in the region.

Also on Sunday, the IRGC commander in a statement on the occasion of the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance, extolled the historic day as an "indelible watershed" in exposing the true nature of the US and its mischief against the freedom-loving and rights-seeking nations of the world.

Salami said the Israeli atrocities, perpetrated under the command and all-round support of the administration in Washington, against the strategic region of West Asia, not least the innocent people in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, are regarded as the "biggest and most valid reason and justification for the loss of American human rights."

Salami's remarks came as Iranians took to the streets across the country on Sunday to commemorate the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance which marks the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy by Iranian university students in the capital Tehran.



Hossein Salami

UNICEF: Horrific level of child deaths occurring in northern Gaza

International Desk

More than 50 children were killed in Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp between Friday and Saturday as a result of Israel's attacks with the United Nations agency UNICEF saying that horrific level of child deaths occurring in northern Gaza.

More than 16,700 children have been killed in Israel's assault on Gaza since October last year, according to Palestinian officials, more than a third of the overall death toll of 43,341 confirmed by health authorities.

Israel has killed more than 1,000 people during its month-long violent siege of Gaza's north, during which it has blocked the entry of food and medical aid and crippled health facilities. "Children are under constant bombardment, in constant fear," Rachel Cummings, Save the Children International's Humanitarian Director and Team Lead in Gaza, told Al Jazeera on Sunday. Speaking from Deir el-Balah in central Gaza, Cummings said that the number of casualties among children does not account for the approximately 20,000 who are



A Palestinian woman bids farewell to her grandson in the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, after he was killed along with his mother in an Israeli strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp, on November 1, 2024. ● EYAD BABA/AFP

missing or have become unaccompanied in this war.

In its statement on Saturday, the UN agency UNICEF said the children were killed in an Israeli attack which levelled two residential buildings sheltering hundreds of people.

"Taken alongside the horrific level of child deaths in North Gaza from other attacks, these most recent events combine to write yet another dark chapter in one of the darkest periods of this terrible war," according to a statement by UNICEF's Executive Director Catherine Russell.

"The attacks on Jabalia, the vaccination clinic and the UNICEF staff member are yet further examples of the grave consequences of the

indiscriminate strikes on civilians in the Gaza Strip. The entire Palestinian population in north Gaza, especially children, are at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine, and the ongoing bombardments," the statement said. Israel launched the military offensive, what many dubbed "a war of revenge" against Palestinians, in the wake of a Hamas-led attack on Israel's positions in the occupied territories on October 7, 2023.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Qalibaf sends condolences to Spain over deadly floods

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf extended his condolences to Spain over a recent deadly flood in the European country, which has claimed the lives of more than 200 people.

In messages to President of the Senate of Spain, Pedro Manuel Rollán Ojeda, and President of the Congress of Deputies of Spain, Francina Armengol, Qalibaf extended the sympathies and solidarity of Iranians with the families of the victims of the tragedy and wished a swift

recovery for the injured.

At least 214 people are now confirmed dead from the floods and the toll may climb higher.

Authorities in the hard-hit province of Valencia said on Sunday that hopes of finding more survivors are fading.

This week's flash floods, caused by torrential rains that scientists have linked to the climate emergency, have inundated cities, towns and villages, sweeping away bridges, cars, trees and streetlights. The number of missing people remains unknown. Thousands more have



AFP

no access to water or reliable food, while parts of the heaviest-hit areas remain inaccessible.

The tragedy is already Europe's worst flood-related disaster since 1967 when at least 500 people died in Portugal.

Harris, Trump locked in tight race in swing states

The presidential race in the United States appears to be hurtling toward a photo finish, with the final set of polls by The New York Times and Siena College finding Vice President Kamala Harris showing new strength in North Carolina and Georgia as former president Donald Trump erases her lead in Pennsylvania and maintains his advantage in Arizona.

The 2024 United States presidential election, the 60th quadrennial presidential election, is scheduled

on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Harris is now narrowly ahead in Nevada, North Carolina and Wisconsin, the polls show, while Trump leads in Arizona. The polls show them locked in close races in Michigan, Georgia and Pennsylvania. But the results in all seven states are within the margin of sampling error, meaning neither candidate has a definitive lead in any of them, The New York Times reported.

Both candidates have mul-

iple pathways available to capture the 270 Electoral College votes required to claim victory, assuming that polls are not dramatically underestimating the support for one or the other. In such a close race, even a small systemic polling error could tip the contest decisively in either direction.

But there are signs that late deciders are breaking for Harris: Among the 8 percent of voters who said they had only recently decided on their vote, she wins the group by 55



(With Election Day nearing, 11 percent of voters remained undecided or persuadable, down from 16 percent about a month ago.)

The polling comes as more than 70 million Americans have already voted, according to the University of Florida Election Lab.

Israeli intelligence swaying...

The sitting UK government, under Keir Starmer, has shifted its stance to respect the independence of the ICC and not challenge its jurisdiction, aligning the UK's position with international legal standards, despite continuing to support Israel. The UK has maintained its opposition to investigations into the war crimes of Israeli leaders by the ICC.

On the other hand, for nine consecutive years, Israeli intelligence has spied on ICC judges and officials, harassing them. Reports in the media indicate that Israeli intelligence allegedly forced Judge Julia Motoc, responsible for overseeing the case, to resign on health grounds by showing her some distressing past incidents. This has halted the investigation process for arrest warrants

against Israeli leadership, while the ICC has not appointed new judges due to unfair pressure from the US and European countries. The ICC is facing accusations of hypocrisy for delaying the requests for arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant for over five months, especially when the same institution approved an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin in just 24 days.

This double standard has exposed the pressure from the US government and some European nations on the ICC. Legal expert Dr. Owais warned that Motoc's resignation has delayed the process for the arrest warrants against the Israeli prime minister and minister of military affairs. Former UN official Craig Mokhiber questioned the sudden change in dynamics under

increasing pressure from Israel and Western nations. The US Senate had previously threatened the ICC, stating that if arrest warrants were issued against Israeli leaders, Israel's spying agency, Mossad, would expose key secrets regarding the ICC's judges and officials' activities. The Israeli intelligence has threatened to target the children of ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan, as well as former ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, when she indicated an intention to begin investigations into Israeli crimes, even threatening her husband.

Both the ICC and Khan condemned these threats, which were seen as a direct attempt to interfere with judicial proceedings. Such actions have jeopardized the ICC's independence, undermining its legal authority and ability to deliver justice.

A recent report from an Israeli news website detailed that Israel persuaded 25 countries to oppose the prosecutor's request for arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant, despite diplomatic norms. The report indicated that Israeli Foreign Minister Katz sent letters to foreign ministers of these 25 countries, urging them to submit legal complaints with the ICC against the prosecutor's request for arrest warrants.

The Israeli regime and its spying agency have acknowledged that they are fearful of investigations into their military's war crimes and that the evidence is so apparent that they understand the ICC will not only issue warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant but also hold soldiers directly involved in war crimes accountable in a court of law.