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Leader Pardons, Commutes Sentences of 2,654 Inmates



Ayatollah Khamenei regularly issues pardon on special occasions such as religious festivities.

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has pardoned or commuted the sentences of 2,654 inmates on the occasion of Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Ghadir celebrations.

The Leader's decision came in response to a letter from Iran's Judiciary chief Gholamhussein Mohseni-Ejei regarding prisoners found eligible for receiving clemency by the relevant judicial authority.

Ayatollah Khamenei regularly issues such decrees on special occasions such as religious festivities.

Article 110 of the Constitution Law gives the leader the right to pardon or reduce the sentences of prisoners upon the request of the

Chief of the Judiciary.

The clemency, however, does not apply to all types of prisoners, including those who have been sentenced for their role in armed struggle against the country, armed or organized drug trafficking, rape, armed robbery, arms smuggling, abduction, bribery, and embezzlement.

Eid al-Adha, the Feast of Sacrifice, is held on the 10th of Dhul-Hajjah, the twelfth and final month of the Islamic calendar, and commemorates Prophet Abraham's acknowledgment of a divine order to sacrifice his son.

Upon submitting to God's will, Ibrahim was exempted from performing the order and was offered

a ram to sacrifice instead.

Muslims around the world mark the festival, which comes as the annual Hajj season in Saudi Arabia draws to a close, by sacrificing livestock to be distributed among the needy.

Eid al-Ghadir is considered one of the fundamental events for Shia Muslims as it marks the day when Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) appointed Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) as his successor and the next leader of Muslims.

The event is celebrated annually around the world by Shia Muslims. In Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and several other countries masses celebrate Eid al-Ghadir on the 18th of Dhul-Hajjah.

FM Bagheri Kani Urges Muslim Action to Stop Israeli Carnage

TEHRAN -- The interim Iranian foreign minister has called upon Muslim and freedom-loving nations to stand in solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and impose a complete embargo on all commercial dealings with Israel to force the regime to stop its genocidal war on the coastal sliver.

Ali Bagheri Kani appealed in separate congratulatory messages addressed to the foreign ministers of Muslim countries on the occasion of Eid al-Adha, also known as the Feast of Sacrifice.

He described Eid al-Adha as a great opportunity to foster solidarity among Muslim countries, and also to remind them of their responsibilities for achievement of common goals, promotion of justice and establishment of global peace.

"While Eid al-Adha is an auspicious day for all Muslim countries, Muslims in the occupied Palestinian territories have been suffering for more than eight months in light of the silence of international agencies and the support of Western states for the most horrible creatures in the world. They themselves will fall victim to the op-

pression, injustice and vicious attacks of the Zionist regime.

"The people of the Gaza Strip offer Eid prayers at the time that the savage Zionist regime has reduced houses and mosques into rubble, and the residents of the territory are awaiting either their martyrdom or the loss of their children at any time," Bagheri Kani said.

He also said the exceptional resilience, as well as historic and infinite patience of the oppressed Palestinian people against the crimes of the child-killing and apartheid Zionist regime, have turned the Palestinian issue into the gravest crisis of humankind.

"All Muslim countries and freedom-loving nations of the world are, therefore, expected to strongly stand with Palestinians, and promptly end the ongoing massacre and genocide through imposition of a comprehensive boycott, and condemnation of the crimes of the racist regime."

Bagheri Kani finally prayed for the well-being, success, prosperity, and happiness of Muslim nations under the auspices of global peace.

Separately, Iran's interim foreign minister said Muslim

countries should take joint action and exert pressure on Israel to end its crimes against the people of Palestine.

In a phone conversation with the Taliban's caretaker foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, Bagheri Kani urged member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to stop Israel's criminal acts.

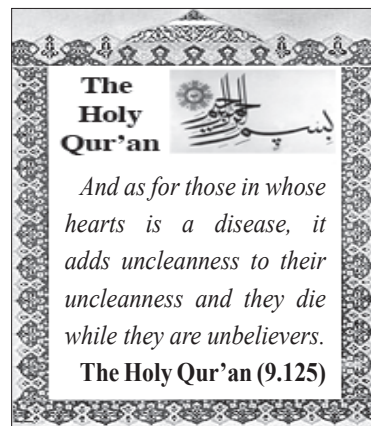
The minister hailed South Africa's move to file a genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and a move by a number of Latin American states to sever ties with the regime.

Bagheri Kani also reiterated Iran's determination to help Afghanistan overcome challenges and achieve progress.

He said Tehran is ready to cooperate with Kabul in various fields and help the Afghan people.

Muttaqi, for his part, extended his congratulations to Bagheri Kani over the Muslim festivity of Eid al-Adha (Feast of Sacrifice).

He said Iran and Afghanistan have good relations and hoped the two countries would further promote cooperation in various sectors.



PRAYER TIMINGS	
Noon (Zohr)	12:06
Evening (Maghreb)	19:44
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:48
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:02

Mokhber, Sharif Discuss Gaza, Partnership

TEHRAN -- Iran's interim President Muhammad Mokhber has called for unity among Muslim countries in order to put an end to the Zionist regime's ongoing genocidal war in the besieged Gaza Strip.

In a phone conversation with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the Iranian interim president praised the enthusiastic support of the Pakistani people for Palestinians in Gaza as well as the Pakistani government's clear position on the Zionist regime's crimes.

Mokhber said it is necessary for all Muslim countries to form a united front to prevent the continuation of Zionists' crimes in Gaza.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Iran's interim president slammed war, violence and terrorism as "the legacy of the world's bullies and arrogant powers for the oppressed nations," stressing that Muslim countries must join hands to eliminate this ominous legacy from their lands.

Mokhber also touched on the agreements signed between Tehran and Islamabad during a visit by the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi to Pakistan.

Noting that the two countries have agreed to increase the volume of trade and economic exchanges to 10 billion dollars a year, he expressed hope that this important goal would be achieved through the two countries' efforts and removal of trade barriers.

Mokhber said Iran has always viewed Pakistan as a strategic partner, underlining the determination of the two countries' high-ranking officials to further promote bilateral ties in various political, economic and cultural spheres.

The Pakistani prime minister, for his part, described the two countries' relations as long-standing, historical and based on profound cultural and religious commonalities.

He said the late Iranian president's trip to Pakistan opened a new chapter in bilateral relations, stressing that Islamabad is determined to implement the agreements reached during that trip, including boosting the two countries' trade volume to 10 billion dollars.

Heading a high-ranking politico-economic delegation, Iran's late President Raeisi traveled to Pakistan on April 22 on a key official visit aimed at promoting security and trade ties. His visit to Pakistan was part of a regional tour, which also took him to Sri Lanka.

E3 Statement on Iran's Nuclear Program 'Absurd'

TEHRAN -- Iran has strongly condemned a recent statement issued by three European countries on Tehran's peaceful nuclear program as absurd and based on false allegations.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the statement released by the UK, France and Germany lacks credibility.

"As it has been announced time and again, Iran's nuclear program has a completely peaceful nature and nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's military and defense doctrine," the ministry said.

"It is ironic that those countries, which have followed a political and unconstructive approach [to Iran's nuclear program] and are responsible for the current situation of the JCPOA, are now accusing Iran of hollowing out the agreement."

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, was a multilateral international agreement signed between Iran and five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany in 2015, which required Iran to scale back some of its nuclear activities in return for the lifting of cruel sanctions imposed on the country, especially by the United States.

However, former U.S. President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the agreement in May 2018, imposing severe economic sanctions against Tehran while Iran was adhering to its commitments under the deal and even continued to do so for a year after the U.S. withdrawal.

Gen. Pakpour: Agencies in Neighboring Countries Training Daesh

TEHRAN -- The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s Ground Force says Iran has identified some institutions in its neighboring countries that train terrorists.

Brigadier General Muhammad Pakpour said the enemy uses the capacity of Daesh and Salafi terrorist groups to destabilize the region.

"The enemy's agencies are tasked with developing and designing terrorist actions, as well as equipping, directing and organizing terrorists," he added.

"In some foreign countries, institutions are established for breeding terrorists and saboteurs... who are rented to commit acts of terror. Some of these institutions have been intercepted and identified in some neighboring states."

Pakpour also referred to the important and effective role played by the IRGC's Ground Force in protecting the security of people in the country.

Iranian forces have detected and neutralized many terrorist and anti-security conspiracies, he said, warning, however, that the enemy hatches new plots after every failure.

The IRGC commander further noted that 30 terrorists behind recent terrorist attacks in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province were foreigners who had received Daesh and Salafi teachings.

Back in April, the so-called Jaish ul-Adl terror outfit conducted deadly attacks against five locations, including public places and military and police bases, in Sistan and Baluchestan's Rask and Chabahar Counties.

Tehran started to reduce its commitments under the JCPOA in a series of pre-announced and clear steps after witnessing the other parties' failure to secure its interests under the agreement.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the foreign ministers of Britain, France and Germany condemned what they called "the latest steps" taken by Iran "to further expand its nuclear program."

They also accused Iran of taking "further steps in hollowing out the JCPOA, by operating dozens of additional advanced centrifuges at the Natanz enrichment site as well as announcing it will install thousands more centrifuges at both its Fordow and Natanz sites."

In its statement, the Foreign Ministry emphasized that Iran is committed to continuation of its constructive interaction and technical cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) within framework of its rights and obligations and "will continue its peaceful nuclear projects based on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Safeguards Agreement."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been ready to engage in interaction and constructive dialogue, and believes that show of goodwill and avoiding futile and failed political measures that were taken in the past, in addition to display of seriousness and a pragmatic approach are necessary for all involved parties in order to deal with issues at hand," the ministry said.