

Leader: Syria invaders will be forced to retreat by Syrian youth

Ayatollah Khamenei lauds Gen. Soleimani's role in reviving Resistance Front



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with a group of families of martyrs, veterans, and resistance fighters in Tehran on January 1, 2025. [khamenei.ir](#)

International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said those who have invaded the Syrian territory will be forced to retreat in the face of the power of the Arab country's youth. Addressing a group of families of mar-

tyrs, veterans, and resistance activists ahead of the fifth martyrdom anniversary of General Qassem Soleimani, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Syria belongs to the Syrian people, and those who invade Syrian soil will undoubtedly one day be forced to retreat in the face of the power of the valiant Syrian youth."

Referring to the establishment of new US bases in the Arab country, the Leader emphasized that the aggressors should leave the territory which belongs to a nation or they will be expelled; therefore, the American bases in Syria would be trampled upon under the feet of Syrian youth.

Since the beginning of foreign-backed war in Syria in 2011, the US have established several military bases in north-eastern part of Syria and deployed around 900 troops on the pretext of fighting Daesh terrorist group.

On December 9, a day after the fall of the government of former president Bashar al-Assad, the US President Joe Biden said that US troops will remain in Syria to fight Daesh, with the Pentagon revealing that there were around 2,000 US troops in the Arab country.

Ayatollah Khamenei also praised as "unique" the sacrifices of Iran's top anti-terror commander, who was assassinated in 2020.

The US assassinated General Soleimani, former commander of the Quds

Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, deputy commander of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units, in a drone strike near Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020.

"Martyr Soleimani's constant strategy was to revive the Resistance Front. He always tried to revitalize the resistance," the Leader said.

The Leader described the top Iranian commander's role in the fight against terrorism as "matchless" and said his sacrifices and services "must remain in our political teachings."

He said defending the holy sites was a "tenet" for Martyr Soleimani, who invariably referenced Iran as a "sacred shrine."

"If these lives had not been lost, if this struggle had not been fought, and if Hajj Qassem Soleimani had not marched through the mountains and deserts of this region so bravely..., there would be no sign of these holy sites today," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said a very important characteristic of General Soleimani

was his assessment of the country's issues with a global perspective and avoiding a closed and limited outlook. "He believed that every important regional and global incident had an impact on the issues in our country, and with this perspective and assessment, he detected the danger from outside the borders and took action to prevent and remedy it."

Underlining that the developments in the past few years and defending the holy shrines in Iraq, Syria and across the region prove that the Islamic Revolution is "alive," Ayatollah Khamenei promised that "the truth front" will definitely emerge victorious.

"The defenders of shrines showed that despite the hefty investments and expenses of ill-wishers, the flag of resistance is still flying high and the enemy has not been able to and will not be able to pull down the flag of resistance in Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Iran," he said.

"Lebanon is a symbol of resistance, it will be victorious, [and] Yemen is a symbol of resistance, it will be victorious."

Tens of thousands stage anti-Israel rallies worldwide on New Year's Eve

International Desk

On the last night of 2024, as fireworks lit up skies across the globe, a large crowd gathered in downtown Tunis to send a different message, chanting, "No celebration while Gaza burns."

"We chose to end this year by raising our voices for the Palestinians," said Jawaher Shanna, a member of the Joint Action Coordination for Palestine, which organized the protest.

"They've faced annihilation for over a year, living in tents under relentless bombardment, while the world watches in silence."

Similar protests unfolded in cities across Tunisia, including Sousse and Sfax, with activists calling for an immediate and lasting cease-fire in the Gaza Strip.

Across the Maghreb, Morocco's Tangier also held a significant protest on New Year's Eve, urging Rabat to revoke its 2020 normalization accord with Israel.

Meanwhile, tens of thousands of people gathered on Istanbul's Galata Bridge on New Year's Day on Wednesday to express solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

Demonstrators waved Turkish and Palestinian flags and chanted "Free



People demonstrate in solidarity with the Palestinian people in Istanbul, Turkey, on January 1, 2025. [AP](#)

Palestine" in the protest, organized by the National Will Platform, a coalition of more than 300 pro-Palestinian and Islamic groups.

Drone video showed thousands of people filling the bridge and the adjacent Eminönü and Sirkeci districts. Pro-Palestinian protesters also took to the streets of Stockholm to call for a cease-fire in Gaza.

Israel's war on Gaza continued into 2024, claiming 23,842 lives and wounding 51,925 people this year alone, according to the Gaza Health

Ministry. These casualties brought the official death toll since the start of the conflict to 46,376.

Rights groups and United Nations legal bodies have accused Israel of committing genocide, citing its siege tactics, indiscriminate bombardment, and systematic targeting of hospitals, displacement shelters, aid workers, journalists, and designated "safe zones."

"Our role is to stand by Palestinians, to amplify their voices, and to remind the world of their struggle," Hicham Aadi, member of The Moroccan movement of Nosra, said at Tangier's protest.

The Moroccan pro-Palestine group has also condemned the international silence surrounding attacks on hospitals and medical workers in Gaza.

For weeks, as fighting escalated near Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza's Beit Lahia, hospital director Hosam Abu Safiya issued desperate appeals for international intervention to halt the violence "before it is too late."

On December 27, the Israeli military launched a major raid on the hospital, claiming it killed over 20 fighters and arrested more than 240 people, including Abu Safiya, whom they accused of being a Hamas operative. Since his arrest, the 51-year-old doctor's whereabouts remain unknown. The World Health Organization reported that Kamal Adwan Hospital has been out of service ever since — a catastrophic blow to northern Gaza's healthcare system, where tens of thousands remain under relentless bombardment.

Iran-E3 to hold fresh round of nuclear talks on January 13



International Desk

Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said Iran will hold a new round of nuclear talks with France, Britain, and Germany on January 13 in Switzerland.

Gharibabadi said on Wednesday that the talks were only "consultations, not negotiations."

According to him, the pending talks would feature defining of the standing issues and further consultations "so we get to know within which frameworks and through which method we should conduct any [potential] negotiations if there were going to be any."

The latest round of talks between Iran and the three countries, known as E3, was held in November in Geneva, which Gharibabadi at the time described as "candid." The January 13 talks will take place one week before Donald Trump's return to the White House.

In 2015, Iran and world powers — including France, Britain and Germany — reached an agreement that saw the easing of international sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

But the United States, during Trump's first term in office, unilaterally withdrew from the

accord in 2018 and reimposed biting economic sanctions.

Tehran adhered to the deal until Washington's withdrawal, and then began rolling back on its commitments.

Tensions between Iran and European countries have escalated over the past two years due to European accusations of Iran's uranium enrichment as well as delivery of missiles and drones to Russia.

The European countries and the United States have also sanctioned several Iranian individuals and institutions over the issues. European countries claim that Iran has supplied ballistic missiles to Russia for use in the Ukraine conflict, an allegation that Tehran has categorically rejected.

In a recent action against Tehran, the European troika also pushed the adoption of a resolution in the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in November. The resolution accused Tehran of poor cooperation with the agency and demanded a "comprehensive" report on its nuclear activities by spring 2025.

Iran insists on its right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and has consistently denied any ambition of developing nuclear weapons capability.

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