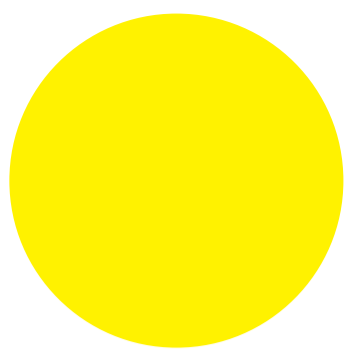


Backing anti-Iran war amounts to complicity: *Pezeshkian tells Macron*

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Selection of new Leader sends clear message to enemies

By Abolfazl Salehnia
Political & international affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

According to the Iranian Constitution, the Assembly of Experts selects the Leader, a process based on established criteria and ongoing assessments conducted consistently over the years. Following the selection, all segments of society, political groups, and government bodies are legally bound to follow the new Leader which a point of national consensus.

The Islamic Republic's structure inherently accommodates diverse political views, yet all entities remain subject to the Assembly's decisions.

The timely selection of the new Leader, especially amid an imposed war, represents Iran's firm political response to adversaries, demonstrating a continued, powerful trajectory toward national goals. This selection sends a clear message.

Recently, adversaries and their media tried to sow fear and uncertainty by spreading contradictory news and promoting various candidates, suggesting they could influence Iran's future. However, Iran has consistently proven throughout history that it does not accept foreign interference in any domain.

The US and Israel believed assassinating the late Leader would shatter the governance of the Islamic Republic, leading to a collapse and disruption of the situation within the country, thereby hindering the Establishment's ability to continue its existence or, at the very least, to confront enemy military aggression.

They underestimated the constitutional mechanisms ensuring swift leadership succession and preventing power vacuums. The recent selection proceeded smoothly despite wartime conditions, reinforcing stability and frustrating enemy ambitions.

Declaring regime change as a goal by enemies reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of Iran's realities. Enemies often make flawed decisions based on inaccurate perceptions fueled by biased media, leading to self-created crises. They wrongly believed eliminating the Leader would create a power vacuum, exacerbate internal divisions, and cripple Iran's decision-making. This misconception is akin to a dream that will never come true in Iran.

New Leader, New Blood

Branches of power, Armed Forces, people pledge allegiance to Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei

International Desk

Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei was appointed as the new Leader of Iran by the Assembly of Experts on Monday. The selection was made amid an ongoing war declared after a joint US-Israeli attack on February 28 resulted in the martyrdom of former Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

The Assembly of Experts said in a statement that despite the "serious wartime conditions and direct threats and operations by the US and Israel against this popular body", it immediately initiated the process of convening an extraordinary session to prevent a leadership vacuum within the country.

"After thorough and extensive deliberations, and utilizing Article 108 of the Constitution... today's extraordinary session (Sunday) appointed Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei as the third Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on the overwhelming vote of the esteemed members of the Assembly of Experts," the state-

ment read.

Prior to the Assembly's decision, in accordance with Article 111 of the Constitution, the Islamic Republic had established a temporary leadership council comprised of President Masoud Pezeshkian, Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejeie, and Ayatollah Alireza Araf, a member of the Guardian Council.

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, the martyred Leader's second son, was born in Mashhad in 1969. He studied in theological schools in Tehran and Qom and served in the front lines during the eight-year Iran-Iraq War (1980-88).

He has advanced theological studies under prominent clerics, including his father, and is a popular instructor at the Qom Seminary. His innovative teaching methods have contributed to the growth of his classes into one of the most vibrant in Qom.

Beyond his academic pursuits, Ayatollah Khamenei maintains strong ties with influential religious figures in Qom and Mashhad, as well as with military commanders and leaders of the resistance movement.



Iranians rally across the country, displaying portraits of Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, to pledge allegiance to Iran's third Leader on March 9, 2026.
TASNIM

Heralding new era of pride & power

Following the announcement, various officials and organizations issued statements expressing their support for the new leadership.

President Pezeshkian hailed the appointment as "heralding a new era of pride and power for the Iranian nation."

He added that this "valuable selection" reflects the will of the Islamic nation to strengthen

national unity, which serves as a steadfast dam protecting the Iranian nation against the plots of its enemies.

Pezeshkian underlined Iran's historical resilience and its ability to overcome challenges through collective wisdom, faith, and persistent effort.

"We will undoubtedly overcome the current challenges through the wise leadership of the new Leader and with a spirit of trust, empathy and widespread popu-

lar resistance," he said.

Judiciary chief Ejeie described the Assembly's decision as "hope-inspiring and defining" for the continuation and growth of the Islamic Republic.

He urged national unity and obedience to the new leadership, stating, "The country is currently engaged in a campaign against a savage enemy steeped in endless miscalculations, and victory depends on allegiance and rallying around the Leader."

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf called the decision a "sound and precise" measure that soothed the grievous loss of the former leader, effectively thwarting the hopes of Iran's enemies.

He described the new leader as a devout, capable, and knowledgeable figure, familiar with the nation's challenges and committed to the revolution's new approach.

Members of parliament also issued a separate statement, declaring Ayatollah Khamenei the most deserving individual to lead the nation. They pledged full cooperation and support for the new Leader.

Ali Larijani, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said the selection dashed the hopes of "warmongering enemies" while inspiring hope in the rights-seeking Iranian people.

Separately, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) re-

leased a statement calling the appointment a "new dawn" and the beginning of a new stage in the revolution. The IRGC reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the new leadership and safeguarding the revolution's values.

The Iranian Army and the Ministry of Defense also issued statements pledging allegiance and readiness to implement the new leader's directives.

Iranian citizens gathered in city centers across the country on Monday afternoon to pledge their allegiance to the new leader.

Following the announcement, Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Ayatollah Khamenei on his appointment as the new Leader of Iran, expressing confidence that he will "proudly continue his father's work" and unite the Iranian people "in the face of serious challenges."

Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Gao Jiankun, during a press briefing on Monday, stated that the selection of the new Iranian leader was carried out in accordance with Iran's constitution, and Beijing opposes any interference in such internal affairs under any pretext.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump had indicated that he believed he should have a say in the selection of Iran's next leader.

Backing anti-Iran war amounts to complicity: Pezeshkian tells Macron



International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian warned that any involvement by other countries such as France in support of the aggressors would constitute complicity in the US-Israeli "unlawful" war against Iran.

In a telephone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday night, Pezeshkian said all measures carried out by Iran had been in line with its right of self-defense.

He added that the United States and Israel launched the war in the midst of nuclear talks for the second time, a move which violated international law.

Pezeshkian warned that Iran would respond in kind to the US-Israeli strikes on civilian targets such as schools, hospitals and infrastructure.

"Such moves will only lead to further complications and intensification of the situation in the region. The Iranian nation, government and Armed Forces are determined to defend the country and the Establishment," Pezeshkian reiterated.

The French president said Paris considered the ongoing war inconsistent with international law, adding that his country had no involvement in the conflict.

Macron added that France was in talks with some countries to control and prevent further escalation of tensions. The US and Israel launched a war of military aggression on Iran on February 28, some eight months after they carried out unprovoked attacks on the country.

The attacks led to the martyrdom of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, as well as several military commanders. Hundreds of civilians, including women and children, have also been killed so far in the attacks by the US and Israel. The Iranian Armed Forces began to swiftly retaliate against the strikes by launching barrages of missile and drone attacks on the Israeli-occupied territories as well as on US bases in regional countries.

US only tries to protect Israel

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Monday the security of regional states did not matter to the United States as it only made utmost efforts to protect Israel.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Baghaei said developments in the past days proved that the US military presence in the region did not bring security and stability but only spread insecurity and caused rifts among regional countries.

He once again called on all regional countries not to allow the US to abuse their territory and facilities, saying, "This demand is not just based on the principle of neighborliness but made on the basis of a known principle in international law."

Commitment to humanitarian principles
The spokesman emphasized that the country's Armed Forces remained committed to humanitarian principles and rules and morality.

However, he said, the opposite side had targeted Iranian civilians, including innocent children, in various cities since

the outbreak of the war.

Baghaei added that the attacks on fuel storage facilities and an oil production transfer center in Tehran and the province of Alborz on Saturday were a crime against humanity and the environment and can even be listed as a genocidal crime as its consequences could have impacts on the next generations.

US audacity, irresponsibility 'abhorrent'

Baghaei slammed US President Donald Trump's lies in dealing with the Iranian nation and said the true meaning of "US help for Iran" is now clear to everyone.

He slammed the US "audacity, irresponsibility, crimes and killings of humans as abhorrent."

This is a war between a side that seeks domination, destruction and massacre while Iran, on the other side, resists strongly in order to protect human dignity and its people in the face of the most vicious acts, he emphasized.

No missile fired at Azerbaijan, Turkey, Cyprus

The spokesman also rejected claims about Iran's attacks on Turkey, Azerbaijan and Cyprus, saying that the country had not fired any missile into the three countries.

"We insist on maintaining relations based on neighborliness and friendship. The continuation of cordial ties based on mutual respect, including respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries is a principle for Iran," Baghaei emphasized.

IRGC, Army pound Israeli-US targets in fresh massive strikes

National Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched on Monday a fresh round of massive missile and drone strikes against US military bases in the region and Israeli targets in the occupied territories in retaliation for the ongoing US-Israeli aggression against the country. The Public Relations Department of the IRGC announced in a statement that the 30th wave of Operation True Promise 4 was carried out on the 19th day of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, and concurrent with the election of the new Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei.

The statement said the mass attacks struck US bases in the region as well as the Israeli regime's positions north of the occupied lands.

It added that liquid and solid-fuel missiles of Khorramshahr, Fattah, and



IRNA

Khaybar, as well as strategic drones, were deployed in the strikes, noting that all of them hit the designated targets successfully. Meanwhile, the spokesman for the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters announced that the Iranian military had over the past 24 hours destroyed four advanced US THAAD missile system radars in strikes across the region.

The radars were targeted and destroyed during operations to suppress enemy anti-missile defenses. The spokesman said the THAAD radars had been providing real-time data to the missile defense network of the US and the Israeli regime.

He added that with serious damage inflicted on the enemy's early warning network, attack sirens in the occupied territories now sound only at the moment of missile impact.

In a statement on Monday, the Iranian Army also announced that its ground, air, and naval forces hit American-Israeli targets by using drones in recent hours.

The Army's massive wave of drone attacks targeted assembly points and equipment depots at US Camp al-Adairi in Kuwait.

In addition, American-Zionist combat support units, as well as early-warning radar stations at the US base 512 in occupied territories were struck by Iranian drones.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



War of attrition, Strait of Hormuz, energy economy

How regional crisis could shake global financial chain



By Reza Mokhtar
Senior energy researcher

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

Military conflict in the Persian Gulf should not be understood merely as a battlefield or missile confrontation. It should instead be analyzed as an economic conflict centered on energy. In this framework, the prolongation of war, rising defense expenditures, disruption of critical infrastructure, increasing oil and refined product prices, and potential threats to energy transit through the Strait of Hormuz are all treated as variables capable of placing severe pressure on Western economies, particularly that of the United States.

The core argument is that in today's global order, military power without a stable foundation of energy and capital does not produce absolute strategic advantage. The longer a war lasts, the higher the costs of replacing weapons systems, maintaining interception capabilities, insuring transportation routes, and supplying fuel to both importing and consuming economies. From this perspective, a prolonged conflict in the Persian Gulf could evolve into a global energy shock, one that would not only deepen inflation and stagnation, but could also trigger a chain of financial crises, debt stress, and even the bursting of asset bubbles, including those in technology and artificial intelligence. In recent years, energy security has once again become one of the central pillars of global geopolitics. Although the world economy appears to be moving toward digitalization, services, data, and artificial intelligence, its underlying infrastructure remains deeply dependent on oil, gas, transit corridors, maritime insurance, and geostrategic stability.

This article, by emphasizing stock market declines, rising energy prices, the erosion of military capacity, and media restrictions, seeks to show that war in the Persian Gulf is not decided solely on the battlefield. Its outcome is also shaped by energy markets, financial markets, and the cost structure of the global economy. From an analytical standpoint, such an approach is significant because modern warfare is more deeply intertwined with economics than ever before. If military victory could once be defined in relatively independent terms, today the sustainability of military operations, the financial stability of governments, access to energy, and the social tolerance for wartime costs have all become essential parts of the equation.

Theoretical framework

Energy analysis as the core of conflict interpretation: A scientific analysis of such claims can be built around an "energy security-war economy" framework. This framework rests on four main components: Energy as infrastructure of power: Even in the technological age, advanced economies remain dependent on affordable and stable energy for transportation, production, military logistics, supply chains, and core industries. Any disruption in oil and gas supply or pricing generates consequences that extend far beyond the energy sector itself.

Asymmetric cost of war: This analysis highlights the cost gap between



IRNA

relatively inexpensive offensive tools and far more expensive defensive systems—for example, the use of lower-cost drones against highly costly interceptors. From the standpoint of defense economics, this is highly consequential. If one side can, at relatively low cost, force the other to continuously expend high-value resources, the conflict effectively becomes a war of budgetary attrition.

Transit routes as geo-economic chokepoints: The Strait of Hormuz is not merely a waterway; it is a pressure valve for the global energy market. Any threat to the opening or closure of this corridor, even before an actual disruption occurs, can drive prices upward, increase insurance costs, and trigger volatile market behavior.

Recycling of petrodollars and Persian Gulf's connection to West: A central proposition of this article is that oil revenues from the Persian Gulf states ultimately flow back into Western economies, particularly the United States. From the perspective of the political economy of energy, this point is critical. A substantial portion of the oil income of Persian Gulf states returns to the economic cycle of the United States and its allies through purchases of Western arms, investment in Western financial markets, dollar-based banking deposits and financial transactions, imports of services, technology and

infrastructure, and integration into the dollar-centered international financial system.

Therefore, if a war of attrition disrupts exports, transit, or oil revenues across the region, the result is not simply a loss of income for producers; it also means a disruption in the cycle of Western financial circulation.

Reframing central claim

Economy of battle: This war, rather than being defined purely by firepower, is also an economic battle in which pressure on the energy market, rising defense costs, damage to strategic assets, and the prolonged exhaustion of the conflict play decisive roles.

Several indicators support this interpretation, including declining stock market valuations in Asia and the United States, rising prices for oil, gasoline and diesel, increasing pressure on banks and lenders, a gradual decline in the use of ballistic missiles alongside greater reliance on drones, a strategic emphasis on prolonged attrition, and the growing argument that the cost of defending against attacks is significantly higher than the cost of launching them.

In a conflict where the cost of attack remains lower than the cost of defense, while the energy market is simultaneously gripped by anxiety, the main pressure point emerges

not only on the battlefield but also in state budgets, stock exchanges, insurance markets, transportation systems, and public opinion.

Strait of Hormuz

Epicenter of an energy shock: A significant share of the region's crude oil exports, along with part of its LNG exports, passes through this corridor. Even without a complete closure of the Strait, the mere securitization or destabilization of the route can produce several simultaneous effects:

Surge in oil price expectations: The oil market responds not only to actual supply disruptions, but also to perceived risk. If the probability of closure or attacks on tankers rises, prices may climb well before any physical interruption takes place.

Higher insurance and transportation costs: In times of crisis, insurance premiums for tankers and commercial shipping rise sharply. These direct cost increases are then passed on to the final price of energy and goods.

Inflationary pressure on West: Higher oil and diesel prices quickly spread through transportation, manufacturing, agriculture, heating, and the final cost of consumer goods. As a result, central banks face a difficult dilemma: - either keep interest rates elevated and deepen stagnation, - or tolerate inflation in order to support

economic growth.

Transmission of shock to capital markets: When energy costs rise, corporate profit margins contract, valuations come under pressure, and investors move toward safer assets. This is precisely the point at which an energy crisis can evolve into a financial crisis.

Return of Persian Gulf oil money to West and risk of financial domino effects

One of the most important dimensions of this analysis is that Persian Gulf oil revenues ultimately return to the Western economy, especially to the United States, through multiple channels.

These channels typically include purchases of bonds, equities, and other assets in Western markets, deposits and circulation within international banking systems, military and industrial contracts, imports of advanced technology and services, and the reinforcement of the dollar's central role in energy trade.

If a war of attrition intensifies and the Strait of Hormuz remains closed, or even partially paralyzed, the world would be facing more than a supply shock in oil. It would also be confronting a disruption in the petrodollar cycle. The consequences could extend far beyond energy inflation: Reduced liquidity in parts of the financial system, higher credit risk, increased pressure on indebted banks and financial institutions, falling stock markets, and the emergence of a domino effect of bankruptcies in sectors dependent on cheap capital.

A substantial portion of the rise in technology and AI valuations in recent years has been built on expectations of future growth, access to capital, and sustained liquidity. If an energy shock leads to higher inflation, tighter interest-rate conditions, lower investor risk appetite, and falling equity markets, then assets whose valuations are excessively dependent on future expectations become especially vulnerable.

Put differently, when energy becomes expensive and capital turns cautious, inflated narrative-driven assets are often among the first casualties.

This article seeks to redefine war through the lens of the energy economy. From this perspective, the outcome of conflict is determined not only by missile inventories or the sophistication of weapons systems, but also by the following questions: Who can endure the costs of war longer? Who can transfer those costs to the global market? Who can turn energy chokepoints into strategic leverage? And which economy is more resilient in the face of oil shocks, insurance spikes, inflation, and financial volatility?

Within this framework, the Strait of Hormuz becomes a critical node, not simply because it is an oil route, but because it connects energy, the dollar, financial markets, and geopolitics. If this link is disrupted for an extended period, the consequences could spread well beyond the region: From inflation and recession in the West to pressure on banks, declining market valuations, disruptions in petrodollar recycling, and even the possible bursting of asset bubbles in sectors such as technology and artificial intelligence.

If this crisis does not move toward a short and controlled conflict, but instead develops into a prolonged war of attrition with sustained disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, the issue will no longer be limited to regional security. It may evolve into a systemic energy-financial crisis.

In such a scenario, oil ceases to be merely a commodity. It becomes a trigger, one capable of putting simultaneous pressure on stock markets, banks, supply chains, and the optimistic narrative of a technology-driven global economy.



Iran's main oil export terminal at Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf
AA

Minister says fuel supply stable despite attacks on Tehran, Karaj depots



A thick plume of black smoke rises into the sky following an Israeli airstrike on fuel storage facilities in northwest Tehran on March 7, 2026.
● MIZAN

Economy Desk

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said on Sunday that US-Israeli attacks on fuel depots in Tehran and Karaj on Saturday night have not disrupted the country's fuel supply, emphasizing that emergency measures are in place to maintain stability.

During a visit to one of the targeted depots in Tehran, Paknejad said that while stable supply continues without interruption, public cooperation is needed to address the resulting challenges.

The strikes, which targeted five fuel storage and distribution centers across Tehran Province and neighboring Alborz Province Saturday night, triggered fires at the facilities — critical nodes in the provinces'

energy infrastructure.

"The criminal American and Zionist regimes have deliberately attacked our energy infrastructure in an attempt to inflict hardship on the Iranian people," IRNA quoted Paknejad as saying.

"However, with the measures in place, fuel supply will remain stable."

He urged residents of the capital to avoid non-essential travel to gas stations, calling for public cooperation to manage demand during the crisis.

In a parallel effort, the National Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Association launched a nationwide campaign titled "Energy Empathy: CNG for Iran," beginning Sunday afternoon. Under the initiative, select CNG stations in Tehran and Alborz

provinces will provide free fuel to dual-fuel vehicles indefinitely, aiming to ease pressure on the system. Meanwhile, Executive Vice President Mohammad Jafar Qaempanah confirmed that emergency protocols have been activated and reiterated that fuel supplies remain stable. Speaking during a meeting with Mohammad Sadeq Azimifar, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), Qaempanah said the situation is expected to be fully resolved within two to three days. "If people reduce consumption, we can restore full operations within one to two days," he added.

Azimifar confirmed there are no current shortages of gasoline and said repair crews are working around the clock to restore damaged infrastructure and reestablish optimal distribution networks.

Since the US and Israeli aggression on Iran on February 28, gasoline consumption has jumped sharply from an average of 135mn litres per day due to people travelling by road from cities under attack to safer areas.

Minutes after the airstrikes on fuel depots, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced it had targeted the Haifa refinery in Israel with Kheibar ballistic missiles which have 500kg high-explosive warheads.

Tasnim News Agency published footage purportedly showing smoke rising from part of the Haifa refinery.

Iran Air CEO: US, Israel carried out deliberate attacks on four planes in violation of int'l law

Economy Desk

The head of Iran Air said on Sunday that four passenger aircraft operated by Iranian airlines have been deliberately targeted in US-Zionist attacks, calling the actions a clear violation of international human rights laws and norms.

Taher Abdolhay, CEO of Iran Air, told the Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) that the US and Israel had intentionally attacked an Iran Air Airbus A319. "I was the pilot

of the Airbus A319 that was hit by an American missile at Bushehr Airport," he said. "The aircraft was not grounded and had just transported passengers to (the southern port of) Bushehr. It was deliberately targeted (last week)."

He emphasized that the US-Israel actions were intentional and completely contrary to international laws and human rights regulations.

Abdolhay added that, in addition to the Iran Air A319, two

Fokker 50 aircraft belonging to Karoon Airlines were hit at Ahvaz Airport in southwestern province of Khuzestan, and one Pars Air aircraft was damaged at Mehrabad Airport in Tehran. He said the aircrafts were either destroyed or severely damaged. The US and the Zionist regime launched their aggression against the country on February 28, with civilian targets and the country's infrastructure among the primary sites struck.



● IRNA

Iranians returning to defend homeland

Amid the ongoing US-imposed war on Iran, thousands of Iranians residing in Turkey are demonstrating remarkable love for their country by traveling back to reunite with families and stand united against foreign aggression, rather than seeking refuge abroad.

This wave of returns highlights the deep-rooted patriotism among Iranians, who view the conflict not as a reason to flee but as a call to protect their sovereignty and support their

people, Tasnim news agency reported.

In a striking display of national pride, Iranian citizens at Turkey's Kapiköy Border Gate in Van are crossing back into Iran, emphasizing their commitment to their homeland.

In an interview with CNN Turk, one returning Iranian expressed unwavering resolve, stating, "They are harming our country and our people. Now, I want to be by their side. I want to help my country as much as I can.

First, my homeland and my land."

Another one shared similar sentiment, noting they had come to Turkey for tourism but chose to return early due to the war. "We had come to Turkey for sightseeing. We would have stayed a little longer, but the war broke out. That is why we are returning to our homeland. But now we want to go back to support our country and stand by our people."

Separately, reports from the border underscore that these

returns are driven by a sense of duty, with one Iranian mentioning impending military service as part of their support, saying, "We returned a little early because of the war. We are going to support our country. When I go, I will join the army. My time for military service has already come. In Iran, military service lasts two years. I will do whatever I can to support my country." In a related development, Turkish media has captured the fearless spirit of Iranians, with headlines proclaiming "Iranians Who Are Not Afraid of War Are Returning to Their Country! 'We

Are Protecting Our Homeland,'" reflecting a collective determination to safeguard their nation. Meanwhile, social media and video reports reinforce this narrative, where Iranians assert there is no fleeing, but rather a choice to stand against the aggressors, as one video transcript states, "No one fled; everyone chose to return to their country and stand against Israel. Entering a war with Israel was not our choice; they started the war."

This patriotism extends beyond borders, with Iranians in Turkey viewing their return as essential

to family reunions and national unity, countering any notions of escape by affirming, "There is no escaping."

English-language reports align with these accounts, noting some Iranians are returning from Turkey out of concern for loved ones amid the conflict, further illustrating the familial bonds intertwined with national loyalty.

Overall, these stories connect to paint a picture of resilient Iranians whose love for their country propels them homeward, embodying a unified front against external threats.

UN under fire for silence over environmental destruction

Social Desk

The deputy of international law affairs at the Legal Office of Iran's Department of Environment, referring to documentation of damages caused by US and Israeli military attacks on the country's environment, said it is "astonishing that the United Nations, and particularly its Environment Programme (UNEP), which serves as the global guardian of environmental protection, has remained silent in the face of the environmental devastation inflicted on Iran during this aggression".

In an interview with ISNA, Adel Mohammadi stated that the hostile entities, disregarding fundamental principles of international law — such as the prohibition of using environmental destruction or alteration as a weapon, and the ban on causing widespread and long-term, irreparable harm

— have attacked Iran's forests, mountainous regions, and water, mineral, and oil resources.

He pointed out that "the recent strikes on the Qeshm desalination plant and Tehran's oil depots are only a few examples of such actions, which, beyond polluting water, soil, and air, pose serious threats to public health."

Mohammadi added that experts at the Department of Environment have been documenting and assessing the full extent of environmental damage since the onset of the conflict. "The organization will determine the damages and, in addition to public disclosure, will certainly seek redress through international courts," he said.

Emphasizing the obligation, under international law, to avoid environmental pollution, Mohammadi reiterated, "It is surprising that the United Nations, and especial-



The photo shows the black marks left on a car due to a toxic rain precipitated by the US-Israeli attack on Tehran's oil depots that filled its sky with black smokes.
● IRNA

ly UNEP, has maintained silence over the extensive destruction of Iran's environment and failed to fulfill its duties properly."

The deputy for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of the Department of Environment stressed

that "environmental rights are not only among human rights, but, as intergenerational rights, they are also one of its most fundamental. Any invasion, destruction, or alteration of the environment in any form or dimension is prohibited,

and when such actions are carried out with intent to annihilate, they constitute an evident war crime." The vice president and head of Iran's Department of Environment also stated that "the environment is the silent victim of wars."

Shina Ansari wrote on her social media page: "Despite previous warnings and correspondence with the UN secretary general, the United Nations Environment Programme, and environment ministers of the regional countries about the consequences of war in the Persian Gulf region — which faces high environmental vulnerability — once again an unjust war has been imposed on our beloved country."

IRNA reported that the vice president for Women and Family Affairs, in another letter addressed to Antonio Guterres, wrote: "What occurred amid the diplomatic ef-

orts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives during the negotiations, similar to the experience of the 12-day war, represents a systematic violation of peremptory norms of international law." In the letter, Zahra Behrouz-Azar described attacks on Iran's political and religious authorities as "clear examples of state terrorism," and assaults on civilian, residential, and medical centers and the killing of noncombatants — particularly women and children — as "manifest crimes against humanity" and "war crimes".

Behrouz-Azar stressed that these actions not only contradict the fundamental principles of humanity but also explicitly violate international law, including Articles 23, 69, 70, 71, and 75 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949), and Articles 13-16, 51, 53, and 59-67 of Additional Protocol I.