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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Nation Displays Exemplary Effort to Help Quake Victims

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

“Those who, when an affliction visits them, say, ‘Indeed we belong to Allah and to Him do we indeed return’ (Holy Qur’an, 2:156)

A major 7.3 Richter magnitude earthquake has hit the joint border region of Iran and Iraq, causing extensive damage, especially on the Iranian areas, resulting in the death of about 450 people.

The epicenter of the quake, which occurred at around 09:18 pm local time on Sunday (0010 GMT on Monday), was 32 kilometers south of the Iraqi city of Halabja, in Iraqi Kurdistan, and just across the border from Iran.

The highest casualties, however, occurred in the town of Sarpol-e Zahab, in Kermanshah Province. According to official tallies, over 7,000 men, women and children are suffering various degrees of injuries, and many of them admitted to hospitals in the region or airlifted to the capital for better treatment.

Over 280 aftershocks were recorded till Wednesday evening ranging from 2 to 5 Richter in magnitude.

It is indeed a time of grief for Iranians, while the annual mourning period for the Chief of Martyrs is coming to its end. There are lessons to be learned for all of us, including the bereaved families and the survivors of the devastating quake from the exemplary life of Imam Husain (AS).

Monday, November 13 was declared as Day of Grief in the Islamic Republic of Iran for expressing sympathy with the victims and the bereaved families.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, soon after the quake, in his message called on all officials and institutions to “rush to the aid of those affected.”

He instructed that all capabilities of the country should be mobilized urgently to provide relief and prevent further disasters so as to avoid further rise in the death toll. The Leader also called on the Armed Forces to help remove the rubble and transfer the injured to medical centers.

President Hojjat al-Islam Dr. Hassan Rouhani rushed to the spot on Tuesday to personally inspect the damage and give necessary orders to accelerate and improve quality of the rescue and relief operations.

The quake is indeed a divine test for the people of Iran. It is the time for the nation to close ranks and spare no efforts to provide relief to the victims.

At the same time, it is vital for the relevant authorities to determine the degree of damage and take necessary steps for prevention of such disasters in other parts of the country since Iran straddles the geological fault lines.

We ought to learn from quake-prone countries, such as Japan, which had developed amazing quake-resistance technology to build houses and buildings.

Although the efforts of people around the country in providing blankets, heaters, food, water and other facilities, are appreciated, including the auction announced by athletes of their Olympic gold medals such as famous weightlifter Kianoush Rostami and sharpshooter Sarah Javanmardi, the government should devise concrete plans in this regard.

Human beings cannot avert natural disasters, whose occurrence is part of Divine Wisdom, but prayers and proper ethical behaviours do play a decisive role in this regard, since God is All-Merciful, as was evident by the rescuing of a 3-year old child from under the rubble, alive after three days.

All said and done, we express our sincere feelings for our compatriots in their hour of grief.

Leader: Earthquake in Western Iran ‘a Test’



Ayatollah Khamenei meets with the heads of the three branches of power in Tehran, Nov. 14, 2017.

TEHRAN (Dispatches) -- Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has described the recent deadly earthquake in the country's western areas as a test for Iranian authorities to perform their duties.

Speaking in a Tuesday meeting with heads of the three branches of power and other officials here, Ayatollah Khamenei expressed his deepest condolences over the heart-rending earthquake, and offered his sympathy to the people of Kermanshah province.

“It is extremely difficult to lose one's beloved people. But, I hope that God brings His peace and patience to the hearts of the grieving families and brightens their eyes by His favor and mercy.”

The Leader also appreciated the presence of Iranian officials at locations struck by the earthquake, and said the efforts must strongly continue to help the people, so it can ease their problems.

Ayatollah Khamenei considered the recent disaster as a divine trial and a situation for officials to perform their duties.

“During these past two days, officials, including the president, visited and expressed their sympathy for the survivors. I hope that these sympathetic attitudes continue, in practice, effectively helping the people.” The Leader also expressed the hope that they can reduce the pain and sufferings of the people, as “the cold weather is upon us.”

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that increased sympathy and cooperation are the effects of such events.

“These events lead everyone into the realm of cooperation; and, we hope that this kindness and fraternity attracts divine blessings for the brave people of Kermanshah and all the Iranian people.”

In the meeting, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani referred to the efforts of all units, in aid and rescue operations, for treating the injured

and survivors.

“This event is a trial for us. I thank all the units who have been working hard and continue to help, especially the Armed Forces, who acted very well.”

Survivors on Wednesday said they needed help to remove debris so they could try to get to their damaged homes and retrieve some essential belongings.

Official said more than 12,000 tents were distributed in the area, though more than 30,000 houses were affected by the quake - 15,500 of them completely destroyed.

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli told an open session of the parliament on Wednesday that a total of 36,000 tents had been sent to the region, including those already distributed.

Many families unaffected by the earthquake went to aid distribution places and took supplies that were not meant for them, Fazli added.

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Envoy Hits Out at ‘Hypocrisy’ of Proponents: Anti-Iran Resolution Faces Strong Opposition at UN

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- An Iranian representative at the United Nations on Tuesday accused Canada, the U.S. and other “self-proclaimed champions of human rights” of hypocrisy and said their policies have killed “millions of people.”

The diplomat was responding to a General Assembly resolution accusing Tehran of human rights violations. Sharp differences on human rights were on display as an annual Iran human rights resolution passed, although with the support of fewer than half of the UN's member-states.

Iran and its backers – Cuba, Syria, Belarus, Russia, Venezuela, North Korea, Pakistan and China among them – hit out at the resolution's Western-led sponsors of hypocrisy, selectivity, politicization and adopting a “lecturing tone.” Delivering a statement ahead of the vote, Iranian representative Es'haq Al Habib focused on the resolution's main sponsor, Canada and other “self-proclaimed champions of human rights.”

How dare countries with histories of slavery, discrimination against indigenous people and racial discrimination criticize his country, he asked.

It its long history, Al Habib said, Iran has never practiced slavery, colonized other nations, uprooted indigenous communities or advocated racial supremacy.

It was “absurd” that countries which have such abuses in their history are audacious enough to abuse the cause of human rights to further their political interests, he said, naming Canada and the United States and stating that their policies have killed “millions of people.”

“They conveniently employ or actively support ‘good’ terrorists who commit blatant violations of human rights to destabilize ... what they sinisterly call ‘rogue states.’”

As for his country, Al Habib said – recalling the recent elections – “Iranians’ attachment to democracy and human rights is incontestable.”

Tuesday's measure passed by 83 votes to 30, but with 68 abstentions – meaning there were more countries either voting “no” or abstaining than voting in favor of the resolution criticizing Iranian violations.

Only 46% of the 181 countries that cast votes – out of the 193 member-states – voted “yes.”

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Ties Reviewed With Turkey Ahead of Istanbul Meet

TEHRAN (Dispatches) – Iran and Turkey have explored avenues for the expansion of parliamentary relations and closer coordination between the two neighbors.

Iranian Parliament speaker's special adviser on international affairs Hussein Amir Abdollahian called for accelerated efforts to boost

relations between the two countries in a meeting with Turkey's Ambassador to Tehran Reza Hakan Tekin.

They met ahead of a next week meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Istanbul, with the Iranian official saying that constant parliamentary interaction

between Tehran and Ankara would lead to stronger joint action against the challenges, such as terrorism.

Hakan hailed close cooperation between Iranian and Turkish parliaments, saying the two Muslim neighbors share views on regional and international issues.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip

The Holy Qur'an

Fight them, Allah will punish them by your hands and bring them to disgrace, and assist you against them and heal the hearts of a believing people.

The Holy Qur'an (9.14)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:49
Evening (Maghreb)	17:16
Dawn (Fajr) “Tomorrow”	05:14
Sunrise “Tomorrow”	06:41

Zarif: Iran, Russia Should Diversify Partnership

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif on Wednesday called for efforts to diversify partnership between Tehran and Moscow, saying enhanced relations between the two countries would benefit security and stability in the Middle East and Central Asia.

In a message to the opening of a conference marking five centuries of ties between Iran and Russia held in Moscow, Zarif said a review of the long history of relations between Iran and Russia suggests that the two neighbors need to broaden and diversify their interaction.

Enhancement of Tehran-Moscow relations would not only serve the interests of the two nations, but also play a major role in ensuring security, stability and development in Central Asia and the Middle East, Zarif added.

He also expressed confidence that academic meetings as well as scientific and cultural cooperation between the two countries would contribute to cultural diplomacy and stronger relations.

The conference, “Iran, Russia, Five Centuries of Cooperation”, opened in the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History (RGASPI) in Moscow on Wednesday.

Back in January, Iranian Foreign Ministry's Center for International Research and Education held a conference in Tehran to mark 515 years of bilateral political relations.

Since coming into force in January 2016 of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Tehran and Moscow have ramped up efforts to boost their bilateral ties.

Iran and Russia have also formed a strong alliance in recent years, with both supporting the Syrian government against foreign-backed militancy.

Erdogan visited Iran last month to attend the fourth round of strategic meetings between Iran and Turkey and to discuss the latest regional developments and the status of bilateral ties with Iranian officials.

Iran and Turkey signed a number of cooperation agreements during the presidential visit.