

Leader: Israel's bombing of houses in Gaza, Lebanon not victory but 'war crime'

'Arrest warrant not enough, Netanyahu must be executed'

International Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said Israel's bombing of houses and hospitals in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon is not a victory but a "war crime."

The Israeli regime has not won its wars on Gaza and Lebanon, and it will never be able to do so, Ayatollah Khamenei said during a meeting with members of the Iranian Basij volunteer force on Monday, on the occasion of Basij Week.

Referring to the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ousted minister of military affairs Yoav Gallant, the Leader said, "The arrest warrant is not enough, Netanyahu's death

sentence must be handed down."

The Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant over their war crimes related to the ongoing Gaza genocide.

Now, the pair are at risk of arrest if they step foot in any of the 124 countries that signed the Rome Statute establishing the ICC.

More than 44,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli military action since the beginning of its devastating war on the Palestinian territory in October 2023. Thousands more are missing under the rubble, most of them presumed dead.

According to the Palestinian officials, Israel has killed at least 17,400 children in Gaza. That is one child killed every 30 minutes.

Alongside the fatalities, nearly 60% of buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed since the beginning of the war.

Nearly two million Palestinians have been also displaced by the Israel's army and face a grave humanitarian crisis.

The Israeli regime has also claimed the lives of more than 3,750 people and wounded over 15,620 people in Lebanon since October 2023 when Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement began to target Israel's military positions in support of Palestinian fighters in Gaza.

Since then, the Israeli army and Hezbollah have been exchanging fire. But most of the deaths in Lebanon occurred after the regime intensified its strikes on Lebanon in September.



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Iran's FM warns about trivializing Israeli genocide in Gaza

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Monday warned about trivializing the crimes and massacres committed by the Israeli regime against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Addressing an extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of Friends of the United Nations

Charter, Araghchi warned about the further tarnishing of the credibility of the UN due to its continued inaction about the Israeli genocide in the Gaza Strip, saying that the international community should not allow the regime's lawlessness and aggression to become the norm.

Araghchi said that Iran considers an arrest warrant issued by the Interna-

tional Criminal Court against Israel's prime minister and his former minister of military affairs as a necessary but belated step on the path to justice and punishment of "the Zionist criminals," calling on the international community to be serious in implementing the ICC rulings.

He described the past 14 months of Israel's genocide in Gaza as a continu-

ation of the 80-year-old "colonial annihilation" plan in Palestine.

Stopping Israel's genocide in Gaza and its aggression against Lebanon requires a worldwide coalition to hold accountable, prosecute, and punish the regime's leaders, as well as to hold accountable the regime's supporters, especially the United States, Araghchi said.

Iran, Azerbaijan start joint war games in border region

Special units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Ground Force and the elite divisions of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces have launched a large-scale joint military exercise to enhance security cooperation and strengthen counter-terrorism efforts between the two neighboring nations.

The four-day drill, codenamed "Aras

Joint Exercise," began on Sunday in the high-terrain regions of Aslan Duz County in Iran's northwestern province of Ardabil, Press TV reported.

Rapid reaction units from Iran's IRGC Ground Force and the Republic of Azerbaijan's military are engaging in the collaborative exercise.

The primary goals of the joint military

exercise include bolstering the existing military ties between the two neighboring nations and furthering their joint efforts to combat terrorist organizations.

Another crucial aspect of the exercise involves safeguarding the shared borders of the two nations and fostering defense cooperation at both tactical and operational levels.

This collaboration also aims to enhance military capabilities and is in line with agreements made between the two sides to promote their mutual interests. On November 19, military officials from Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan weighed plans to enhance defense cooperation between the two neighbors. Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani and Azeri commander Major General Farid Aliyev discussed a range of issues during the fourth meeting of the Joint Commission on Military and Defense Cooperation in Tehran.



Iran rejects involvement in murder of Israeli rabbi in UAE

International Desk

The Iranian Embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) said it categorically rejects the allegations of Iran's involvement in the murder of an Israeli-Moldovan rabbi in the Persian Gulf Arab country.

It came after the UAE-based rabbi Tzvi Kogan, 28, was found dead by security services last week, following what Israeli officials and an ultra-Orthodox Jewish group he was affiliated with called an anti-Semitic attack.

His corpse was discovered in the Emirati city of Al-Ain, which borders Oman, though it was not clear if he was killed there or elsewhere.

Ayoob Kara, a member of Israel's ruling right-wing Likud party, who promotes economic relations between Israel and the Arab world, claimed there were indications that investigators suspected Iranian involvement.

However, the UAE said on Monday police have arrested three Uzbek nationals for

the killing of the Israeli rabbi.

The statement from the country's Interior Ministry offered no motive for the slaying of Kogan, though an Israeli foreign ministry official later said that he simply had been "killed because of who he was."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office has denounced the killing of the rabbi as a "heinous anti-Semitic terrorist act" and said Israel would do everything it could to bring those responsible to justice.



Stalled dialogues risk...

The current official dialogues regarding resolving ongoing crises,

such as the Gaza war, have so far been fruitless. If the situation continues as it is, in addition to the current "failed states" like Libya and Syria, we will witness more failed states in the region, and even a "failed region," which will have terrible consequences for the region and for global peace, stability, and security, such as the spread of terrorism and energy crises. Therefore, effective and serious actions must be taken to end the ongoing crises.

Two axes will influence the long-term peace and stability of the region. One is resolving the Palestinian crisis, which is essentially the mother of many crises in the region. Over the

past 80 years, there have been about 400 United Nations General Assembly or Security Council resolutions on Palestine, many of which have emphasized the formation of two states as a solution and Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian occupied territories after the 1967 war. Unfortunately, these resolutions have completely failed in implementation because Israel insists on one state, that is, a Jewish state. Of course, there is another view in the region, such as Iran's view, which advocates for one state, that is, a Palestinian state. But ultimately, if the United Nations resolutions are the criterion, the only solution is for Israel to evacuate the occupied Palestinian territories and for two independent states to be formed. The second issue is the problem

of rivalries and disputes among Islamic countries, such as the disputes between Iran and some Arab countries and Arab-Arab disputes. The rows among Arab countries are so extensive that even among the six members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, there are significant disputes, such as border disputes. These conflicts existed before the revolution and continue to this day.

One of the effective and important ways is to create a dialogue forum between Iran and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf. The eight countries of the Persian Gulf should create a new security and cooperation structure in the Persian Gulf region, similar to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe or the European Union. Es-

tablishing such a collective security and cooperation system can end the current harmful rivalries and pave the way for economic growth and development in the Persian Gulf region and take effective steps towards resolving regional crises such as the conflicts in Yemen, Syria, and Libya. The third stage is establishing comprehensive peace and security for the entire Middle East. Making the Middle East free from nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction can be a right start for such an idea. Israel is the one and only regime in the Middle East that has an atomic bomb. Iran has become a "threshold nuclear state," and Saudi Arabia is on the path to acquiring enrichment technology. If Saudi Arabia succeeds, other important countries

like Turkey and Egypt will also achieve this capability. Continuing disputes and crises will encourage these countries to move towards nuclear bombs. Therefore, it is better that the United Nations resolutions on a Middle East free of nuclear weapons be implemented from now on. Despite all these disputes, many have no hope that these goals can be achieved. But if we want to solve the crises, we must act based on international norms and regulations. The Palestinian crisis can be resolved based on United Nations resolutions. The problem is the unilateral support of the United States and Western powers for Israel. If the United States stops arms shipments to Israel, Israel's wars against Gaza and Lebanon will also stop. If we want nuclear disarmament

to take place, the only way is to implement United Nations resolutions that require Israel to destroy its nuclear bombs. If there is goodwill and political will, by reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and regionalizing its principles in the Middle East, the biggest step towards a Middle East free of nuclear weapons will be taken. For the JCPOA, 13 years of negotiations were conducted between global powers and Iran, and more than 200 nuclear scientists were involved to prepare the most comprehensive non-proliferation document in history under the title of the JCPOA. Therefore, reviving the JCPOA and regionalizing it will be a significant step towards nuclear disarmament in the Middle East.