

New Mideast order to emerge, but without US influence: *Speaker*

FM says aggression root cause of insecurity in Strait of Hormuz

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf is using war to attempt a fundamental shift in the Middle East's order, but the resulting structure will not be dictated by the United States.

In a televised interview, Qalibaf stated that the region's future order will be determined by regional powers and reflect the influence of countries within the Middle East, rather than external forces.

"We can establish regional security with all regional and neighboring countries," Qalibaf asserted. "It is our ene-

mies who have disrupted it. He further blamed US and Israel for exploiting regional resources and creating instability, particularly in Southwest Asia, through misguided policies and recent attacks.

Qalibaf pointed to Israel, backed by the United States, as a source of regional problems impacting not just Iran, but the entire Middle East. He reiterated Iran's long-held view that US presence in the region does not foster security, a reality that has now been proven.

Qalibaf emphasized that Iran and other regional nations will demonstrate that the region's resources and

geopolitical advantages belong to its people and countries, and should benefit the entire world, not just the US and Israel.

"We will cut off their hands and their greed," he declared.

Cycle of war, ceasefire, peace talks no longer accepted

Regarding the Strait of Hormuz, Qalibaf stated that the waterway's current state is not due to Iranian action, but rather a necessity for Iran's self-defense.

"We never intended to target neighboring countries, but is it our legitimate right to target locations where



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf

attacks are originated from," he said.

He added that many ships are currently avoiding the area due to unsafe conditions and that the Strait's legal status and traffic patterns will not return to their previous state due to the

lack of security.

"The situation in the Strait will not return to the way it was," he stated.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, also said on Monday that the US-Israeli military aggression is the root cause of insecurity

in the region and the Strait of Hormuz, urging the international community to address it.

In a phone call with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, he stressed that the situation in the Strait of Hormuz cannot be considered in isolation from the broader regional context, asserting that disruptions to shipping are a consequence of the US-Israeli "imposed war."

"Any country or international body concerned with peace and security must responsibly and unequivocally condemn the crimes of these two regimes and demand an end to their mil-

itary aggression against the Iranian nation," he said.

Elsewhere in his televised interview, Qalibaf referred to US President Donald Trump's claim of achieving peace through strength, arguing that such an approach only leads to conflict.

He also criticized the recurring cycle of war, ceasefire, and peace negotiations perpetuated by the US and Israel, stating that Iran will no longer accept this pattern.

"This cycle must be broken," he concluded. "The threat to Iran and the region must be removed, and there must be no risk of war recurring. This is our definitive and clear demand."

Iran's attacks target Israel's military centers, US bases in region

International Desk

Iran's armed forces on Tuesday launched new wave of missile and drone attacks on the US bases in regional countries and the positions of the Israeli regime in the occupied territories.

According to the spokesperson of the Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters of Iran Ebrahim Zolfaqari, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) targeted Israel's infrastructure of command and control communication and missile defense systems in the occupied territories. Zolfaqari said the IRGC forces used Khaybar-shekan (Khaybar-buster), Emad, and Qadr missiles to attack the regime's targets. The IRGC's operation was carried out during the 57th wave of retaliatory strikes against the regime as part of Operation True Promise 4.

The spokesman added that Al-Udeid



IRNA

base, where "American terrorists" are stationed, was successfully targeted with missiles and drones.

Additionally, the IRGC Navy conducted a combined missile and drone operation, destroying several fighter jet nests belonging to the at the 'Sheikh Isa' and 'Al Dhafra' airbases in the UAE. Zolfaqari said the

attacks will continue until the complete evacuation and destruction of US bases in the region.

He said Al Dhafra airbase has been the origin of the US attacks on Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf in recent days.

Iran's Army also said in a statement on Tuesday that it carried out at-

tacks on Israel's strategic centers in the occupied territories with suicide drones. The Army said the regime's cyberattack centers as well as an arms factory were targeted in the operation.

The US and the Israeli regime launched a large-scale unprovoked military campaign against Iran following the assassination of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, along with several senior military commanders and civilians on February 28.

The attacks have involved extensive aerial strikes on both military and civilian locations across Iran, causing significant casualties and widespread damage to infrastructure.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces have carried out retaliatory operations, targeting American and Israeli positions in the occupied territories and at regional bases with waves of missiles and drones.

Spox raps 'global inaction' over Israeli onslaught on Lebanon



Esmail Baqaei

International Desk

Esmail Baqaei, the spokesperson of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, denounced the airstrikes carried out by Israel on civilian areas in Lebanon, blaming "international bodies' inaction" against the aggression.

More than 800 people have been killed by the attacks on southern Lebanon in recent days, with thousands wounded or displaced.

The aggression is part of a U.S.-Israeli war campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was initiated by the assassination of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in Tehran on February 28.

"Bombing residential areas, killing civilians, medical staff, and aid workers, and destroying Lebanon's vital infrastructure is a gross violation of international and humanitarian law, and a clear example of war crimes and crimes against

humanity. The international community cannot remain silent against these actions," Baqaei said on Tuesday.

The spokesperson criticized "the inaction of international bodies in addressing ongoing breaches of ceasefires and crimes by the Zionist regime," attributing this to the support and complicity of the United States, which has "emboldened the occupying regime to escalate its aggression."

Offering his condolences to the Lebanese families who lost loved ones, Baqaei emphasized the Islamic Republic's full support for Lebanon in its struggle against occupation and aggression.

The Iranian diplomat also urged the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, "to fulfill its duties in preventing further violations of peace and prosecuting those responsible for the crimes against the Lebanese people."

VP vows 'decisive response' to potential intrusion

International Desk

Iranian First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref said the United States and Israel can only expect "a decisive response" should they attempt to replicate an Operation Forough-e Javidan.

Aref was referring to a failed Iraq-sponsored operation carried out by the MKO terrorist group in 1988, which aimed to intrude into Iranian territory and overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran, but was decisively repelled by Iranian forces through 'Operation Mersad.'

"If the enemy seeks to repeat scenarios such as Operation Forough-e Javidan, the Islamic Republic of Iran's military and security forces will respond decisively with a second Operation Mersad," the first vice president said.

Aref made the remarks during a visit to the country's Crisis Management Headquarters in Tehran, amid an ongoing military conflict between Iran and a U.S.-Israeli coalition that began with airstrikes on Tehran on February 28.

"All national capacities must be utilized to ensure the safety of the



Mohammadreza Aref

people and the continuity of public services," Aref stated. He further stressed the need for strengthened

coordination among responsible agencies to effectively address any potential threats.

Global bodies silent...

The World Heritage Center must follow up on the status of sites listed as World Heritage and those on the tentative list. UNESCO's failure to intervene constitutes a serious violation of the nature of this organization, bringing shame to the global cultural community.

In wartime, regardless of UNESCO's position, our primary address is to the countries involved in the conflict; they must adhere to accepted international rules and refrain from

destroying historical and cultural heritage. Bitter experiences of cultural heritage destruction in recent decades show that sometimes groups or governments have been indifferent to these commitments, from the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan by the Taliban to the extensive damage inflicted on historical cities in the region, including Aleppo. In many of these cases, international organizations also failed to prevent these damages in a timely manner.

In such circumstances, it is the responsibility of international organizations to respond with greater sensitivity and accountability to any damage, destruction, or threat against historical sites, especially those registered on the World Heritage list. The war we are currently facing differs in many respects from previous ones, and its dimensions threaten the civilizational and historical assets of a wide range of the world. Evidence shows that UNESCO has adopted a passive

approach in preventing threats and destruction of Iran's historical heritage. Indifference to such events raises the suspicion that either political considerations hinder effective action, or the mechanisms of these institutions are insufficient to fulfill their real roles. Therefore, it is necessary to pursue this issue through international forums and organizations to clarify UNESCO's responsibility and actual function in protecting World Heritage.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

