

Heartiest Congratulations on Eid al-Fitr

Kayhan International



Zarif, Nasrallah Discuss Gaza Crisis

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran's foreign minister and secretary general of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement on Sunday emphasized the necessity for an end to Israel's eight-year blockade of the Gaza Strip. In a phone conversation, Muhammad Javad Zarif and Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah discussed the Zionist regime's offensive against the Gaza Strip. Zarif said President Hassan Rouhani has issued a special order to avert a "humanitarian catastrophe" in Gaza. Nasrallah said all capacities should be employed to force the Tel Aviv regime to stop committing atrocities against Palestinians.

Leader Grants Clemency to Prisoners

TEHRAN (Press TV) -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Sunday pardoned or commuted the sentences of a number of Iranian prisoners on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr. The Leader's decision came in response to a letter from Iran's Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani asking for clemency regarding eligible convicts ahead of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Larijani had asked for the pardoning or commutation of the jail terms of the prisoners.

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Thoughts for Eid al-Fitr

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"O Allah! Lord of magnificence and greatness; and Lord of generosity and overwhelming power; and Lord of pardon and mercy. We implore You for the sake of This Day which You have appointed as a Festival for the Muslims and for Mohammad (SAWA) and his progeny as a reminder, a distinction, an honour."

As specified by the above passage which is part of the Qonout Supplication of the Special Eid Prayer, the end of the month of fasting is a day of celebration.

Ramadhan and its acts of worship have indeed purified our minds, hearts, souls, and bodies, and the Prayer of Eid is thanksgiving to the Lord Most High for having rewarded the faithful with the festival of Eid al-Fitr, which as indicated by the word "Fitr" starts with the giving of special alms to the poor known as "Fitrah" – made up of 3 kg of the staple diet, such as wheat, rice, barley or date; or its equivalent in money.

The feast in Islam should not be compared to the unbridled festivities of other creeds and cultures, where free rein is given to sins.

To quote the Commander of the Faithful, Prophet Muhammad's (SAWA) First Infallible Heir, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS):

"Indeed Eid is for those whose fasting has been accepted by God and whose worship has been appreciated, and any day on which God has not been disobeyed is Eid."

This year's Ramadhan with all its glories has come to its end, but on a tragic note for the people of Gaza, who are being subjected to holocaust and genocide by the Zionists. The world is watching in silence as men, women, and children are being massacred.

Meanwhile, in Iraq and Syria, the Godless Takfiri terrorists are making life miserable for Muslims. These agents of Zionists and imperialists, they are desecrating and destroying the shrines of the Prophets, as was the case in Mosul where the tomb of Prophet Jonah was razed to the ground.

In such a situation, it is our duty to strive and pray for the deliverance of Muslims worldwide on the day of Eid al-Fitr, whether in Gaza or Iraq and Syria; or whether in other parts of the world. At the same time we should implore divine wrath on the Zionists and the Takfiris.

Here I would like to quote parts of the special Eid Sermon of the Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali (AS) on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, which starts with due praise to Allah, blessings for Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), seeking divine assistance for the faithful and invoking divine wrath on the devilish elements.

"All praise belongs to Allah. We praise Him, seek His help, have faith in Him, and put our trust in Him. We bear witness that there is no god except Allah, He is One, and He has no partner, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger; may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him and his progeny, as well as His forgiveness and approval."

"O Allah bless Muhammad, Your Servant, Messenger and Prophet, a blessing growing and multiplying, that will raise His rank and manifest His merit. Bless Muhammad and the Family of Muhammad and give barakah to Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad even as You blessed, granted barakah and mercy to Abraham and the progeny of Abraham, indeed You are praiseworthy and glorious."

"O Allah, punish the faithless from among the People of the Book who bar Your way, contest Your signs and impugn Your Prophets."

"O Allah, assist the armies of Muslims, their companies and brigades, in the east of the earth and its west! Indeed You have power over all things. O Allah, forgive the faithful, men and women, and the Muslim, men and women."

"O Allah, let Godwariness be their provision; put faith and wisdom into their hearts; inspire them to thank You for the blessings You have showered on them and to fulfill the covenant that You made with them, O God of the Truth and Creator of the creation!"

Analysts Warn of Quagmire: Zionists Suffer Worst Losses in Gaza

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) – The occupying regime of Israel continued with its aggression against the besieged Gaza Strip for the 20th day on Sunday as the Palestinian death toll passed 1,100.

A ceasefire that began at 8 A.M. on Saturday collapsed 26 hours later when the Zionist regime announced it is resuming aerial, naval and ground strikes on Gaza.

A Hamas spokesman said that any ceasefire that doesn't ensure the pullout of occupying forces from Gaza and the evacuation of the wounded is not acceptable.

Early on Sunday, a Zionist soldier was killed by a mortar shell near the Gaza border. Two other Israeli soldiers who were previously wounded in the fighting died of their wounds on Saturday evening, bringing the occupying regime's death toll to 43, the highest in recent history.

In Gaza, the total death toll neared 1,150 as the humanitarian ceasefire allowed rescue workers to recover bodies from buildings destroyed in Israeli strikes.

On Sunday afternoon, Hamas said "resistance groups" would agree to a new 24-hour truce starting at 2 p.m. local time. A Hamas official in Gaza released a statement saying that Hamas's decision came "in response to the intervention of the United Nations" and out of under-



Zionist soldiers leaving Gaza near the fence erected by the occupying regime of Israel.

standing for the people of Gaza who are preparing for Eid al-Fitr, the holiday that ends Ramadan.

There was no immediate response from the occupying regime of Israel but it apparently rejected the proposal. Asked on a CNN program,

whether Israel would accept the offer, the Zionist regime's PM Benjamin Netanyahu replied, "Hamas doesn't even accept its own ceasefire, it's continuing to fire at us as we speak."

On Sunday afternoon, sirens

wailed in Israeli communities close to the border, warning of incoming rocket or mortar shells from Gaza.

The Zionist regime is now confronting the same kinds of divisive questions it faced in Lebanon: What

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Protesters Defy Pro-Palestine Ban in Paris

PARIS (Dispatches) -- Pro-Palestinian protesters clashed with police in central Paris when thousands of marchers defied a ban by French authorities to rally against the occupying regime of Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip.

French interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve warned organizers in a television address that they would be held responsible for any clashes and could be prosecuted for ignoring a ban that was confirmed by the country's top administrative court.

TV footage showed demonstrators wearing balaclavas and traditional

Arab keffiyeh headdresses throwing projectiles at riot officers after two hours of peaceful protest.

By 1700 GMT (13:00 EST), most demonstrators had been evacuated from the square and order restored. Paris police said they had made about 50 arrests.

French authorities have refused to permit several pro-Palestinian protests because they feared violence. Marchers clashed with riot police in and around Paris in recent weeks, with some targeting synagogues and Jewish shops.

"Anti-Semitic violence exists: we

must face it head on," Cazeneuve said.

Some protesters, NGOs and even ruling Socialist politicians have criticized the bans on the rallies as counter-productive.

Cazeneuve noted that over the last two weeks, five marches had been banned, out of about 300 such protests across the country.

"Freedom of protest was thus the rule, and bans the exception," he said.

According to the interior ministry, some 2,000 police were sent to the Place de la Republique to surround

the demonstrators, which numbered about 5,000.

Reuters photographers saw one police officer slightly injured, the front windows of the Crowne Plaza hotel smashed and a bus shelter wrecked.

Organizers denied accusations of anti-Semitism.

"Our goal is not to attack the Jews, it is to condemn the policies of a government," Tarek Ben Hiba, a local politician and head of one of the 20 associations organizing the protest told Reuters.

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U.S. Ignores Baghdad's Warning: Iraqi Kurdistan Oil Reaches Texas

HOUSTON (Dispatches) -- A tanker carrying crude oil from Iraqi Kurdistan was anchored near the Port of Galveston, Texas, and must undergo a routine safety inspection by the U.S. Coast Guard on Sunday before it can unload its cargo, an official said.

The Marshall Islands-flagged tanker United Kalavrvta sailed from

the Turkish port of Ceyhan in June bound for the U.S. Gulf Coast despite Washington's concerns over independent oil sales from the autonomous region and threats from the Iraqi central government.

Crude offloading could begin as early as Sunday, if the tanker passes the Coast Guard inspection "and there are no other issues", said

Coast Guard Petty Officer Andy Kendrick.

The Coast Guard was communicating with the U.S. National Security Council, State and Homeland Security departments about the vessel's arrival and status, Kendrick said.

The United Kalavrvta received the oil at Ceyhan from a new Kurdish

pipeline.

The ship is too large to move through the Houston Ship Channel, which begins at Galveston, the Coast Guard has said. The United Kalavrvta will have to offload its cargo onto smaller ships offshore before the oil is delivered to the U.S. mainland.

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