

Leader: Enemy shifting to hybrid warfare after battlefield defeat

International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei said that Iran's enemies have turned to "hybrid warfare" tactics after suffering a humiliated defeat in a recent aggression, urging national unity and vigilance to neutralize their plots. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a message on Thursday on the occasion of the 37th passing anniversary of the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeini. Millions of Iranians from various social strata and as many devotees in other countries took part in the ceremonies held at Imam Khomeini's mausoleum in southern Tehran as mourners paid homage to the architect of the Islamic Revolution and renewed allegiance to the ideals of the 1979 Revolution. The Leader said the "evil" enemy has experienced defeat and a profound humiliation in its confrontation with the country's Armed Forces and now seeks to compensate through a hybrid war strategy. "The malicious enemy, having been defeated in its confrontation with

your brave sons in the Armed Forces and having experienced a profound and meaningful humiliation both on the battlefield and in the public arena, has concentrated its efforts on two objectives in the framework of hybrid warfare: weakening the people's resilience and creating miscalculations among the country's officials," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

"The system of domination that created a military outpost, called Israel, nearly 80 years ago cannot accept the existence of a strong and independent Iran, endowed with numerous advantages and capabilities, on the eastern border of the false and fictitious geography of Greater Israel, that is the east of the Euphrates, so it spares no effort to prevent its (Iran's) progress," Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized.

Call for unity

The Leader warned that the enemy seeks to create doubt, frustration, fear, mistrust, and discord, stressing that all Iranians must foil such sinister plots through steadfastness and insight by preserving unity, cohesion, and mutual trust, and refusal to echo their voice.

He stressed the "very important" role of Iranian authorities in supporting these matters, saying, "Any act that causes pessimism and disappointment among the people is considered a kind of aid to the enemy of this country and its people."

The Leader noted that the passing away anniversary of Imam Khomeini provides a valuable opportunity for contemplation and deliberation about "this renowned yet insufficiently understood figure."

He described the late Imam Khomeini as a charismatic personality, whose deep understanding and recognition of his luminous path and goal would illuminate the future of the Islamic Iran. However, he said, many younger members of the nation have not had the opportunity to know the late Imam Khomeini directly and even many of those who lived during his lifetime have not fully understood the depth of his personality and the principles of his path. Iran confronted the latest bout of unprovoked aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime, which began on February 28, with at least 100 waves of decisive and successful



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei
IRNA

retaliatory strikes. The reprisal hit sensitive and strategic American and Israeli targets throughout the region. The Islamic Republic also shut down the Strait of Hormuz to enemies and their allies. Faced with the crushing response, US President Donald Trump announced a

unilateral ceasefire on April 8. The Islamic Republic began implementing far stricter controls over the strategic strait after Trump announced continuation of an illegal naval blockade of Iranian vessels and ports on April 13 in violation of the terms of the ceasefire.

Israel ratchets up Lebanon assault as Hezbollah rejects 'farce' truce

International Desk

Israel continued to carry out deadly strikes across Lebanon on Friday despite the announcement of a new US-brokered ceasefire agreement reached by Lebanese and Israeli officials in Washington, DC. The violence has pushed the number of casualties higher, with Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health reporting that at least 3,526 people have been killed and 10,733 wounded in Israeli attacks since March 2. Meanwhile, Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem has dismissed the ceasefire as a "farce", warning that northern occupied territories will remain a target as long as Israeli forces continue bombing Lebanon, raising more doubts about the prospects for a lasting truce. Lebanese and Israeli envoys meeting in Wash-



This picture shows the aftermath at the site of an Israeli strike in the southern Lebanese coastal city of Tyre on June 5, 2026.
AFP

ington this week agreed to a conditional truce that Hezbollah flatly rejected, with the group instead demanding a comprehensive ceasefire and full Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon. Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said Friday that the resistance group would withdraw from the area south of Lebanon's Litani River if these conditions were met. Israel has staged its deepest incursion in two decades into Lebanon since

the start of the war with Iran, which it launched in conjunction with its ally, the US. On Friday, the Israeli military's Arabic-language spokesman Avichay Adraee warned residents of six towns and villages including south Lebanon's Sarafand, a town on the coastal road between Tyre and Sidon, to immediately evacuate. He earlier warned three villages north of the Litani River in southern Lebanon to leave their homes. Lebanon's state-run

National News Agency reported mass displacement from two of the three villages named in the first warning, and it subsequently reported strikes on some of the threatened areas. Overnight, Israeli strikes killed seven people in the southern Lebanese city of Tyre, a source from Lebanon's civil defense told AFP. In rejecting the truce Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem on Thursday called on the Lebanese government to halt "the farce and humiliation called direct talks" with Israel. "The ceasefire must be comprehensive... without the Israeli enemy having the freedom to kill," Qassem said.

Deputy FM: Tehran seeks access to half of frozen assets upon signing deal

International Desk

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said that a minimum of 50% of its frozen assets abroad should be released simultaneously with the signing any potential memorandum of understanding between Tehran and Washington. In an interview with the Mehr news agency published on Thursday, Gharibabadi explained that the issue of releasing Iran's frozen funds is a matter that serves Iran's interests and requires resolution. He added that the determination of which portion should be released first and which could be released later after a certain period remains under discussion. Gharibabadi emphasized that Iran insists on transferring at least half of its frozen assets promptly following the signing of the memorandum of understanding, with the remaining portion to be released after a reasonable time interval. The Iranian official clarified that these funds do not belong to Western countries or the United States in a way that would require Tehran to negotiate or seek assistance or financing. Instead, he described the assets as purely Iranian funds that the US illegally froze and prevented other countries from transferring them to Iran.

Talks between Iran and the US, mediated by Pakistan and facilitated by Qatar, are continuing based on Iran's 14-point proposal. The discussions aim to produce a memorandum to end the joint US-Israeli aggression against Iran, end a blockade on Iran's ports, and secure the release of frozen Iranian assets. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Wednesday that there is currently no formal negotiation process underway between Iran and the US. The two sides, though, retain their communications, Araghchi went on, while noting that the communications had not yielded "any significant progress" over the recent days. "Both sides are currently reviewing the existing frameworks, and if the conditions are conducive, negotiations will resume on the basis of Iran's national interests, the rights of the Iranian people, and the objective of ending the war in both Iran and Lebanon." However, US President Donald Trump made a different assessment from the negotiations, saying on Wednesday that talks with Iran are going "very well" and could yield results over the coming weekend. "I hear the negotiation itself is going very well actually," Trump told reporters, adding that a potential deal "could happen... over the weekend."

US, Israel to blame for war crimes over attacks on Iran's nuclear sites

International Desk

Iran called on the international community to adopt a "zero-tolerance policy" toward armed attacks on peaceful nuclear facilities, telling a special meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board of governors that the United States and Israel carried out 17 waves of strikes against Iranian safeguarded nuclear sites in 2025 and 2026. In a statement, Iran's delegation said one of the gravest attacks targeted a structure just 350 meters



from the reactor at the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, which contains thousands of kilograms of nuclear material. The IAEA chief has previously

said a direct hit on the plant could result in a "very high release of radioactivity to the environment." Iran said the attacks con-

stitute war crimes and acts of aggression, entailing international responsibility and individual criminal liability for the perpetrators. It recalled that UN Security Council Resolution 487 (1981) condemned a previous Israeli attack on an Iraqi nuclear facility and obliged Israel to refrain from any such acts in the future. The United States has opposed two previous IAEA General Conference resolutions on prohibiting attacks on nuclear installations, both proposed by Iran, the statement said.



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