

TEHRAN -- Iran has expressed concerns over the ongoing violence in Sudan, urging the opposing sides to show restraint and engage in dialogue to end the unrest in the country.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its concern over what is taking place in the Muslim and brotherly country of Sudan," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said. He urged Sudan to overcome the current worrying situation through dialogue.

TEHRAN -- Various fighter jets of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) will take part in an aerial parade over Tehran's sky on April 18 to mark the National Army Day, Air Force Commander Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi announced on Sunday.

He said more than 40 various fighter jets will perform aerial maneuvers during the military parades over the capital. They will include Saeqeh (Thunderbolt), Kowsar, F-7, F-14, F-4, MiG-29 and Sukhoi fighter jets and bombers.

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Monday, April 17, 2023, Farvardin 28, 1402, Ramadhan 26, 1444, Price 200,000 Rials

Viewpoint

Sudanese People at the Mercy of the Inter-Military Conflict

Hezbollah: Iran Lead Supporter of Resistance



Iran Announces Roster for World Taekwondo Championships



UN to Commemorate Nakba Day for First Time



Death Toll Mounting as Fighting Rages in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) -- Fighting in Sudan raged for a second day Sunday in battles between rival generals who seized power in a 2021 coup, leaving nearly 60 civilians including three UN staff dead and sparking international alarm.

Deafening explosions and intense gunfire rattled buildings in the capital Khartoum's densely-populated northern and southern suburbs as tanks rumbled on the streets and fighter jets roared overhead, witnesses said.

Violence erupted early Saturday after weeks of power struggles between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, commander of the heavily-armed paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), with each accusing the other of starting the fight.

"The gunfire and explosions are incessant," said 34-year-old Ahmed Hamid from a northern Khartoum suburb.

"The situation is very worrying and it doesn't seem like it will calm anytime soon," said Ahmed Seif, another Khartoum resident, who fears his building had been damaged by gunfire but said it was too dangerous to go outside to check.

Both sides claim they control key sites, while state television broadcasted patriotic songs without commentary.

Daglo's RSF say they have seized the presidential palace, Khartoum airport and other strategic sites, but the army insists it is in charge.

Footage obtained by AFP showed heavy smoke billowing from a building near the army headquarters in Khartoum, with the military saying a building had "caught fire" amid the clashes but that it had been contained.

On Sunday, the stench of gunpowder wafted through Khartoum's streets, deserted except by soldiers as frightened civilians sheltered inside their homes.

The Central Committee of Sudan Doctors said they had recorded 56 civilians killed as well as "tens of deaths" among security forces, and around 600 wounded.

Fighting has also erupted outside Khartoum, including in the troubled western Darfur region and in the eastern border state of Kassala, where witness Hussein Saleh said the army had fired artillery at a paramilitary camp.

The United Nations said three employees of its World Food Programme (WFP) had been killed in clashes in North Darfur.

It was not immediately clear whether the three deaths on Saturday were included in the tally provided by the medics.

UN Special Representative Volker Perthes condemned the

killings in a statement, saying "civilian and humanitarian aid workers are not a target."

He said he was also "appalled by reports of projectiles hitting UN and other humanitarian premises humanitarian premises in several locations in Darfur".

WFP said an aircraft managed by the organization "was also significantly damaged" at Khartoum airport.

Medics on social media have continued to call for help, pleading for safe corridors for ambulances and a ceasefire to treat the victims, warning the streets were too dangerous to bring many casualties to hospitals.

Created in 2013, the RSF emerged from the Janjaweed militia that then-president Omar al-Bashir unleashed against non-Arab ethnic minorities in the western Darfur region a decade earlier, drawing accusations of war crimes.

The RSF's planned integration into the regular army was a key element of talks to finalize a deal that would return the country to civilian rule and end the political-economic crisis sparked by the military's 2021 coup.

UN chief Antonio Guterres called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities", while U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the fighting "threatens the security and safety of Sudanese civilians".

Similar appeals came from the African Union, Britain, China, the European Union and Russia.

The AU was to hold an emergency meeting on Sunday, as was the Arab League, following a request by Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

But the two generals appear in no mood for talks. In an interview with UAE-based Sky News Arabia, Daglo, also known as Hemeti, said, "Burhan the criminal must surrender".

The army declared Daglo a "wanted criminal" and the RSF a "rebel militia", saying there "will be no negotiations or talks until the dissolution" of the group.

The latest violence, during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, came after more than 120 civilians had already been killed in a crackdown on regular pro-democracy demonstrations over the past 18 months.

The October 2021 coup triggered international aid cuts and sparked near-weekly protests, adding to the deepening troubles of one of the world's poorest countries.

Burhan, a career soldier from northern Sudan who rose through the ranks under the three-decade rule of now jailed general Bashir, has said the coup was "necessary" to include more factions into politics.

Ayatollah Khamenei Tells Commanders:

Don't Be Content With Any Level of Strength



Ayatollah Khamenei meets with senior military commanders in Tehran on Sunday.

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei here Sunday lauded the great achievements and continuous progress of Iran's armed forces, saying the enemy can be defeated despite its seemingly solid calculations and military power.

Ayatollah Khamenei, who is also the commander-in-chief of the Iranian armed forces, met with senior Iranian commanders and officials.

The Leader voiced satisfaction with the continuous progress in the Iranian armed forces over the years, saying the readiness of the armed forces as a deterrent and their vigilance against backstage plotters is "absolutely necessary".

"Do not be satisfied with any level of strength and progress and move forward without stopping," the Leader said. "Threats never completely disappear, so you should add whatever you can to

different preparations."

Ayatollah Khamenei said arrogant powers wage a conflict from behind the scenes whenever they think it serve their interests.

"Paying close attention to the enemy's five or ten-year plans is good and necessary, but its mid-term and long-term plans should also be considered and monitored," he said.

Touching upon the two wars the United States started in the east and west of Iran about two

decades ago, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "The Americans had interests in Iraq and Afghanistan, but their ultimate goal was the Islamic Iran, but due to the solid power of the Islamic Revolution, they failed in their ultimate goal."

"Therefore, the enemy can be defeated despite its seemingly solid calculations and military power."

He cited the current situation that the occupying regime of Israel is grappling with as another example of such failures.

"Last year, the Zionist regime's anti-Palestinian operation in the month of Ramadan was not met with any particular reaction in the world, but this year there are demonstrations against its crimes, even in the United States and England."

However, it is imperative not to underestimate the enemy, the Leader said. "At no stage should one ignore the enemy's machinations and plans."

The Leader called on the intellectual centers of the Iranian armed forces to focus on innovation in designing robust, rational and effective strategies and policies.

Prior to the Leader's speech, Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Muhammad Bagheri outlined various military plans.

Over 100,000 People Protest in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Tens of thousands again took to the streets of Tel Aviv late Saturday to protest the entity's extremist direction under hardline prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The protests came as U.S. rating agency Moody's downgraded Israel's credit rating, signaling the potential for an economic uproar against the Zionist regime's proposals.

The 15th consecutive week of protest came after Netanyahu on March 27 announced a "pause" to allow for dialogue on the changes which were moving through parliament and split the occupied territories.

More than 100,000 people participated in the main demonstration in Tel Aviv, according to Israeli broadcaster Channel 12.

Smaller protests also took place in the northern port of Haifa and outside the home of so-called justice minister Yariv Levin in Modiin.

Protest organizers, who have held these weekly protests for more than three months, aim to maintain momentum and increase

pressure on Netanyahu and his regime until the proposed changes are scrapped.

Karen Baron, a 45-year-old Tel Aviv psychiatrist, said: "I didn't want to come today but my sister told me, 'We have no choice', and it's true. We have no choice -- we can't lower our guard."

The proposals would curtail the authority of the supreme court and give politicians greater powers over the selection of judges.

Netanyahu's regime, a coalition between his Likud party and extreme-right and ultra-Orthodox Jewish allies, argues the changes are needed to rebalance powers between lawmakers and the judiciary.

Facing opposition from civil society, parts of the army and even within his own cabinet, Netanyahu paused the overhaul plans in late March, saying he wanted "to avoid civil war".

The plan would give Netanyahu, who is on trial on corruption charges, and his allies in Israel's most hardline regime the final say in appointing the nation's judges.

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Four Killed, At Least 20 Injured in Alabama Shooting

DADEVILLE, Alabama (Dispatches) -- Four people have been killed and multiple people injured during a shooting Saturday night in Dadeville, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency said.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency said the shooting happened at about 10:30 p.m. There was no initial confirmation about what led to the shooting. It was not immediately known if a suspect was in custody.

Officers and deputies at the scene reported at least 20 people wounded.

Pastor Ben Hayes, who serves as the chaplain for the Dadeville Police Department and for the local high school football team, said most of the victims are teenagers because the shooting occurred at a birthday party for a 16-year-old. He said the shooting has rocked the small town where serious crime is rare.

"One of the young men that was killed was one of our star athletes and just a great guy. So I knew many of these students. Dadeville is a small town and this is going to affect everybody in this area," Hayes said.

Dadeville, which has a population of about 3,200 people, is in east Alabama, about 57 miles (92 kilometers) northeast of Montgomery, Alabama.

Gun violence is a fixture in American life - but the issue is a highly political one, pitting gun control advocates against those fiercely attached to their guns.

There have already been more than 70 mass shootings across the U.S. so far this year, with California experiencing two of the most high-profile in January.

Figures from the Gun Violence Archive - a non-profit research database - shows that the number of mass shootings has gone up significantly in recent years.

In each of the last three years there have been more than 600 mass shootings, almost two a day on average.

While the U.S. does not have a single definition for "mass shootings", the Gun Violence Archive defines a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are injured or killed.

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