

General Bagheri Hails IRGC-Army Cooperation

TEHRAN -- Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Muhammad Bagheri said Tuesday Iran's retaliatory strikes on the Israeli-occupied territories manifested a high level of cooperation and interoperability between Iran's Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). In a message to Army chief Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi ahead of the National Army Day, Bagheri praised the Iranian Army's power of deterrence and defense capabilities against the country's enemies over the years, and said the force has consolidated its standing as an "efficient, modern and powerful" army in the fields of ground, air, sea, defense and electronic warfare.

Kayhan International

Pakistan Defense Minister: Iran's Retaliation Legitimate

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) -- Pakistan's defense minister says the Israeli assault on the Iranian consulate in Damascus was a breach of its sovereignty, and that Tehran's reaction to the violation was defensive and in proportion to the attack. Khawaja Muhammad Asif condemned the Israeli attack on Iran's diplomatic premises in Damascus that led to the assassination of seven senior military advisors, including a senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

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Viewpoint

Iran Fully Prepared for any Eventuality

Next Response 'in a Matter of Seconds'



Greco-Roman Wrestlers Win Asian Championship in Bishkek



UN: Zionist Troops Must Halt 'Active Participation' in Settler Attacks on Palestinians



Rebuilding Jannat al-Baqi Essential for Qods Liberation

By: Kayhan Int'l Cultural Desk



"O' you who have faith, do not violate Allah's Symbols (Sha'er-Allah); neither the sacred month, nor the offering, nor the necklaces, nor those bound for the Sacred House who seek their Lord's grace and [His] pleasure." (Holy Qur'an 5:2)

Heartfelt condolences to our readers on the anniversary of a very tragic day on which those claiming to be Muslims blasphemously violated the commandment of the above Ayah by desecrating some of the most Holy Symbols of Allah, and that too in the heart of the Land of Revelation, by demolishing the places where repose in eternal peace those who were Witness to, and repositories of Divine Revelation.

Today on the 8th of Shawwal, in commemoration of the hundredth anniversary of this sacrilege that occurred in 1345 AH in Medina, many of us are clad in black, while mourning ceremonies are being held since last night throughout the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as in Iraq, Lebanon, Bahrain, Pakistan, India, Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and, of course, Arabia, especially in the Prophet's City (although not publically in the last place).

This is the doleful day when brigands bursting out of Najd, the desert interior, seized the civilized centres of Hijaz, massacring innocent Muslim men, women, and children and attempting to destroy even the Sacred Shrine of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

The Godless hordes, when dissuaded from committing such a blasphemy and afraid of angering the whole Islamic world against themselves, turned towards the Sacred Jannat al-Baqie Cemetery and razed to the ground the tombs of the elite of Islam, especially the majestic mausoleum over the blessed resting places of Four of the Prophet's Twelve Infallible Heirs - Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS), Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS), Imam Muhammad al-Baqer (AS), and Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS).

This unpardonable crime continues to bring tears to the eyes of all true believers. In view of these undeniable facts it is the duty of the Ummah to mobilize efforts for rebuilding of the Baqie Cemetery, especially the Grand Mausoleum of the Four Imams of the Ahl al-Bayt, which is indeed one of the most prominent Sha'er-Allah or God's Supreme Symbol.



If not, all talk of liberating Bayt al-Moqaddas from the Zionists is idle prattle, because for the past century Baqie has remained an open wound in eyeshot of the Prophet's Holy Shrine.

Without the least doubt the Zionists, the Takfiris, and others indulging in such sacrilege at mosques and shrines in various parts of the world have earned Divine wrath, but the most perfidious wretches are those who defile the sanctity of the holy shrines of members of the Prophet's Blessed Household, the Ahl al-Bayt, whose pristine purity God Almighty Himself has vouchsafed in the Holy Qur'an (33:33)

Alas, a century ago, the Wahhabi hordes did not content themselves with the destruction of Jannat al-Baqi, but went on to demolish the tombs of the martyrs of the decisive Battle of Ohad, including that of the Prophet's uncle, Hamza (AS).

They simultaneously desecrated and destroyed the other sacred cemetery of Islam, that is, Jannat al-Mu'alla in Mecca, where rest in peace the Prophet's loyal wife, the First Lady of Islam, Omm al-Momineen (Mother of True Believers) Hazrat Khadija (SA), the Prophet's infant son Hazrat Qassem (AS), the Prophet's uncle and guardian, Hazrat Abu Taleb (AS), the Prophet's grandfather Hazrat Abdul-Mutalleb (AS) and other members of the monotheistic Bani Hashem clan.

The Wahhabis also destroyed the tomb of the Prophet's father Abdullah (AS) near Medina, the tomb in Abwa of the Prophet's mother, Amena bint Wahb (SA), and the tomb in the port city of Jeddah of the Mother of Mankind, Hazrat Hawwa (Eve).

For years the Islamic Republic of Iran and Muslims around the world have been urging Saudi Arabia to rectify the wrongs of the past and rebuild the Baqiee Cemetery. Hopefully, Riyadh will oblige, especially in these crucial times when the US, British, French, and German regimes have ganged up to unleash the holocaust in Occupied Palestine

Next Response 'in a Matter of Seconds'



Motorists drive past a billboard depicting Iranian ballistic missiles in central Tehran.

TEHRAN -- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said here Tuesday the Zionists will only come to know the true scale and intensity of Iran's military response if they decide for a new attack on Iran.

His remarks during a meeting with deputy head of the Supreme Islamic Shia Council of Lebanon Sheikh Ali al-Khatib came amid reports that the Zionist regime may attack Iran after the Islamic Republic's retaliation of Israel's assassination of military advisors in Damascus.

"In case of any mistake, the Zionists and their sponsors will

come to know the meaning of Iran's real and extensive response," Raisi said.

Israel's war cabinet was set to meet for the third time in three days on Tuesday, an official said, to decide on a response to Iran's first-ever direct attack, amid international pressure to avoid further escalating Middle East conflicts.

Military chief of staff Herzi Halevi had promised that Saturday night's launch of more than 300 missiles, cruise missiles and drones from Iran at the Zionist regime "will be met with a re-

sponse".

Iran launched the attack in retaliation for an Israel airstrike on its embassy compound in Damascus on April 1 attributed to Israel, but signaled that it did not seek further escalation.

President Joe Biden reportedly told Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the weekend that the United States, Israel's main protector, would not participate in an Israeli strike.

Together with European allies, Washington instead strove on Tuesday to toughen economic and political sanctions against

Iran.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani had told national TV on Monday night that Tehran's response to any Israeli counterattack would come in "a matter of seconds, as Iran will not wait for another 12 days to respond".

White House national security spokesman John Kirby declined on Monday to say whether Biden had urged Netanyahu in talks on Saturday night to exercise restraint in responding to Iran.

"We don't want to see a war with Iran. We don't want to see a regional conflict," Kirby told a briefing.

Some analysts said the Biden administration is unlikely to seek to sharpen sanctions on Iran's oil exports due to worries about a big spike in oil prices and angering top buyer China.

In a call between the Chinese and Iranian foreign ministers, China said it believed Iran could "handle the situation well and spare the region further turmoil" while safeguarding its sovereignty and dignity, according to Chinese state media.

Khatib said he was conveying a message of gratitude from the Lebanese people to Iran for its strong military action against the Zionist regime.

The Lebanese cleric said Iran had made Muslim nations proud by

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Pro-Palestine Protests Rock Major U.S. Cities

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- Tens of thousands of people have held protests across the U.S. condemning Israel's attack on Gaza, shutting down airports and disrupting traffic in major cities from New York to San Francisco.

A portion of the Kennedy Expressway into Chicago O'Hare international airport, one of the U.S.'s busiest, was blocked off by protesters calling for an end to the Israeli violence.

Some travelers were seen getting out of their cars and walking along the highway to the airport. The Chicago aviation department said the protests caused substantial flight delays. Many protesters were arrested following the incident.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, two major highways - the southbound 101 across the Golden Gate Bridge and the northbound 880 in nearby Oakland - were disrupted during morning rush hour as demonstrators echoed calls for a ceasefire and an end to U.S. support for the occupying re-

gime of Israel.

Protesters were also arrested on New York's Brooklyn Bridge and in Philadelphia, where several streets in the city center were blocked off.

Near Seattle, a demonstration closed the main road to Seattle-Tacoma international airport, authorities said. Social media posts showed people holding a banner and waving Palestinian flags while standing on the highway.

Oregon state police said 52 protesters were arrested for disorderly conduct following the Interstate 5 protest in Eugene, about 110 miles (177km) south of Portland. Six vehicles were towed from the scene.

The protests were just a few of many demonstrations held around the world since the Zionist regime's violent siege on the Palestinian territory and massacre of its inhabitants began last year.

Following the October 7 operation by Hamas, the Zionist regime has launched a genocidal war on

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Mass Grave of Gazans Executed by Zionist Troops Discovered in Shifa Hospital

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -- A mass grave where Palestinians were buried by the Israeli occupation army has been discovered in the courtyard of the Shifa Medical Complex west of Gaza City, the Government Media Office said.

Ten bodies were discovered in the grave, the statement said, adding that they were executed and buried by Zionist forces during their military operation in the hospital.

Motasesm Salah, director of the Gaza Emergency Operations Centre in the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza, said: "The first mass grave was discovered in the Al-Shifa Medical Complex after 10 bodies were found buried in front of the reception area of the complex."

"Some of the bodies found were decomposed, while some were only body parts, with parts belonging to women."

He said the bodies were being

dealt with by a joint committee that included the Ministries of Health, Justice, Forensic Evidence and Medical Services in the Palestinian Ministry of Interior.

He said the bodies will be buried after the Palestinian families identify them and after the legal committee completes its work.

Medical sources told Anadolu news agency that the bodies of the people who were recovered from the grave were executed by the Israeli military and buried haphazardly in the hospital's front courtyard.

The medical sources indicated that, in addition to the ten bodies found, dozens of others were discovered decomposed, burned, dismembered and buried collectively or individually in various parts of Al-Shifa's grounds. Further searches are being carried out to determine the number of

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