

# Pezeshkian: Enemies seek to expand insecurity in Muslim countries

Erdogan says Iran's security of 'extraordinary importance' to Turkey

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said enemies are working to spread terrorism and insecurity in the region by engineering internal crises in Muslim countries, pointing to "direct" US-Israeli role in Iran riots.

"The plan of the enemies of the Islamic Ummah is to expand and sustain war, terrorism, and insecurity in the region by creating internal crises in Islamic countries," Pezeshkian told his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, during a telephone conversation late Thursday.

Enemies, he maintained, "do not want Muslim nations to live in peace, security and stability."

He said the recent riots in Iran had clear external dimensions and pointed to the "direct role" of the United States and the Israeli regime.

He said protests by some merchants and trade groups, sparked by economic problems caused by "unjust pressures and sanctions," had initially been peaceful and were being managed toward res-

olution.

"However, groups of trained terrorists, with unprecedented actions such as setting fire to mosques and public and government centers, destroying rescue equipment, and killing civilians as well as security and law enforcement forces, sought to advance their destructive goals with the direct support of the United States and the Zionist regime," Pezeshkian said.

Erdogan, for his part, offered condolences over the deaths of a large number of Iranian civilians and security personnel during the recent unrest.

He said peace, stability and security in Iran were of "extraordinary importance" to Turkey and stressed that Ankara had consistently voiced this position in all arenas and forums.

Pezeshkian thanked the Turkish government and people for their "firm, principled and brotherly" support for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan also said that Ankara opposes any military action against Iran, stressing that Iran should resolve its internal problems



Recep Tayyip Erdogan



Masoud Pezeshkian

on its own. He was referring to the US president's military threats against Iran over protests in the country.

### Causes behind riots

In a message addressed to the Iranian people on Thursday, Pezeshkian said he has tasked several groups with "carefully examining the causes behind the recent events" in order to identify and eliminate "the roots of violence."

He said the government and the establishment consider themselves responsible for all those harmed in the events and would work, "as far as possible," to compensate damages with the help of the Iranian people.

The Iranian president said the recent unrest and insecurity was "a vengeful response by the enemies of the Iranian nation" following their defeat in the 12-day war in June.

He said hostile forces had turned "the legitimate and civil protests of the people" into "a bloody and violent arena," resulting in the deaths of nearly 3,000 citizens and injuries to thousands more.

"The same evil hands that, in the 12-day war, shed the blood of more than a thousand women, men, youths, children, scientists and commanders of this land, today emerged from another sleeve," he said.

## Iran: EU parliament's resolution against Iran based on unfounded claims

Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned a "meddlesome and irresponsible" resolution issued by the European Parliament on recent foreign-backed terrorist attacks in the country, saying it was based on unfounded and incorrect claims.

In a resolution adopted on Thursday, members of the European Parliament expressed what they described as "full solidarity" with Iranians while also calling for the designation of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry in a statement on Friday said that the European Parliament absolutely "lacks moral standing on human rights issues due to its members' support for cruel sanctions against Iran and complicity with the Israeli regime's aggression against the Islamic Republic in June, which was a flagrant violation of the human rights of the Iranian people," Press TV re-



IRNA

ported.

According to the ministry, the silence of the European Parliament and its leaders regarding the Israeli regime's genocidal war in occupied Palestine and their disregard for the crimes committed on the streets of Iran are "two sides of the same coin."

It said the drafters of the EU Parliament's resolution based their work on US-Israeli "lies," ignoring solid evidence, including images, audio files, and field reports, that Israeli-linked terrorists drove peaceful gatherings to violence.

They repeated a series of stereotypical accusations against Iranian

security forces and legal institutions in a completely biased manner, the ministry noted.

It said the European Parliament issued a resolution that not only disseminates falsehoods and distorts clear realities but also blatantly violates some of the most important principles of the United Nations Charter and the fundamental rules of international law.

It noted that Iran is duty-bound to safeguard security, public order, and national sovereignty against any terrorist act and foreign threat and interference.

"Any unlawful or interventionist decision or

stance concerning the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the guardians of the country's security will be met with Iran's reciprocal action, and the responsibility for its consequences shall lie with those who instigate it," the ministry warned.

Late last month, widespread economic hardship compounded by years of Western sanctions sparked peaceful protests by merchants across Tehran and other cities.

Iranian authorities initially acknowledged the legitimacy of some demands, but officials said demonstrations were hijacked by US- and Israeli-backed rioters aiming to incite violence and disorder.

Iran's Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs later reported that 3,117 people died during the unrest, including 2,427 civilians and security personnel, noting that many innocents were killed by organized terrorist elements.

## Absurd': Tehran refutes Trump's allegations about assassination attempt



Fatemeh Mohajerani

IRNA

Iran on Friday dismissed "unfounded" allegations by the US president

about Tehran's alleged attempt to assassinate him as part of a broader psychological and propaganda campaign against Tehran.

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday issued a warning that Iran would be wiped "off the face of this earth" if Tehran ever succeeded in assassinating him.

Government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said in an interview with IRNA that Iran has a clear and long-standing policy of firmly opposing terrorism in all its forms.

"It is completely absurd that a country that has suffered the most from

terrorism and paid heavy costs in fighting it becomes the target of such baseless allegations," the official said.

Mahajerani said that the official position of the Iranian government has always been and will remain the rejection of violence and terror in all its forms.

She described the move as "a futile attempt" to divert attention from international realities, noting that the accusations lack legal and logical credibility, and are merely designed for deflection and influencing public opinion.

Abbas Araghchi: World has had enough of 'confused clowns'

## Iran excoriates Zelensky for Davos drive

Abbas Araghchi: World has had enough of 'confused clowns'

## International Desk

Iran's foreign minister on Friday launched a furious tirade against the Ukrainian president who has called for toppling Iran's ruling establishment over response to the recent foreign-backed riots in the country, saying, "The world has had enough of Confused Clowns."

Volodymyr Zelensky, whose country has been fighting a full-scale war with Russia for almost four years, said in a speech at the World Economic Forum on Thursday that if Iran's leadership was able to remain in power, it was a "clear signal to every bully."

Zelensky appeared to cite Europe's response to the recent protests in Iran as another example of its inaction over developments across the world.

"The world has not helped enough the Iranian people, it has stood aside," he said.



Abbas Araghchi

TASNIM

"The world has had enough of Confused Clowns, Mr Zelensky," he said, in apparent reference to the Ukrainian leader's previous career as a comedian and comic actor.

"Unlike your foreign-backed and mercenary-infested military, we Iranians know how to defend ourselves and have no need to beg foreigners for help," he added.

Iranian authorities said over 3,000 people had been killed in the latest protests, which were orchestrated by the United States and Israel.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

## CARTOON

