

Leader urges Muslim unity, end to aid for Israel in Hajj message

Social Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Muslim countries must cut off all aid to the Zionist regime and prevent it from committing further savage acts against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. In his annual Hajj message published on Thursday, the Leader called on millions of Muslim pilgrims from around the globe, who are in Mecca to perform their rituals, to demand that their governments fulfill their duty vis-à-vis the unfolding catastrophes in Gaza and the West Asia. “Muslim governments must block all avenues of assistance to the Zionist regime and restrain their criminal hands from continuing these barbaric actions in Gaza,” the Leader said. Ayatollah Khamenei warned that the

criminal occupying regime has taken the tragedy in Gaza to an “unbelievable level” with horrifying cruelty and unparalleled savagery. “Palestinian children are now being killed not only by bombs, bullets, and missiles, but also by thirst and starvation. The number of families grieving for their loved ones, their youth, their fathers, and their mothers is increasing day by day.” The Leader added. The Leader emphasized that the United States is a “definite accomplice” in the Zionist regime’s crimes, urging America’s allies in the region and other Muslim nations to heed the call of the Holy Qur’an on defending the oppressed and to compel the US to end its oppressive behavior. Ayatollah Khamenei hailed the “miraculous” resistance of the people of Gaza, which has put the Palestinian issue

right at the top of the concerns of the Muslim world and all freedom-loving people around the world. The Leader stressed the importance of seizing the opportunity to rush to the help of the oppressed people of Gaza. Ayatollah Khamenei also urged “public speakers and people of social standing” to raise people’s awareness regarding the Palestinian issue. The Leader said, “despite the efforts of the arrogant powers and the supporters of the Zionist regime to erase the name and any memory of Palestine, the evil nature of the leaders of that regime and their foolish policies have created a situation in which Palestine’s name shines more brightly today than ever before and public hate of the Zionists and their supporters is also more severe than ever. This is an important opportunity for the Islamic world.”



Muslims pray around the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, at the Grand Mosque complex in the holy city of Mecca on June 6, 2025 during the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

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Pezeshkian congratulates Eid al-Adha to Muslim leaders

President calls for coordinated Muslim response to Gaza war



Social Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian held Eid al-Adha phone conversations with leaders of several Muslim countries, offering greetings and urging greater Islamic unity, strategic cooperation, and collective support for the Palestinian people amid ongoing regional challenges. In a phone call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Pezeshkian thanked the kingdom for hosting Iranian pilgrims and praised the Hajj as “a

magnificent symbol of Muslim unity,” president.ir reported. During his conversation with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, he urged Muslim nations to become “examples of brotherhood and constructive interactions.” In his call with Tunisian President Kais Saied, Pezeshkian urged “a unified voice” among Muslim countries in condemning the Zionist regime’s attacks on Gaza and called for an immediate end to the bloodshed there. Speaking to Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedow, Pezeshkian described Eid al-Adha as a “symbol of unity, brotherhood, and spiritual bonds,” and praised Ashgabat’s recent peace seminar as a sign of Turkmenistan’s commitment to regional harmony. In his exchange with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Pezeshkian emphasized the “shared responsibility” of Muslim countries to support Gaza and

strengthen ties across the Islamic world. In a call with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, Pezeshkian said unity in the Islamic world could create “a collective will to halt” Israeli atrocities in Gaza. He called Eid al-Adha “a symbol of unity” and urged Muslim nations to act together to restore peace. During a conversation with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid, the President expressed hope that the “blessings” of the holiday would strengthen Islamic countries’ ties, calling for “enhanced unity” among Muslim nations. In a call with Oman’s Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Pezeshkian welcomed the recent bilateral talks in Muscat and said the agreements reached “should be implemented swiftly” to serve both nations’ interests in politics, economy, and science. Speaking with Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Pezeshkian called for

“joint efforts” to pressure Israel into ending violence in Gaza, saying only “political and wise solutions” could lead to stability. In his conversation with Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Pezeshkian described strengthening ties within the Muslim world as both a “religious and strategic duty,” and expressed hope that the holiday would inspire “solidarity and peace” across the Islamic Ummah. In a phone call with Malaysia’s Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Pezeshkian emphasized the need for Islamic nations to raise a unified voice in support of Gaza, denounce Israeli atrocities, and strengthen solidarity, bilateral ties, and strategic cooperation across the Islamic world. With Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Pezeshkian emphasized that Iran sees Kazakhstan and all Muslim nations as “brothers,” saying he hoped Eid

would deepen “brotherly ties” and foster peace and security in the Islamic world. In his conversation with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Pezeshkian praised the “shared cultural and historical roots” between the two nations and highlighted the importance of implementing recent agreements to advance “mutual interests and strategic cooperation.” During the call with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Pezeshkian described his April visit to Baku as “a turning point” in bilateral relations and underscored the importance of swiftly implementing agreements in energy and transport for economic growth. Speaking with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Pezeshkian expressed hope that the spiritual values of Eid would bring Muslim nations closer and help end “Zionist crimes” in Gaza. He reaffirmed Iran’s readiness to strengthen ties with Islamic countries, “especially Turkey.”

‘Picasso in Tehran’ draws over 120,000 visitors in Tehran

Arts & Culture Desk

The ‘Picasso in Tehran’ at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, which opened on March 11, marked the first time the museum presented all of its Picasso-related works from its own collection, according to head of the museum Reza Dabirinejad. A total of 67 works were shown. Few knew the museum held this many Picasso pieces, and the reveal sparked widespread attention both in Iran and internationally. The scale of the collection, paintings, sculptures, artist’s books, prints, and other pieces, reaffirmed the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art’s standing among the world’s top modern art institutions. The long gap since the last public viewing of the collection—and the generational shift—made this exhibition particularly compelling for younger audiences who had rarely had the chance to experience these works. With a growing awareness of global art, these visitors came eager to engage directly with masterpieces. For them, the museum offered a rare and powerful encounter. This was one reason for the unprecedented turnout:

Over 120,000 people visited the exhibition during its two-and-a-half-month run. The crowd wasn’t limited to younger generations; artists, scholars, and art enthusiasts of all ages also turned out in impressive numbers. Seventeen countries sent diplomats to the opening and to various points throughout the exhibition—an opportunity to showcase Iran’s cultural and museological capacities. Several embassies even organized special tours for their diplomats and staff. Global media picked up the story, and the event laid the groundwork for potential future inter-museum collaborations. The exhibition also featured educational programming: A series of Cinémathèque events screening Picasso-related films, and five expert panels that offered critical analysis and discussion. These efforts turned the exhibit into more than just a visual experience; it became a platform for content creation, dialogue, and knowledge sharing. The exhibit was designed with a strong curatorial narrative. Each gallery focused on a specific theme: One on Picasso’s early life, one on Cubism, one on war-era works like ‘Guernica’ and ‘The Weeping

Woman’, and others on single-piece interpretations with explanatory texts to deepen viewer understanding. To offer historical context, select works by Picasso’s contemporaries—global modernist masters—were also shown. The final gallery gave the exhibition a local dimension, featuring Iranian artists influenced by Picasso, drawing a cultural link between the works and their audience in Tehran. Multimedia elements, including specially produced films and motion graphics, enriched the storytelling. These helped bring a contemporary sensibility to the museum experience. Visitors engaged with the exhibition on multiple levels—reading, watching, observing. Many waited in long lines to absorb the narratives, sat in the museum to watch films, or explored the exhibit’s layered content at their own pace. There was even an interactive section where visitors could rearrange elements of Picasso’s works to create personalized versions and take them home—a space for creativity and connection. Among the many side programs were special children’s tours, featuring interactive games and



art-making inspired by Picasso’s work. These brought hundreds of kids and teens into the museum, allowing them to turn play into memorable artistic moments. Evening events, art therapy workshops, and other activities aimed to make the museum a space for varied, inclusive experiences—bridging art with contemporary issues and diverse visitor needs. Just as ‘Guernica’ addressed the trauma of its own era, the exhibition explored how art can soothe, connect, and speak to the complexities of our time.