

Pezeshkian: Police guarantee country's move toward justice

National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian described poverty and discrimination as the main factors behind dissatisfaction and misdeeds among the public, saying that administering justice would decrease the rate of crimes in the society.

Addressing the commanders of Iran's Law Enforcement Forces at Imam Hassan Mojtaba (AS) University of Police Sciences in Tehran, where he attended the

graduation ceremony of cadets, Pezeshkian said the personnel of the Law Enforcement Forces are one of the most effective forces in charge of delivering justice across the country.

The president called on law enforcement personnel to deal with all members of society, including criminals, in a fair manner.

Pezeshkian hailed the law enforcement forces for their strength as well as relentless efforts aimed at upholding justice in the country.

"Chaos, violence and injustice would have prevailed in society if law enforcement forces had not been active," Pezeshkian said, likening the forces to strongholds that are crucial to society.

"Wherever you are, people feel safe, and this is a sign of hope in a bright future. You are the guarantors of the country's move toward justice," Pezeshkian added.

The president also underlined that the scientific and technical capabilities of the armed forces, especially the police



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) addresses the graduation ceremony of cadets of the Law Enforcement Forces in Tehran, Iran, on January 5, 2025.

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force, should upgrade. Masoud Pezeshkian also voiced his administration's full support for the law enforcement forces, pledging to provide them with all necessary welfare services to make sure the security forces will fulfill their duties with peace of mind.



Araghchi: Resistance not to be eliminated with bombs, martyrdom of leaders

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the Axis of Resistance as a "holy cause" that will not be eliminated with bullets, bombs and through the martyrdom of its leaders.

Araghchi made the remarks during a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry on Sunday to commemorate the 5th martyrdom anniversary of Iran's top anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

He said Soleimani transformed the concept of resistance into a strategic military approach, known as the Axis of Resistance, which has resulted in the formation of an "indestructible" force throughout the region.

General Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), and their companions were assassinated in a US drone strike authorized by then-US President Donald Trump near Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020.

Both commanders were highly revered across West Asia because of their key role in fighting the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group in Iraq and Syria.

The Resistance Axis, Araghchi



Abbas Araghchi
● IRNA

added, is "a cause that cannot be eliminated with weapons. It is not dependent on a person and does not perish with the martyrdom of a commander and a leader."

The top Iranian diplomat also noted that the blood of martyrs is the main weapon of the resistance school of thought.

"The enemies should not assume that if the Resistance Axis suffers any harm, it will be a victory for them; this is the beginning of their defeat," he emphasized.

Araghchi also said diplomacy is part of the resistance school of thought that is inseparable from the military field.

The Israeli regime has since October last year assassinated several heads of the resistance front, including the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah, Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah, and Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar during its military campaigns in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Iran's Armed Forces kick off two-month drills across country

National Desk

A commander of Iran's Armed Forces announced the beginning of two-month drills by the country's military across the country.

Brigadier General Ali Shadmani said on Sunday that for two months, Iran's sky, lands, and seas will host the Armed Forces' Eghtedar (Authority) Exercises.

The drills are part of the ongoing exercises of the Armed Forces and are carried out annually, but this year, some of the drills were postponed in order to maintain and enhance the readiness of the Armed Forces.

Shadmani said on the ground, elite units of the Army's Ground Forces in the west and east of the country, special units of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in the west, southwest, and south of the country,

and tens of thousands of voluntary forces will do counterterrorism practices.

He added that in the sky, the Army's Air Force and Air Defense Force, along with the IRGC Aerospace Force, will practice air defense of important centers in the country using modern equipment and at the sea, the Army's Navy will hold exercises in the northern Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman, with the IRGC Navy focusing on the three Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs as well as the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

His announcement came as the IRGC's Ground Force has begun a military exercise — codenamed Payambar-e-A'azam (Great Prophet) 19 — in the western province of Kermanshah since Saturday.

The IRGC has said the focus of the military drill is on rapid reaction op-



● MEHR

erations. The second day of the drill centered on the transfer of forces and equipment.

The Payambar-e-A'azam 19 exercise, which will continue until January 10, is being held in order to maintain the readiness of the forces and to use the latest equipment and tools.

Iranian military forces hold routine exercises according to a detailed schedule in various parts of the country in order to test their weaponry and equipment and evaluate their combat readiness.

Iran stands strong ...

People's discontent was reflected within the ranks of the military, particularly as Assad released many former ISIS members soon after the group's defeat, even facilitating their recruitment into the army, thus undermining its foundations.

In such a social climate in Syria, the activities of groups like Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) in their battle against Assad became easier. The HTS, despite its terrorist background, emerged with a different image and stance, refraining from the violence and massacres reminiscent of ISIS. Consequently, the advance of the HTS faced little resistance from the people and the army, receiving support instead in various cities, leading to the collapse of the Syrian government.

This reflects the reality of the situation in Syria and has no bearing on the weakening of the Resistance Front or the Islamic Republic of Iran. The claim that Iran withdrew due to fear of Syria is entirely misguided. Iran accepted the call for assistance from Syria and the international community during the far worse conditions of the ISIS crisis, successfully rescuing Syria from ISIS's grip.

However, two months before the fall of Assad, Iranian intelligence officials from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Ministry of Intelligence warned Syrian officials about potential movements and indicated that Iran could assist if needed. After that, no request for help came from them, and understandably, Iran refrained from intervening to avoid being accused of meddling in Syrian affairs and to prevent the needless

sacrifice of its forces.

Nonetheless, the events in Syria today have not shaken the resolve and capacity of the Resistance Front to continue its path. As Leader said, Syrian youth will stand up against oppression and reclaim their land from despots. Despite having lost many of its commanders, the Resistance Front has not shown any signs of weakness. Today, Ansarullah in Yemen is operating decisively and effectively against Israel, and despite all its efforts, the Israeli regime has failed to dismantle the armed resistance of Hezbollah and Hamas in Lebanon and Gaza.

On the other hand, had Iran not engaged in combatting extremists in Syria and Iraq, ISIS might have approached its borders and infiltrated the country, as they came within 40 kilometers of Iran's borders at one point. Therefore, the Islamic Republic and the Resistance Axis will continue on their path. As the Leader emphasized, it is crucial not to instill despair in the hearts of the people or to make statements that could undermine unity and synergy among Muslims.

Despite all the developments, the Islamic Republic remains the sole key player in the dynamics of the Middle East, with the Resistance Front playing a leading role. This means that if anything is to happen in Syria, Iran will still have a crucial part to play. Although Iran may appear to have withdrawn from Syria, it continues to hold influence over events there.

The situation in Syria is extremely fluid; just recently, Abu Mohammed al-Jolani was being discussed as the head of a transitional government, but chatter is now emerging that he may

not be able to play a role in Syria's political future. There are widespread disagreements in Syria at present, with each party seeking their share from the United States, Turkey, the Israeli regime and even from groups surrounding Jolani.

Undoubtedly, these issues will continue to pose challenges and resolving them will require multilateral meetings to be held. Should a conference be convened to address Syria's outstanding issues, the Islamic Republic of Iran will play a pivotal role in such meets, contributing to finding solutions for Syria's problems and asserting its strategic influence in regional affairs. Syria is a country rich in natural resources, and the United States, Turkey, the Israeli regime and others are pursuing their own agendas there, seeking a share of the energy, resources and potentials of this blessed land. This quest for shares will inevitably lead to tensions and it remains to be seen how figures like Jolani deal with them.

Furthermore, the Syrian people themselves have expectations of the current rulers of their country. In recent days, there has been crackdown on protesting Alawites, suggesting that the initial few days of deceptive calm may be drawing to a close and Syria's new rulers are beginning to reveal their true colors. If the people of Syria are subjected to oppression, they will undoubtedly rise up and change the equations in the country. I believe that the people of Syria will play their role in the political future of their nation, steering the country back toward supporting the Resistance Front once again.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

