

TEHRAN -- Iran and China's defense chiefs on Friday discussed ways to enhance military cooperation, also conferring on regional issues.

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Muhammad Reza Ashtiani met with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun on the sidelines of the 21st meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defense Ministers in Astana, Kazakhstan. Ashtiani hailed China's stance on the ongoing developments in the region and its condemnation of Israel's terrorist airstrike against Iran's diplomatic premise in the Syrian capital of Damascus earlier this month.

Kayhan International



TEHRAN -- American officials do not have the moral competence to make any comment about human rights, rights of women and the freedom of expression, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Nasser Kan'ani posted a video showing U.S. police using violence against a university professor protesting Israel's criminal acts against Palestinians. "The unfortunate images of the violent behavior of the American police against pro-Palestine university professors protesting the U.S. policy of supporting the criminal Zionist regime has exposed to global judgment the gap between the U.S. administration's slogans and actions," he said.

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Pro-Palestine Campus Protests in U.S. Spread to Europe

PARIS (Dispatches) -- Students in Paris inspired by Gaza solidarity encampments at campuses in the United States blocked access to a campus building at a prestigious French university Friday, prompting administrators to move all classes online.

The pro-Palestinian protest at the Paris Institute of Political Studies, known as Sciences Po, came two days after police broke up a separate demonstration at the university's amphitheater outside one of its Paris campuses.

On Friday, scores of protesters occupied a central campus building and dozens of others blocked its entrance with trash cans, wooden platforms and a bicycle.

Protesters gathered at the building's windows chanted slogans and hung placards reading "We are all Palestinians," in defiance of administrators who students say called the police on their peers two days earlier.

Several wore the black-and-white keffiyeh scarf that has become an emblem of solidarity with Gaza.

"When we see what is happening in the United States, and now in Australia, we're really hoping it will catch on here in France, the academic world has a role to play," said 22-year-old Hicham, a masters student in human rights and humanitarian studies at Sciences Po.

The students, he said, want Sciences Po to condemn Israel's actions.

"We hope that will spread to all universities and beyond ... we won't give in until the genocide in Gaza ends," said 20-year old Zoe, a masters student in public administration at Sciences Po.

Police arrested over 100 protesters on U.S. campuses, and violently detained a professor who questioned their actions, throwing her on the ground and pushing her face into the concrete.

Global attention has turned to universities across the United States, where students have erected encampments to demand action to end Israel's war on the Gaza Strip.

The growing protests have taken root on the campuses of some of the country's top academic institutions, including Columbia and Harvard.

Over the past weeks, they have spurred heated debates around freedom of speech, Palestinian solidarity activism in the U.S., and the use of force to disperse student protesters, among other issues.

Encampments have popped up at universities and colleges across the U.S. this month, as the Palestinian death toll in Gaza surpassed the 34,300 mark, amid reports that mass graves were uncovered in the coastal enclave.

The students have issued a list of demands to their respective universities, including divesting from any companies that may be profiting from the Gaza war or providing the Israeli military with weapons and other support.

They have also urged an end to reprisals against students who have spoken out in support of Palestinians and for administrators to pledge not to send police or other law enforcement agencies onto the campuses to break up their protests.

Images of throngs of New York Police Department (NYPD) officers marching onto the Columbia University campus to disperse a Gaza protest encampment earlier this week galvanized students in other parts of the U.S. to set up their own protest sites, too.

Hundreds of students have been arrested across the country since the encampments began.

Like other protesters across the U.S., many American students have said they felt an impetus to act given the U.S. government's long-standing support for the occupying regime of Israel.

The U.S. gives Israel \$3.8 billion in military assistance annually, and President Joe Biden has continued to provide staunch support to the Zionist entity amid the Gaza war. On Wednesday, Biden signed into law a massive funding package that will provide an additional \$17 billion to Israel.

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President Raisi Hails Expansion of Relations Second Iran-Africa Summit Opens in Tehran



This combination of pictures shows the opening of the Second Iran and Africa International Economic Conference with the participation of 30 African countries in Tehran on Friday.

TEHRAN -- President Ebrahim Raisi said here Friday Iran and the African nations are keen to strengthen relations, noting that enhanced ties can form a complementary economy.

Raisi made the remarks to the opening of the Second Iran and Africa International Economic Conference at Tehran's International Conference Center.

"This meeting is a symbol

of the will of African nations and Iran to expand economic ties," he told the gathering that hosted representatives from 30 African countries.

Raisi hailed the conference as an opportunity for both Iran and the African nations to get familiar with their mutual capacities.

"Despite threats and sanctions, the Islamic Republic of

Iran has made good progress. The Islamic Republic can be called an advanced and technological country," he said, stressing that getting familiar with the achievements of Iran in the field of emerging technologies is of "great importance."

The president said Iran seeks to maintain ties with Africa based on mutual interest, un-

like many Western countries that have "plundered" Africa's resources. "Westerners want Africa for themselves but we want Africa for Africa."

Tehran believes Africa has skilled labor forces and can achieve progress in many fields, including emerging technologies, he stressed.

Raisi said the importance of formulating roadmaps for cooperation between Iran and the African continent and for cooperation between Iran and each African nation, with defined timelines.

President Raisi said Iran is ready to share its technological achievements with Africa despite the threats and sanctions by the West, but the existing problems preventing financial and money transfer should be removed to achieve the goals.

If Iran's and Africa's capacities are combined, "a complementary economy will be formed," he said.

Iran has over 10,000 knowledge-based firms exporting more than two billion dollars worth of goods, Raisi said, adding their products can help

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Hezbollah Hits Zionist Bases, Ansarullah Targets Eilat

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Hezbollah on Friday carried out a series of operations, targeting several Israeli military positions in the northern part of the 1948 occupied territories with various munitions, including combat drones.

Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television said the resistance group struck a gathering of Israeli troops close to the Al-Dhairah military site with a rocket salvo. The projectiles hit the designated targets precisely and left casualties among the forces, it said.

Later Thursday, Hezbollah fighters carried out a drone strike against the Ein Margaliot military base in response to Israeli crimes against civilians in the southern regions of Lebanon.

Artillery units also shelled a group of Israeli soldiers as they were entering the Al-Malikiyah post.

Resistance fighters further launched guided missiles, ar-

tillery shells and rockets at an Israeli military convoy near Ruwaisat al-Alam outpost on Kfar Shuba Hills. Two armored vehicles were destroyed as a result.

The Israeli military had to create a smoke screen to withdraw its casualties, reports said.

In Yemen, the country's armed forces targeted the MSC Darwin ship in the Gulf of Aden on Thursday, as they resumed operations in the Red Sea region in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The Ansarullah movement also fired a number of ballistic and winged missiles at several targets in Israel's port city of Eilat, military spokesman Yahya Sarea said in a televised speech.

The Liberian-flagged MSC Darwin VI ship was in the area of the attack, travelling between the ports of Aden and Djibouti, according to Refinitiv data.

Swiss-based MSC operates the world's largest container line by fleet capacity.

Sarea said, "The Yemeni Armed Forces confirm that they will continue to prevent Israeli navigation or any navigation heading to the ports of occupied Palestine in the Red and Arabian Seas, as well as in the Indian Ocean."

The operations, he added, would last until the occupying regime ceased the aggression and a simultaneous siege of the coastal enclave.

Ansarullah leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi held the U.S. accountable for atrocities in Gaza, saying Washington is managing the crimes ranging from siege and starvation to killing and destruction.

In a televised speech broadcast live on Thursday night, Houthi stated the Zionist regime continues to perpetrate all kinds of crimes against the Palestinian population of Gaza.

The Ansarullah leader

touched on rocket and missile attacks by Palestinian resistance forces, stating that the Zionist enemy has suffered huge losses in terms of hardware and military personnel in Gaza.

He said the fact that half of settler are thinking about migration and departure from the occupied territories indicates an existential crisis and that they view themselves as usurpers and occupiers.

"The reverse migration of Zionists is among the strategic outcomes of the steadfastness and resilience of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip," the Ansarullah chief said.

Houthi also pointed to extensive operations by Hezbollah against Israeli military positions, stressing that the strikes are precise and effective and have prompted Israeli military figures to acknowledge the difficulty in confronting Hezbollah.

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