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## Nakhala: Iran President, FM Played Major Role in Victories of Resistance

TEHRAN -- The chief of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement says late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and former Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian played a major role in victories scored by the resistance factions.

"Martyr Raisi and Martyr Amir-Abdollahian scored significant gains for the resistance and the region and brought the positions of various countries closer to Palestine," Ziad al-Nakhaleh said at a ceremony here on Thursday.

"This was a gain for Palestine and the entire region," he told the event to mark the 40th day since the passing of President Raisi in a helicopter crash, hailing the country for taking the upheaval in its stride with fortitude and composure.

Referring to Israel's ongoing war on Gaza, Nakhaleh said President Raisi defended Palestine in all international forums, adding his statements are still "effective."

"We will not forget the positions of

the Iranian president and his martyred foreign minister in support of Palestine," he added.

The helicopter carrying president Raisi and his entourage crashed on its way to Tabriz, the capital of Iran's East Azarbaijan province.

Amir-Abdollahian along with Friday Prayers leader of Tabriz Muhammad Ali Al-e Hashem, and Malek Rahmati, the governor of East Azarbaijan Province, as well as crew members and a bodyguard also lost their lives in the crash.

The incident engulfed Iran in shock and grief and generated a groundswell of support and solidarity from Muslims and non-Muslims across the world.

Nakhaleh thanked Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and Iran's officials and nation for their unflinching support for the Palestinian people and resistance.

"God willing, we will continue together towards the victory of Al-Quds and Palestine," al-Nakhaleh added.

## Iran: Canada to Bear Full Responsibility for Blacklisting IRGC



Islamic Jihad chief Ziad al-Nakhaleh addresses a ceremony marking the 40th day since the passing of President Raisi in a helicopter crash, in Tehran on Thursday.

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the UN says Canada's move to designate the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist organization is unlawful, dangerous, and politically motivated."

In a letter addressed to the head of the UN Security Council and the secretary-general, Amir Saeed Iravani described the Canadian move as "a blatant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns in the strongest possible terms this illegal and provocative action by the Government of Canada and considers it a hostile act against the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as a grave threat to regional and international peace and security given the significant role of the IRGC in fighting against terrorism and extremism as well as in preserving peace and stability in our region," the ambassador wrote.

Last month, the Canadian House of Commons adopted a non-binding resolution calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to blacklist the IRGC and expel an estimated 700 Iranians.

In a hostile move against Iran, Canada's Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc Ottawa on Wednesday listed the IRGC as a "terrorist entity" under the Criminal Code and called on Canadians in Iran to leave.

The move makes Canada the second country in North America after the United States to blacklist the IRGC.

It is self-evident that Canada—

along with the U.S. and those who have publicly supported this internationally wrongful act—will bear full responsibility for all consequences of such reckless behavior, Iravani emphasized.

The ambassador said that a provocative act by Canada would heighten tensions in the Persian Gulf region.

"Given the IRGC's role, tasks, and mandate, which include ensuring maritime safety and security in the Persian Gulf, Sea of Oman, and beyond, the Government of Canada is well aware that its irresponsible and provocative act will heighten tensions and increase the risk of accidents and incidents between IRGC forces and the Canadian armed forces," he said.

The official pointed out that this was not the first time Canada had systematically violated norms, rules, and principles of international law against Iran.

"Canada has repeatedly breached fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations which my Country has already been prompted to institute legal proceedings against that Country before the International Court of Justice for grave violations," he said.

The ambassador also hailed slain Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani's major role in countering Daesh and other terrorist groups.

"The role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, especially Major General Qasem Soleimani, the hero Commander of the Quds Force of the IRGC, who was assassinated by U.S. forces at Baghdad

International Airport on 3 January 2020 during an official visit to Iraq at the Iraqi government's invitation, in battles against the UN Security Council designated terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda, Daesh, the Al-Nusra Front and other terrorist groups in the region, has been widely recognized and commended by affected people and governments in the region," he said.

"The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are resolute in their commitment to fulfill its regional responsibilities and counterterrorism efforts, as well as support regional nations and governments, upon request, in their efforts to eliminate foreign-backed terrorist groups."

Elsewhere in the letter, Iravani warned that the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its inherent right to take appropriate countermeasures under international law in response to this illegal action and serious violation by the Government of Canada.

The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry recently said Canada's unlawful decision to designate the IRGC as a terrorist group is "utter servility" to the Israeli regime.

In a social media post, Nasser Kan'ani said the Canadian government's move against the IRGC is not under recognized principles of international law and will bear no fruit.

Iran's Interim Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani has said that the Canadian government's move against the IRGC was a senseless gift to the bloodthirsty Israeli regime, terrorists and enemies of peace and stability in West Asia.

## FM Bagheri: Strong Ties With Azerbaijan a Priority

TEHRAN -- Interim Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri says strong relations with Azerbaijan are a top priority in Iran's foreign policy agenda.

In a meeting with Azerbaijan's Deputy Foreign Minister Samir Sharifov here Thursday, Bagheri said a joint economic projects have strategic importance for the two neighbors and the region.

He said numerous commonalities between the two countries are a valuable asset

for the promotion of ties in all fields.

He said Iran's foreign policy priority is to step up relations with Azerbaijan. Bagheri said deals signed between late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi and his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev in their last meeting are very crucial, and should immediately be implemented.

For his part, the Azeri deputy foreign minister said the last meeting between the presidents

of the two countries and the inauguration of two border dams were a symbol of goodwill between the two neighbors and a factor for the convergence of the two nations.

He said other joint projects, such as transportation projects, should be completed.

Sharifov stated that all possible obstacles in bilateral ties should be tackled and relations ties between Azerbaijan and Iran should serve as a model for neighborly relations.

The Holy Qur'an



Surely Allah has bought of the believers their persons and their property for this, that they shall have the garden; they fight in Allah's way, so they slay and are slain; a promise which is binding on Him in the Taurat and the Injeel and the Quran; and who is more faithful to his covenant than Allah?

The Holy Qur'an (9.11)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:08
Evening (Maghreb)	19:45
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:51
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:05

## Mokhber: Strategic Iran-Russia Ties Unchangeable

TEHRAN -- Iran's acting President Muhammad Mokhber has expressed satisfaction with the implementation of agreements between Iran and Russia, and termed strategic relations between the two countries unchangeable.

In a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Mokhber said the signing of an MoU on transfer of gas from Russia to Iran is a major step towards deepening relations between the two countries and bring about economic development to the region.

"The implementation of this plan will guarantee not only the economic interests of the two countries, but also the interests of the entire region," Iranian president said.

He expressed hope that the two countries' efforts to stabilize the region would achieve the desired results.

Mokhber also condemned a recent terrorist attack in Daghestan and expressed sympathy with the Russian government and people and the families of the victims.

Putin also expressed his satisfaction with the signing of a strategic joint memorandum for gas transfer.

The agreement, he said, is a big event in securing the interests of the two countries and strengthening bilateral cooperation for the benefit of the regional and international markets.

The Russian president called the increase in the level of trade exchanges between the two countries satisfactory and the exchange of diplomatic delegations as the best option to lay the groundwork for the development of relations.

Iran, he said, has proven that it does not leave bilateral cooperation on paper. Putin paid tribute to late president Ebrahim Raisi and his government for their seriousness in implementing agreements between the two countries.

## Judiciary Chief: West Has Instrumentalized Human Rights

TEHRAN -- Iran's Judiciary chief has called for an end to the discriminatory approaches of international bodies influenced by Western powers towards human rights violations, saying such double standards have weakened the rule of law worldwide.

Gholamhussein Mohseni Ejei made the remarks in a meeting with foreign ambassadors and heads of offices of international organizations here.

He said Iran believes the international community must fight against human rights violators without discrimination and not be swayed by Western powers, who have often exploited human rights as a means to further their own agenda.

"We believe that international institutions and organizations have often acted discriminately and have ignored blatant human rights violations, aligning themselves with the goals of global powers; the same powers that have repeatedly instrumentalized human rights to push their desires and political agenda."

The Judiciary chief highlighted the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza, expressing dismay that international organizations and human rights bodies have not taken effective measures to halt the atrocities.

"In the Gaza situation, the world has been a witness to the regime's brutal crimes and acts of genocide against the defenseless people for several months now," he said.

"It is evident how children and infants are being dismembered by missiles and heavy bombs, and, regrettably, human rights organizations and institutions have yet to act decisively to prevent these heinous crimes."

Mohseni Ejei also addressed Western double standard in combating terrorism, exemplified by their long-standing support for the terrorist Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO).

"After the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the MKO was responsible for the bloodshed of thousands of our citizens in the streets and markets."

The Iranian official was referring to a 1981 bombing by the MKO that resulted in the death of over 70 Iranian officials.

"The criminal leaders of the same terrorist group, with this disgraceful record, are under the protection of which countries? Why are these countries not willing to hand over these criminals to us or at least set restrictions against their activities?" he said.

The MKO has perpetrated numerous terrorist attacks against Iranian civilians and government officials since 1979. Of the nearly 17,000 Iranians who have been victims of terrorist attacks over the past four decades, approximately 12,000 have been killed by the MKO's acts of terror.

The group aligned with Saddam Hussein during Iraq's imposed war on Iran in the 1980s but lost favor with Baghdad following his overthrow by a U.S.-led invasion in 2003.

The European Union, Canada, the United States, and Japan had previously listed the MKO as a terrorist organization.

In 2012, the group was taken off the U.S. blacklist. The EU followed suit, removing the group from its list of terrorist organizations.