

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has donated 20 billion rials to aid indigent prisoners convicted of unintentional crimes.

Ayatollah Khamenei's contribution is a symbolic act of kindness to encourage others to help those in need, especially people who find themselves behind bars for crimes they did not intend to commit.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -- SpaceX is building a network of hundreds of spy satellites under a classified contract with a U.S. intelligence agency, five sources familiar with the program said, demonstrating deepening ties between billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's space company and national security agencies. The network is being built by SpaceX's Starshield business unit under a \$1.8 billion contract signed in 2021 with the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), an intelligence agency that manages spy satellites, the sources said. The plans show the extent of SpaceX's involvement in U.S. intelligence (Continued on Page 7)

### Viewpoint

## Deadly Repercussion in Store for Indifference to Gaza Holocaust

## Iran Warns Zionists Over 'Brazen' Disintegration Hint



## Taekwondo Athlete Arian Salimi Books 2024 Paris Place



## UN Agency: One in Three Children Under 2 in Gaza Acutely Malnourished



## Imam Reza (AS) Turns the Tables on Mamoun

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

*"Invoke Allah, ask for forgiveness, recite the Qur'an and repent to Allah for your sins more frequently, so that the blessings of the month of Ramadhan may come to you, while you are sincere to Allah, the Exalted."*

This gem of a saying on the bounties of the fasting month of Ramadhan is from 8<sup>th</sup> Infallible Successor of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger to all mankind with the universal message of Islam. Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

He is Imam Ali ar-Reza (AS), who rests in peace in the city of Mashhad in Khorasan, northeastern Iran, and his words are indeed food for thought for us.

Undoubtedly, this hadith opens up the minds of believers to the Infinite Mercy of our Loving Creator, strengthens the spirit for self and social reform, purifies the soul for pursuit of perfection in life, and makes the hearts receptive to Divine Guidance, all of which are vital requirements for the bliss of paradise in the Hereafter.

Imam Reza (AS) needs no introduction. He was the son and successor of Imam Musa al-Kazem (AS) and the grandson and heir of Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS), and through him the legatee of the dynamic legacy of the Martyr of Karbala, Imam Husain (AS), and the Commander of the Faithful Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS).

He is one of Twelve Divinely-Designated Infallible Heirs of the Prophet. That is the reason his sprawling golden-domed mausoleum in Mashhad attracts millions of pilgrims from all over Iran and from around the world throughout the year.

Thus, anyone who feigns ignorance about him knows little about Muslims but nothing about Islam, even if such a person fasts in Ramadhan, is punctual in performance of the daily ritual prayers, has undertaken the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, and recites the Holy Qur'an. A question might arise: How come, his final resting place happens to be in Iran, when he was born in Medina and spent his whole life there?

Today, the 6<sup>th</sup> of Ramadhan not just provides the answer to this question but brings into sharper focus his status as the rightful successor of the Seal of Messengers, a position which no king or caliph could seize from him.

It was on this day in 201 AH (811 AD) when Imam Reza (AS) turned the tables on Mamoun, the self-styled caliph of the usurper Abbasid regime, who in order to deceive the Muslim masses tried to declare the Prophet's 8<sup>th</sup> Infallible Heir as his own Heir-Apparent by holding a grand gala ceremony in the city of Marv (currently in Turkmenistan).

The feast was complete with all sorts of fruits and sumptuous food for Iftar of the dignitaries assembled, while poets sang praises and had their hands, and even mouths, stuffed with pearls and jewels from the public treasury – the looted wealth of the Muslim people. The Black Insignia of the Abbasids was replaced by the Green Insignia of the Ahl al-Bayt of the Prophet, and coins were circulated proclaiming the 53-year-old middle-aged Imam Reza (AS) as Heir-Apparent of the young 33-year-old Mamoun.

What did the Abbasid ruler, whose coffers overflowed with gold, silver and diamonds; and whose armies inspired awe in the hearts of the emperors of China, Byzantium and the Franks of Europe as well as the various Rajahs of India, lack?

Why did he go to such great lengths to honour a person neither possessing any material wealth nor having any soldiers at his command?

The answers are simple. Mamoun and his regime lacked legitimacy to rule the Ummah.

The caliphate, which Mamoun had inherited, was neither based on God's commandments in the Holy Qur'an, nor was it in accordance with the instructions of the Prophet of Islam.

The Abbasids had taken it through military might in 132 AH from the equally tyrannical Omayyads, who in turn had seized it from the Prophet's Infallible Ahl al-Bayt, when in 41 AH the hypocrite Mu'awiyya ibn Abu Sufyan resorted to threats and bribing of the Muslims to snatch the caliphate from the Prophet's elder grandson Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS).

He then passed it on to his Godless son, Yazid, in violation of the treaty that stipulated the return of caliphate to Imam Hasan (AS), and if he was not alive, to the Prophet's younger grandson, Imam Husain (AS).

Thus, the real intention of Mamoun was to deceive Muslims, especially the Iranians, into believing that a member of the Prophet's Immaculate Ahl al-Bayt was being honoured and entrusted with state responsibilities. He also wanted to tarnish the image of the Imamate through political trappings and court ceremonies.

He, however, miserably failed in his devilish plan to drive a wedge between the Imam and the Ummah, when Imam Reza (AS) politely refused the offer of caliphate with the words:

*"If the caliphate is really yours, you ought not to give others what God has given you as a trust; and if it does not belong to you, how can you give to others what is not yours?"*

In this way, the 8<sup>th</sup> Imam exposed the fallacy of the caliphate that owed its illegal origins to the gathering of Saqifa Bani Sa'da in Medina, where in 11 AH, while the Last and Greatest Messenger was being laid to rest by his bereaved household, the right of political leadership of Imam Ali (AS), the Prophet's cousin, son-in-law, and Divinely-Designated Vicegerent, was usurped.

During his less than two years of stay in Khorasan, before achieving martyrdom at the hands of the stupefied caliph, Imam Reza (AS), through his prudent policy of shunning politics and through his memorable debates with the scholars of various religions and philosophical schools, proved the dynamism of Islam and the righteous path of the Ahl al-Bayt, which is firmly based on the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of his ancestor Prophet Mohammad (SAWA).

As the Divinely-Designated Heir of the Prophet, he expounded the genuine teachings of Islam to the people, and removed so many doubts and even lies heaped upon the righteous servants of God, such as his own illustrious ancestor, Abu Taleb – the uncle and guardian of the Prophet of Islam.

Once when a certain Aban bin Mahmood wrote a letter asking him whether Abu Taleb was a Muslim, Imam Reza (AS) in reply cited Ayah 115 of Surah Nisa "whoever defies the Prophet, after the guidance has become manifest to him, and follows a way other than that of the faithful, We shall abandon him to his devices and We shall make him enter hell, and it is an evil destination".

The Imam then added: "If you do not believe that Abu Taleb was a believer, your destination will be in the fire."

In this way, Imam Reza (AS) exposed as hypocrites those who accuse Abu Taleb of being an unbeliever, despite the fact that till the last moments of his life he not only guarded his dear nephew but also Islam and the neo Muslim community, whom he took under his protection and retired to the gorge outside Mecca, known till this day as "She'b Abi Taleb", when the pagan Arabs (who over a decade later were to usurp the caliphate on pretending conversion to Islam) imposed the 3-year socio-economic boycott on the Prophet.

# Resistance Groups Agree to Synchronize Operations



Yemenis protest after Friday prayers near the iconic Great Mosque of Sanaa in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza on Feb 2, 2024.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Senior figures from Hamas and Yemen's Ansarullah, in a significant meeting last week, have agreed to synchronize their strategies against Israel, marking a pivotal moment in the Middle East's geopolitical landscape.

The congregation of the entities, under the "axis of resistance," aims to intensify their collective actions against Israeli atrocities and genocide in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The confluence of the resistance groups, including the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, with Yemeni representatives, underscores a broader strategy to bolster their resistance against the Zionist regime.

AFP quoted unnamed Palestinian sources as saying that the "important" meeting was held last week to discuss "mechanisms for coordinating resistance actions" against Israel.

The discussions centered on coordinating actions for the "next stage" of conflict, signaling a potentially escalated and unified campaign.

Amidst concerns of an Israeli ground onslaught in southern Gaza's Rafah, the commitment from the Yemenis to continue targeting Red Sea shipping in solidarity with the Palestinian cause adds a critical dimension to the regional resistance landscape.

The Yemeni resistance move-

ment, the report said, vowed to keep up its retaliatory attacks on the Israeli-owned and -bound vessels in the Red Sea in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

"The Ansarullah movement confirmed during the meeting that it will continue its operations in the Red Sea against ships heading to the enemy (Israel) to support the Palestinian resistance," one of the unknown sources was quoted as saying.

"The meeting also discussed the complementary role of Ansarullah with the Palestinian factions, given the possibility of Israel invading Rafah."

The news agency did not specify the location of the meeting in addition to the names of the leaders of the Palestinian resistance groups and the Ansarullah participating in it.

Ansarullah leader Abdul Malik al-Houthi said in a televised speech on Thursday that the Yemeni armed forces would continue their retaliatory operations against Israeli-affiliated commercial vessels, preventing the passage of the ships even through the Indian Ocean and through the Cape of Good Hope.

Houthi said 73 ships had been targeted in Yemeni operations in support of Gaza since mid-November.

Yemenis have declared their open support for Palestine's (Continued on Page 7)

## Israeli Media: Hezbollah Taking Israel to Stone Age

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Israeli media outlets have scoffed at previous statements by the regime's officials that Tel Aviv will "return Lebanon to the Stone Age" in any war against Hezbollah.

The reality is the opposite and the Lebanese resistance movement is inflicting heavy losses on Israeli forces, they said.

Hebrew-language Hadashot Bazaman news website re-posted a video on Saturday published by the military media bureau of Hezbollah, adding a voiceover of several Israeli authorities, notably war minister Yoav Gallant, that Hezbollah and Lebanon will be "eroded" if war breaks out.

The video featured a bold title asking "Who is taking who to the Stone Age?"

Earlier, the head of the Margalot settlement council, Eitan Davidi, had said Gallant, who once threatened to set back Lebanon to the Stone Age, has found himself in an embarrassing situation.

Davidi pointed to a blackout experienced in the aftermath of a rocket attack launched by Hezbollah on the Upper Galilee region,

complaining, "Our settlements have ultimately been left without electricity, and we ended up being reverted to the Stone Age."

Israeli daily newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth on Thursday shed light on the situation facing individuals living in settlements built in the northern sector of the 1948 occupied territories.

According to the newspaper, the settlers are "depressed" and are posing questions such as "What do we do to end the nightmare of Hezbollah rockets?"

Yedioth Ahronoth cited an Israeli settler living in one of the settlements near the border with Lebanon as saying that "settlers there live among Hezbollah rockets," describing the situation as "terrible."

The newspaper noted that more than 60,000 residents of Galilee settlements have been displaced, and evacuated to other settlements since the start of the fighting in early October.

On Saturday, Hezbollah resistance fighters struck Israeli troops near the border with southern (Continued on Page 7)

## Israeli Airstrike Kills 36 Members of Same Family in Gaza

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) -- Displaced by Israeli bombardment, the Tabatibi family gathered in central Gaza to eat together during the first Friday night of Ramadan, a scene that soon turned into a bloodbath.

An airstrike hit the building where they were staying as women prepared the pre-fasting meal, martyring 36 members of the family, survivors told AFP on Saturday.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, which provided the same death toll, blamed the Zionist regime for the strike in Nuseirat, while the Israeli military said it was looking into the incident.

"This is my mother, this is my father, this is my aunt, and these are my brothers," 19-year-old Muhammad al-Tabatibi, whose left hand was injured in the strike, said through tears at the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in nearby Deir al-Balah.

"They bombed the house while we were in it. My mother and my aunt were preparing the suhoor food. They were all martyred."

He spoke as bodies were spread out in the hospital courtyard, then stacked on a truck to be driven to a cemetery.

Because there were not enough body bags, some of the dead — including at least two children — were wrapped in white cloth stained with blood, AFPTV footage showed.

The strike in Nuseirat was one of 60 "deadly airstrikes" reported overnight by the press office of the government, from Gaza City in the north to Rafah in the south.

"This is a bloody night, a very bloody night," said Salama Maarouf of the government media office.

Israel's military invasion to destroy Gaza has martyred at least 31,553 people, mostly women and children, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

In Rafah, where the majority of Gaza's 2.4 million people have sought refuge, more bloodshed is feared after Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said (Continued on Page 7)