

Pezeshkian Meets Senior Palestinian Leader

TEHRAN -- President Masoud Pezeshkian said here Wednesday Iran is determined to continue its intensified efforts to mobilize international support for Gaza. "The utilization of all diplomatic and political capacities to immediately stop the Zionists' crimes in Gaza will continue," Pezeshkian told deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Jamil Mezher. The president said supporting the oppressed people around the world, especially the Palestinian nation, is an "unchangeable" policy of the Islamic Republic. "We will do everything in our power to support the oppressed Palestinian nation."

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Iran's Envoy: E3 in No Position to Trigger Snapback

GENEVA (Dispatches) -- Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said here Wednesday the three European signatories of the 2015 nuclear deal are in violation of the accord and therefore lack the legal authority to activate its "snapback mechanism" and reinstate international sanctions against Tehran. Reza Najafi, who represents Iran at the United Nations office and other international organizations in Vienna, made the remarks at the ongoing quarterly meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors, which began in Vienna two days earlier.

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Viewpoint

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Ayatollah Khamenei Demands From MPs: Decisive Response to Accusations Against Iran

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei here on Wednesday called on Iranian lawmakers to show unified, strong and decisive responses to ill-advised and accusatory comments against the Islamic Republic.

The Leader met with Parliament speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf and members of parliament, during which he extended congratulations on the occasion of Eid al-Ghadir.

Ayatollah Khamenei described the occasion as a truly significant day for the entire Islamic world, rich in profound concepts that lead to a deeper understanding of Islam.

The Leader highlighted the universally recognized legal stature of legislative bodies around the world, attributing their status to the profound significance of law itself.

"The law is a fundamental condition for the existence of social life," he said, adding that from a rational perspective, laws that are established by the collective intellect and a nation's representatives possess greater credibility and value.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution drew a distinction between the legal status and the actual weight of parliaments globally asserting that their moral and practical significance varies widely.

He noted that "the true standing and credibility of a parliament rooted in religion, composed of virtuous and honest individuals, and committed to justice, supporting the oppressed, and standing up to bullies, is vastly different from that of a parliament made up of irresponsible individuals, whose work contributes to oppression, discrimination, social inequality, and support for criminals such as the killers of Gazans".

Congratulating Bagher Ghalibaf on his re-election as the speaker of parliament, the Leader outlined key principles for upholding the true dignity of the Majlis.

He urged MPs to hold themselves accountable before both God and the law, prioritizing divine approval and the nation's welfare while resisting conflicts of interest.

He also underscored the significance

U.S. Protests Grow as Trump Escalates Militarization of Cities



This comb shows anti-ICE protests and police crackdown in downtown Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) -- Several U.S. cities braced for protests on Wednesday against President Donald Trump's sweeping immigration raids, as parts of the country's second largest city Los Angeles spent the night under curfew in an effort to quell five days of unrest.

The Governor of Texas, Republican Greg Abbott, said he will deploy the National Guard this week, ahead of planned protests. Protesters and police in Austin clashed on Monday.

Trump's extraordinary measures of sending National Guard and Marines to quell protests in Los Angeles has sparked a national debate on the use of military on U.S. soil and pitted the Republican president against California's Democrat governor.

"This brazen abuse of power by a sitting president inflamed a combustible situation, putting our people, our officers and even our National Guard at risk. That's

when the downward spiral began," California Governor Gavin Newsom said in a video address on Tuesday.

"He again chose escalation. He chose more force. He chose theatrics over public safety. ... Democracy is under assault."

Newsom, widely seen as preparing for a presidential run in 2028, and the state of California sued Trump and the Defense Department on Monday, seeking to block the deployment of federal troops. Trump in turn has suggested Newsom should be arrested.

Hundreds of U.S. Marines arrived in the Los Angeles area on Tuesday under orders from Trump, after he also ordered the deployment of 4,000 National Guard to the city. Marines and National Guard are to be used in the protection of government personnel and buildings and not in police action.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said the deployments were not necessary as police

could manage the protest, the majority of which have been peaceful, and limited to about five streets.

However, due to looting and violence at night she imposed a curfew over one square mile of the city's downtown, starting Tuesday night. The curfew will last several days.

Police said multiple groups stayed on the streets in some areas despite the curfew and "mass arrests" were initiated. Police earlier said that 197 people had already been arrested on Tuesday - more than double the total number of arrests to date.

Democratic leaders have raised concerns over a national crisis in what has become the most intense flashpoint yet in the Trump administration's efforts to deport migrants living in the country illegally, and then crack down on opponents who take to the streets in protest.

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Israeli Forces Massacre 60 Aid Seekers in Gaza

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) -- Israeli gunfire and airstrikes killed at least 60 Palestinians in Gaza on Wednesday, most of them near an aid site operated by the U.S-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation in the centre of the enclave, local health officials said.

Medical officials at Shifa and Al-Quds hospitals said at least 25 people were killed and dozens wounded as they approached a food distribution centre near the former Jewish settlement of Netzarim before dawn.

Israel's military, which has carrying out a genocidal war on Gaza since October 2023, said its forces fired warning shots overnight towards a group of suspects as they posed a

threat to troops in the area of the Netzarim Corridor.

Later on Wednesday, health officials at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip said at least 14 people had been killed by Israeli gunfire as they approached another GHF site in Rafah.

The foundation said it was unaware of Wednesday's incidents.

Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry says that since then, 163 Palestinians have been killed and over 1,000 wounded trying to obtain the food boxes.

The United Nations has condemned the killings and has refused to supply aid via the

foundation, which uses private contractors with Israeli military backup in what they say is a breach of humanitarian standards.

Elsewhere in Gaza on Wednesday, its health ministry said at least 11 other people were killed by separate Israeli gunfire and strikes across the coastal enclave.

The Palestinian death toll from the 20-month war has climbed past 55,000, the Gaza Health Ministry said Wednesday. It's a grim milestone in the Israel war that shows no sign of ending.

Israel has killed at least 120 Palestinians and injured another 474 in attacks across Gaza in the last 24 hours, the ministry said.

It said 55,104 people have been killed since the start of the war and 127,394 wounded. Many more are believed to be buried under the rubble or in areas that are inaccessible to local medics.

Israeli forces have destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced about 90% of its population and in recent weeks have transformed more than half of the coastal territory into a military buffer zone that includes the now mostly uninhabited southern city of Rafah.

A 2½-month blockade imposed by Israel when it ended a ceasefire with Hamas raised fears of famine and was slightly eased in May.

Israel's military campaign, one of the dead-

liest and most destructive since World War II, has transformed large parts of cities into mounds of rubble. Hundreds of thousands of people are living in squalid tent camps and unused schools, and the health system has been gutted, even as it copes with waves of wounded from Israeli strikes.

Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel will control Gaza indefinitely and facilitate what he refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of its population to other countries. The Palestinians and most of the international community reject such plans, viewing them as forcible expulsion that could violate international law.