

# Leader: No benefit for Islamic Ummah greater than unity

First group of Iranian pilgrims will leave Tehran for Medina today



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei meets with Hajj officials in Tehran on May 4, 2025.  
● khamenei.ir

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said it is

imperative on Muslim countries to unite and prevent tribulations similar

to what is befalling on Gazans and the people of Yemen.

In a speech in Tehran on Sunday, Ayatollah Khamenei touched on the annual congregation of Hajj, which brings together and unites Muslims from different parts of the world irrespective of their race, color, and culture.

"The Hajj gathering is for the benefit of humanity and there is no benefit for the Islamic Ummah greater than unity," he told officials and organizers of the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, which able Muslims must make at least once in their lifetime.

"If the Islamic Ummah were united, the issues of Palestine and Gaza would not happen and Yemen would not be pressured like this," the Leader added.

Gaza is the target of a brutal campaign of aggression by Israel which has killed nearly 53,000 people in the besieged Palestinian territory since October

2023 and left it in total ruin.

US, UK and Israeli warplanes have been launching deadly attacks against Yemen since March 15, when US President Donald Trump intensified the campaign that was started by the former administration last year to stop the Arab country's operations against Israel in solidarity with Gazans.

Ayatollah Khamenei said division and discord paves the way for "the colonialists, the US, the Zionist regime, and other expansionists to impose their interests and ambitions" on other nations.

"With the unity of the Ummah, security, progress, and synergy among Islamic countries and their assistance to each other become possible," the Leader said, adding the opportunity of Hajj should be viewed in this light.

Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the political aspect which underpins the

role of Hajj, saying that "contrary to the efforts, words, and actions of some who tarnish it, the essence of Hajj is political, its form is political, and its composition is political".

"Hajj perhaps is the only obligation whose outward form and appearance and its composition are 100 percent political," the Leader said.

"Gathering people in one place, at one time, every year - everyone who can - the very essence of this gathering together is political."

The first group of Iranian pilgrims will leave Tehran for Medina in Saudi Arabia today (Monday). The Iranian airlines will transfer Iranian pilgrims until May 1.

The Hajj pilgrimage is one of the pillars of Islam; Muslims who enjoy financial self-sufficiency are religiously obliged to perform the Hajj at least once in their lifetime.

## Trump open to arguments for Iran's right to pursue civilian nuclear energy

The US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he is willing to listen to arguments for allowing Iran to pursue civilian nuclear energy while ending what he called its nuclear weapons program.

He made the remarks in an interview with NBCNEWS's journalist Kristen Welker.

The US president said his goal in discussions about a deal with Iran is "total dismantlement" of that nation's nuclear program.

"I think that I would be open to hearing it, you know?" Trump said. "Civilian energy, it's called. But you know, civilian energy often leads to military wars. And we don't want to have them have a nuclear weapon. It's a very simple deal."

Iran and the United States held three rounds of nuclear talks since April 12, their highest-level contact since Washington withdrew from a landmark deal with Tehran in 2018, during Trump's first term as US president.

However, the fourth round of talks initially scheduled for Saturday has been postponed due to "logistical reasons".



However, Iran's top diplomat hit back at Rubio's remarks, defending the country's "right to possess the full nuclear fuel cycle".

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a post on X that "Iran has every right to possess the full nuclear fuel cycle," citing Tehran's

long-standing membership of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Araghchi said that there are several NPT members which enrich uranium while wholly rejecting nuclear weapons. Araghchi has previously called Iran's right to enrich uranium "non-negotiable".

Iran currently enriches uranium to 60-percent purity but below the 90 percent needed for weapons-grade material.

The US and other Western countries have long accused Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons - a claim Tehran denies, insisting that its atomic program is solely for civilian purposes.

## Yemeni missile attack targets Israel's key international airport

### International Desk

A missile attack by Yemen's Ansarullah movement targeted Israel's main international airport on Sunday, wounding several people and causing panic among passengers.

The Yemen's Armed Forces have been striking Israel throughout the war in Gaza in solidarity with Palestinians. The attack on Ben Gurion International Airport came hours before Israeli Cabinet ministers were set to vote on whether to intensify military operations in the Gaza Strip. The army began calling up thousands of reserves in anticipation of a wider operation, officials said.

This was the first time a missile struck the airport since the war began, though fragments of missiles or interceptors have struck nearby. Israel's military said several attempts to intercept it were unsuccessful. It left a crater in the ground near the airport's access road.

An AFP photographer said the missile hit near the parking lots of Terminal 3, the airport's largest. The crater was just hundreds of meters (yards) from the tarmac.

The Israel Airports Authority said: "This is the first time a missile has fallen so close to the terminal and the runways."

Passengers were heard yelling and scrambling for cover in footage shared by Israeli media. Air raid sirens sounded in multiple parts of Israel.

Police said air, road and rail traffic were halted. Traffic resumed after about an hour, Israel Airports Authority said. Israel's paramedic service Magen David Adom said four people were lightly wounded.

Israeli media said multiple international airlines canceled flights. The Israel's war on Gaza and then Lebanon had led a wave of airlines to



Israeli security forces inspect the site where a missile fired by Yemen's Armed Forces landed in the area of Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv on May 4, 2025.  
● AP

suspend flights to Israel, but they have since returned to prewar levels.

The spokesman for Yemeni Armed Forces Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree said in a video statement that the Yemeni forces fired a hypersonic ballistic missile at the airport.

Palestinian resistance groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad and Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah hailed the attack.

Yemeni forces have been firing at Israel since the war with Gaza began on Oct. 7, 2023. The missiles have mostly been intercepted, although some have penetrated Israel's missile defense systems, causing damage.

Israel has struck back against Yemen, and the US, Israel's top ally, launched a campaign of strikes in March against them.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz vowed retribution: "Whoever harms us, we will harm them sevenfold."

## Why the Islamic ...

It is not an exaggeration to say that much of what the West now takes pride in—its scientific foundations, mathematical innovations, and technological breakthroughs—originated in the Islamic world. During the Crusades and through centuries of occupation, European powers looted this knowledge. Before then, many in Europe did not even grasp the concept of zero. But through conquest, they got hold of Islamic science and mathematics—and then rewrote history to claim it as their own.

Now, many of those same powers continue to sow discord. And sadly, their efforts have been effective. Organizations meant to represent and speak up for the Muslim world have, by and large, fallen short. From the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU), they have settled for toothless meetings and empty slogans. Rarely do they issue firm joint statements. Rarely do they act.

Adding insult to injury, some Islamic governments now cozy up to Israel, placing loyalty to geopolitical alliances above their obligations to Islam and their own people. For some, following instructions from Tel Aviv or Washington appears to carry more weight than upholding divine principles.

Yet there is hope. Recent developments suggest a turning of the tide. Countries previously divided—such as Iran and Saudi Arabia—are beginning to close ranks. The two countries, which were mostly subject to

seditionist Western attempts, are now finding common ground, working together in pursuit of Islamic unity. Others are starting to follow suit.

But make no mistake: those who profit from disunity are not backing down. The Zionist regime, the United States, and a handful of European states continue to beat the drum of sedition. Still, many leaders in the Muslim world have finally woken up to the urgent need for unity. Not all are there yet—but most are.

As the saying goes, "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." The road to unity has been long, and it remains steep. But for the first time in decades, the conditions are beginning to shift. Now is the time to build momentum, set aside differences, and rise as one.



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