

Iran Asks Switzerland to Explain Police Killing of National

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday requested information from the Swiss government on the recent police killing of an Iranian national in Switzerland. The request was made by a senior Iranian diplomat in a meeting with the Swiss ambassador in Tehran, Nadine Olivieri Lozano. In the meeting, the Iranian diplomat said it was absolutely essential that all governments observe the rights of Iranian nationals and called for Switzerland to provide Iran with "accurate information" regarding the murder, according to Iranian media reports.

(Continued on Page 7)

Kayhan International

Iranian Judiciary Chief Meets Iraqi President

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholamhussein Mohseni-Ejei said here Wednesday the entire Muslim world must stand up against Israel and employ all available means to stop the regime's sheer savagery in the besieged Gaza Strip. During a meeting with Iraq's Prime Minister Muhammad Shia' al-Sudani, Mohseni-Ejei appreciated the strong position of the Iraqi government and nation in supporting the people of Gaza. The senior Iranian official underlined the need for the Muslim Ummah to exert more political pressure on the

(Continued on Page 7)

VOL NO: LV 12193 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Thursday, February 15, 2024, Bahman 26, 1402, Sha'ban 5, 1445, Price 300,000 Rials

Viewpoint

People's Power, the Backbone of Islamic Iran

IRGC Chief: Iran Able to Fight Wars From Afar



Iranian Taekwondo Athletes Win 7 Gold, 1 Silver at Fajr Cup



Sheikh Qassim: Bahrain Will Emerge Victorious



Personification of Piety & Prudence

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"In the Name of God, from Whom I hope for nothing but bounty, and from Whom I fear nothing but justice! I rely only upon His word, and I cling only to His cord!

In You (O' God) I seek sanctuary - O Possessor of pardon and good pleasure - from wrong and enmity, from the changes of time and the recurrence of sorrows, from the striking of mishaps, and from the expiration of my term before preparation and readiness. From You I seek guidance to that wherein is righteousness and being set right... You I beseech for the garment of well-being and its completion and for the covering of health and its permanence. I seek refuge in You, my Lord, from the goading of the satans, and I seek protection in Your sovereignty from the injustice of the rulers.

"So accept my past prayers and fasting and make my tomorrow and what is after better than my present hour and my today! For You are God, the Best Guardian, and You are the Most Merciful of the merciful.

"Bless Muhammad and the progeny of Muhammad, the best of Your reaction, the summoner to Your truth."

What a wonderful way to beseech the Lord Most High, by putting all trust in His All-Enveloping Mercy, and in seeking His formidable Protection in all affairs! The person who bequeathed to us this gem of a supplication was not an ordinary man. He was a direct descendant of the Seal of Messengers. As a matter of fact, he was not just a great-grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) but his 4th Infallible Heir.

To be more precise, he is none other than the Survivor of the Tragedy of Karbala, who was born this day (5th of Sha'ban) in the year 38 AH (657 AD) during the brief caliphate or political rule of his grandfather, the One and Only Commander of the Faithful, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), and was named after him as "Ali" by his father Imam Husain (AS).

It would be repetitive to say that his mother was the virtuous Princess of Persia, Shahrbanu (SA), and that his devotion to God was such that he is known till this day as "Zain al-Abedin" (Ornament of the Worshippers) and "Seyyed os-Sajjad" (Chief of those who prostrate to God), or simply "Sajjad". It would also be tedious to describe the tragic events he witnessed as a 23-year old bedridden youth on the Day of Ashura (Muharram 10) in Karbala, where his father, uncles, brothers, and cousins were martyred, while during its equally tragic aftermath, despite his sickness, he was dragged in chains to the courts of the tyrants in Kufa and Damascus - along with his wife, 4-year old son, aunts, and sisters - and subjected to imprisonment in the Syrian capital.

His personality is larger than life. As the 4th Divinely-designated Imam of the Ummah - a position he held for 34 years from 61 AH till his martyrdom through poisoning in 95 AH - he has left an indelible mark on Islam and history. He groomed several scholars such as the famous Abu Hamaza Thumali, who for his devotion to the cause of the Ahl al-Bayt was known as "Salman of the Age" - a reference to the Prophet's great Iranian companion Salman Farsi, who was firmly attached to Imam Ali (AS).

During the first decade of his Imamate, Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS) patiently endured the oppression of the rancorous Abdullah ibn Zubayr who had declared himself caliph in Hijaz, and once plotted to burn alive all male members of the Prophet's Hashemite clan, but failed to do so, because of the timely arrival of a rescue force sent from Iraq by Mukhtar ibn Abu Obaidah, the Avenger of the Blood of Imam Husain (AS).

The next two decades of the 4th Imam's mission saw the resurgent power and subsequently the tyranny of the Omayyads, who had been almost totally destroyed but for the blunder of Abdullah ibn Zubayr in refusing to align with Mukhtar to deliver the coup-de-grace to the regime in Damascus.

Through the medium of prayers and supplications (as manifested in the book "Sahifat-as-Sajjadiyyah") and by expounding the Prophet's pure and pristine "Sunnah wa Seerah" (practice and behaviour), he continued his mission to enlighten the seekers of truth, while the self-styled caliphs, Abdul-Malik ibn Marwan and Walid, were on a spree of state terrorism to plunder North Africa and Spain in the west, and the border areas of India in the east, to give a bad name to Islam and its peaceful teachings.

As part of his unsparring efforts to spread the genuine message of Islam, the 4th Imam dictated to one of his disciples the "Risalat al-Hoqouq" (Treatise of Rights) which expounds each and every right of a human being in society, including a person's own physical organs - the benefits of their proper use and the follies of their misuse.

No wonder this treatise has been hailed as more comprehensive and perfect than the so-called Human Rights Declaration of the UN, which is full of flaws. Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS) was the harbinger of mercy to all, even to those who had oppressed him, like the sacked Omayyad governor, Hisham bin Ismail, whom he saved from likely execution by saying "we never feel vengeful towards our fallen foes".

In this way, the 4th Imam promoted and solidified in society the genuine teachings of Islam, to the extent that the famous Arab poet, Farazdaq, braving imprisonment, proudly recited the following verses when (the future caliph) Hisham ibn Abdul-Malik, while governor of Mecca, failed to reach the sacred black stone at the holy Ka'ba, but the same crowd politely gave way whenever Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS) - the Prophet's great-grandson - wished to touch it: "It is the one whose footsteps are known by every place; And it is he who is known to the Bayt in Mecca, the most frequented sanctuary; "It is he who is the son of the Best of all men of God and it is he who is the most pious and devout; the purest and most unstained, the most chaste and the most righteous, a symbol [of Islam]. "This is Ali [son of Husain] whose forefather is the Prophet; this is the son of Fatema, if you do not know who he is; "Whosoever recognizes his God knows also the primacy and superiority of this man, because the religion has reached nations through his House.

Gaza Hospitals Targeted by Zionist Snipers



Nasser Hospital is one of several health facilities targeted by Israeli strikes and snipers in recent days.

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (Dispatches) — Palestinians have begun evacuating the main hospital in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis, according to videos shared by medics on Wednesday. Weeks of heavy bombardment by the Zionist regime had isolated the medical facility and claimed the lives of several people inside it.

The Israeli genocidal onslaught, now in its fifth month, has devastated Gaza's health sector, with less than half of its hospitals even partially functioning as scores of people are martyred and wounded

in daily bombardments. Khan Younis is the main target of a rolling ground invasion that Israel has said will soon be expanded to Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah. Some 1.4 million people — over half the territory's population — are crammed into tent camps and overflowing apartments and shelters in the town on the Egyptian border.

Ceasefire negotiators held talks in Cairo on Tuesday that were attended by CIA chief William Burns and David Barnea, the head of Israel's Mossad spy

agency, but there were no signs of a breakthrough. Israeli media reported on Wednesday that the occupying regime's extremist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his delegation not to return to the talks unless Hamas softens its demands.

Netanyahu has vowed to continue the invasion until the return of all captives held in Gaza. Hamas has said it will not release all the captives until Israel ends its invasion, withdraws from Gaza and releases a large number of Palestinian prisoners.

In northern occupied territories, meanwhile, a rocket attack wounded at least eight Zionists on Wednesday when one of the projectiles hit a home in the town of Safed. Israeli media reported that a woman soldier was killed in the attack.

The Israeli military announced on Wednesday that 15 soldiers were wounded in the last 24 hours. One of them has been described as being in a serious condition, Haaretz reported.

Israel carried out airstrikes in southern Lebanon in response, martyring four people, including a Syrian woman and her two Lebanese children, and wounding at least nine, Lebanese security officials and local media said.

Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah, which supports Hamas, have traded fire along the Lebanese border nearly every day since the start of the war on Gaza, raising the risk of a wider conflict.

The videos of the evacuation in Khan Younis showed dozens of Palestinians carrying their belongings in sacks and making their way out of the Nasser Hospital complex. A doctor wearing green hospital scrubs walked ahead of the crowd, some of whom were carrying white flags.

The Zionist military had ordered the evacuation of the hospital and surrounding areas last month. But as with other health facilities,

(Continued on Page 7)

Report: U.S. Greenlights Israeli Invasion of Rafah

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) -- The U.S. has given Israel the green light to kill civilians in Rafah despite public comments from U.S. officials calling for the occupying regime to come up with a plan to protect civilians in the city, which is packed with an estimated 1.5 million Palestinians.

U.S. officials told POLITICO that the Biden administration was not planning any consequences for Israel if it went ahead with a major assault on Rafah, which would inevitably kill a huge number of civilians. "No reprimand plans are in the works, meaning Israeli forces could enter the city and harm civilians without facing American consequences," the report read.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby made clear at a press conference on Monday that the U.S. wasn't thinking about cutting off Israel from military aid if it went ahead with the assault. When asked if the U.S. has threatened to withhold aid, Kirby said, "We're going to continue to support Israel... And we're going to continue to make sure they have the

tools and the capabilities to do that." President Biden is also not reconsidering his full-throated support for the Israeli slaughter in Gaza despite reports of him disparaging Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in private conversations.

Congress is also on board with continuing to support the mass killing of Palestinians as the Senate voted to pass a \$95 billion foreign military aid bill that includes \$14 billion for the Zionist regime. Only 20 Republicans voted for the bill, but the opposition is due to the lack of a border deal, as virtually all Republicans are in favor of unconditional support for Israel, even more so than Democrats in Congress.

Rafah's pre-war population was 275,000, meaning Palestinians displaced from other areas of the Strip increased the population fivefold. The majority of the Palestinians in the city are sheltering in tents in the streets, leaving them especially vulnerable to an Israeli attack. Israeli airstrikes on Rafah on Sunday night into Monday morning martyred 27 children and 22 women.

Indian Police Confront Farmers Marching on Capital

NEW DELHI (AP) — Protesting Indian farmers clashed with police for a second consecutive day on Wednesday as tens of thousands tried to march to the capital to demand guaranteed prices for their produce.

Police fired tear gas at the farmers near the Shambhu border, which divides northern Punjab and Haryana states, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) from New Delhi. TV images also showed police using drones to drop tear gas canisters on the farmers, who tried to break through barricades made of cement blocks and barbed wires.

Tens of thousands of farmers, traveling on trucks and wagons loaded with food and other supplies, began marching toward the capital on Tuesday after talks between farm leaders and government ministers failed to produce any consensus on their key demand for legislation guaranteeing a minimum support price for their produce.

The farmers are also pressing the government to follow through on its promise to double their income, waive their loans and withdraw legal cases brought against them during earlier 2021 protests, when they camped on the capital's outskirts to demonstrate against controversial agriculture laws. Prime Minister Narendra Modi later withdrew the laws in a rare retreat and promised to find ways to ensure minimum support prices for all farm produce.

Some farmer and trade unions have announced a countrywide rural strike on Friday.

"We don't want the government to say that farmers were being invited for talks but they are not coming. So we said that we are ready to have a discussion," Jagjit Singh Dallewal, a leader of one of the farmer groups, told reporters.

Police in riot gear maintained tight security at multiple entry points into New Delhi to prevent the farmers from entering the capital.

(Continued on Page 7)