

Leader Condoles 'Martyrdom' of Hujjat al-Islam Soleimani

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei offered a message of condolence following the assassination of Hujjat al-Islam Abbasali Soleimani. "Following the assassination and martyrdom of the late Hujjat al-Islam Mr. Haj Sheikh Abbasali Soleimani (may God bestow His mercy on him), I would like to offer my condolences to his honorable family and fond friends. He was a member of the Assembly of Experts, was the Imam of Friday prayers in Zahedan and Kashan for many years, and continuously working to serve the Islamic Republic. I ask God, the Almighty, to elevate his rank and to accept the services he offered," the Leader's message read.

Kayhan International

Germany's Call to Reverse Sentence 'Meddlesome'

TEHRAN -- Iran has dismissed Germany's call to reverse the death sentence for the ringleader of a U.S.-based terrorist group, stating that it will not seek permission to deliver justice regarding terrorists. On Wednesday, Iran's Supreme Court upheld the death penalty for Jamshid Sharmahd after finding no reason or evidence to reverse the ruling. Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock urged Tehran to reverse the verdict, calling it "completely unacceptable." Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani criticized Germany's "meddlesome approach," stating that Iran would never seek permission to confront terrorism and implement justice. Kanaani warned that such positions "encourage terrorists" and "promote terrorism" worldwide, and urged German officials to end their "operation to encourage terrorists."


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Viewpoint

Why Does Germany Support Terrorists & Zionists

Senior Politician:

Referendum on Principles Out of Question



Iranian Female Athlete Wins Gold at Asian Para Canoe Championships



Zionist Troops Martyr Palestinians, Resistance Vows Retaliation



Time to Jannat al-Baqi

By: Kayhan Int'l Cultural Desk

"Peace upon you O Imams of guidance;
 "Peace upon you O Proofs of Allah for the people of the earth;
 "Peace upon you who were steadfast in dealing with people with justice;
 "Peace upon you O Progeny of the Prophet of Allah;



The above passage is part of the Special Ziyarah for Four of the Twelve Infallible Heirs of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) who repose in the holy city of Medina in the sacred graveyard of Jannat al-Baqi, which alas lies in a dilapidated state, ever since it was desecrated and demolished exactly ninety-nine lunar years ago 8th Shawwal in the year 1345 AH (21st April 1926) following the occupation of Hijaz, the Land of Divine Revelation by Abdul-Aziz Aal-e Saud.

We offer condolences to our readers on this doleful day that saw destruction of the tombs of the aunts, an uncle, wives, and companions of the Prophet, by vandals who also destroyed the most hallowed edifice of all, the domed white mausoleum under which reposed in eternal peace four of his Divinely-designated successor – Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba (AS), Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS), Imam Muhammad al-Baqer (AS) and Imam Ja'far as-Sadeq (AS).

The vandals intended to demolish the sacred mausoleum of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Prophet as well, but fear of the Muslim World, which might mount a joint operation, rather than fear of God, made them desist from destruction of the Prophet's shrine.

Alas, the vandals did not content themselves with the destruction of Jannat al-Baqie, but went on to demolish the tombs of the Martyrs of the decisive Battle of Ohad, including the Prophet's uncle, Hamza (AS). They then desecrated and destroyed the other sacred cemetery of Islam in Hijaz, 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 (or Mother of True Believers) Hazrat Khadija, the Prophet's infant son, Hazrat Qassem, the Prophet's uncle and guardian, Hazrat Abu Taleb, the Prophet's grandfather, Hazrat Abdul-Mutalib and other members of the monotheistic Bani Hashem clan (peace upon them all).

The vandals thought that through such devilish acts they would erase memories from Muslim minds of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, little realizing that those chosen and exalted by God are always alive in the hearts of the faithful.

For years, since the 1953 Conference in Karachi where King Abdul-Aziz had promised to allow reconstruction of the Jannat al-Baqi Cemetery before he died the same years, Iran and Muslims around the world have been urging Saudi Arabia for its rebuilding.

It is hoped that now with the improvement of relations between Tehran and Riyadh, the renovation of this sacred graveyard will take place. Jannat al-Baqi, however, is not a political issue, but is a religious one, in view of the habit of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) to visit it regularly and greet the graves with the words:

"Peace upon you, O Abode of the Faithful! God Willing, we will soon join you. O' Allah, shower mercy on the denizens of al-Baqi". He has also said: "Whoever visits my grave but does not visit the grave of my uncle Hamza, has indeed been unkind to me."

This statement of the Messenger of Mercy is found in all relevant Islamic texts, including those of out Sunni brethren, who have diligently recorded in their hadith collections the habit of the Prophet of Islam in regularly visiting the Baqi Cemetery of Medina and saluting his deceased companions. They have also narrated from him rewards reserved by God Almighty for Muslims who visit the graves of their brethren-in-faith to recite the requiem.

Thus, it was not for no reason that the Seal of Prophets bequeathed to the Ummah these immortal guidelines for greeting in the proper manner those who while alive had served the cause of Islam and departed from the world as true Muslims.

He knew that a time will come when certain ignorant and deviant persons would desecrate the graves of Muslims, and will not even hesitate to demolish the blessed tombs of martyrs, including the holy shrines of the Infallible Imams of his Household, the Ahl al-Bayt, whose pristine purity has been vouchsafed by God Almighty Himself in the holy Qur'an.

We are confident that the day will soon come when Jannat al-Baqi will be rebuilt and Muslims from all over the world flock for pilgrimage to the holy shrines of the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt, relatives and righteous companions. Amen

Iranian FM at Maroun al-Ras



The statue of Gen. Qassem Soleimani at Maroun al-Ras pointing at Occupied Palestine a kilometer away. Inset shows Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian, left, looking out at Occupied Palestine from Lebanon's border during a tour on April 28, 2023.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) – Iran's foreign minister toured Lebanon's border with Occupied Palestine Friday during a visit to the Arab nation, and was documented looking out at the Zionist-controlled territories.

Hussein Amir-Abdollahian took the tour with a number of Lebanese parliamentarians and mem-

bers of Hezbollah, after meeting with the resistance movement's chief Hassan Nasrallah.

Amir-Abdollahian said Nasrallah assured him that "the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance are in their best condition ever".

He said the two also discussed the recent Iranian-Saudi deal to restore diplomatic ties, and its ef-

fect on the region.

At the lookout point toward Occupied Palestine from the town of Maroun al-Ras, Amir-Abdollahian said "positive developments in the region will lead to the collapse of the Zionist entity," adding that "Zionists understand only strength."

The minister echoed Nasrallah's

assertion that the Zionist regime is in its worst shape and facing multi-layered political, social and security crises.

"Lebanon's resistance proved that the Zionists only understand the language of force and that resistance is the most important option that has brought security, comfort and preservation of territorial integrity to Lebanon," he said.

The minister said Iran continues to "support the resistance in the face of the Zionist enemy" and will back Lebanon "even in difficult days." He also planted a tree in the area.

The Iranian diplomat's visit could be seen as something of a response to Zionist foreign minister Eli Cohen's trip to Turkmenistan last week, where he opened an embassy just a few miles from the border with Iran.

On Thursday, visiting Beirut, Amir-Abdollahian urged the government there to overcome political deadlock and elect a president.

"We will support any election and agreement reached between all Lebanese sides... and we call on other foreign parties to respect the choice of the Lebanese without interfering in the country's affairs," he added.

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Christian Martyr Laid to Rest After 38 years

TEHRAN -- Iranian people, officials and religious figures on Friday attended the funeral of Johnny Bet Oshana, an Assyrian Christian martyr whose remains have been found 38 years after the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s.

The martyr had been identified through

DNA testing on his remains and was brought back to the homeland from the Iraqi soil.

Bet Oshana was martyred east of Iraq's Tigris River in March 1985, but his body had since remained there and gone missing.

A farewell ceremony was held at Behesht-

e Zahra cemetery in southern Tehran on Wednesday evening. On Friday, an Assyrian Christian church in Tehran held a special ceremony for the martyr and his remains were taken to Islamshahr, south of the capital, for burial.

President Opens Major Energy Projects in Khuzestan

TEHRAN -- The Iranian government has opened a series of major electricity projects in the energy-rich province of Khuzestan in its southwest amid plans to boost business activity in the region.

President Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday opened a 307 megawatt (MW) power plant in Do Kuh area near the city of Andimeshk in Khuzestan, Press TV reported.

The gas-fired electricity station is a first phase of a combined cycle power plant in Do Kuh which includes an unfinished steam unit with a generation capacity of 144 MW.

The government has spent some 142 million euros on the construction of the gas unit of the Do Kuh power plant, according to a report by Raisi's website, which added that the power plant will create 100 permanent jobs in the region.

The report said the F-class power plant will have an efficiency

rate of 58%, one of the highest in Iran.

Using a video conference link, Raisi also inaugurated dozens of other water and electricity projects across Khuzestan, a province of more than five million people which is home to some of Iran's largest oilfields.

Among the projects was a 196 MW steam unit in the West Karun power plant, a project which will boost electricity supply to oilfields near Iran's border with Iraq. The power plant unit, which had been opened in July last year, was synchronized with the national power grid in Iran on Thursday.

The official IRNA news agency said a total of 33 new energy projects with an investment of 87 trillion rials (\$174 million) were opened during Raisi's visit to Khuzestan.

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Navy Seizes Fleeing U.S.-Bound Oil Tanker

TEHRAN -- Iran seized a U.S.-bound oil tanker off Oman on Thursday, saying it had crashed into an Iranian vessel leaving two crew missing.

"Following the collision of an unknown ship with an Iranian vessel in the waters of the Persian Gulf two of the vessel's crew went missing and several others were injured," the Iranian navy said in a statement.

"The navy of the army, by court order, seized the violator ship, that was fleeing with the flag of the Marshall Islands, and directed it to the coastal waters of the Islamic republic of Iran," it added.

The Iranian naval forces deployed to Chabahar port in southern Iran on a Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC) mission intercepted and seized the foreign ship in the Sea of Oman after having

been contacted by the Maritime Surveillance and Rescue Center (MRCC).

The vessel was seized by Bayandor corvette of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy in compliance with a confiscation order issued by Iranian judicial authorities.

Iran and the United States have traded barbs over the incidents in the sensitive waters of the Persian Gulf that are a chokepoint for at least a third of the world's seaborne oil.

The U.S. Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet identified the vessel as the Advantage Sweet. Satellite tracking data for the vessel from MarineTraffic.com showed it in the Gulf of Oman, just north of Oman's capital, Muscat, on Thursday afternoon. It had just come from Kuwait and listed its destination as Houston.

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