

TEHRAN – Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi warned on Wednesday the enemies that they will receive a more crushing response if they launch a new act of aggression against Iran.

“In the event of any evil act from the enemies, our response will be more crushing than before,” he told reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony to honor the martyrs of the recent 12-day Israeli aggression.

Kayhan

International



TEHRAN -- Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said here Wednesday some 400,000 foreign nationals have returned to their home countries so far this year as part of the government's efforts to regulate unauthorized immigration.

Speaking after a cabinet meeting, Momeni stressed the need for a coordinated national approach to immigration management. “We cannot continue with a fragmented system where the police arrest individuals, return them, and then see them come back again”, he said.

Viewpoint

In Quest of Free Conscience

History's Most Heartrending Tragedy

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

“O soul at peace!
“Return to your Lord, pleased, pleasing!
“Then enter among My servants!
“And enter My paradise!” (Holy Qur'an 89:27-30)

We are in the state of mourning, although since last month for almost a thousand of our compatriots, including scientists, military commanders, athletes, teachers, traders and the other innocents martyred in the cowardly aerial bombing by the Zionist entity, our grief has increased manifold on the advent of the mourning month of Muharram.

It is the month in which the greatest ever tragedy occurred a millennium, three centuries and 86 years ago, whose anniversary we commemorate every year on Muharram 10 (July 6 this year) as the immortal epic of Ashura that continues to inspire us to wage Jihad and achieve martyrdom in order to defeat the forces of evil.

Ashura is the day on which we renew our pledge of allegiance to the person who transcends history and historical developments for having refused to give his hand in allegiance to a tyrannical and ungodly ruler.

When pressed further by the enemy forces, who threatened him with death, he gladly preferred to drink the elixir of martyrdom – not through a poison-filled cup, but in manly manner on the battlefield of an unequal combat.

It is obvious to the readers of this column, who he was. I, however, prefer to introduce him in his own words that reverberated on the plain of Karbala in 61 AH (680 AD), so clearly and so impressively that even the horses stopped whinnying when he delivered his famous sermon, after having seen his companions, his brothers, his nephews, and his sons, including the 6-month infant, slaughtered before his eyes:

“Now then! Consider my family, and ponder as to who I am and then admonish yourselves. Do you consider that it is lawful for you to kill me and harm my sanctity and dignity? Am I not the grandson of your Prophet and the son of his “Wasi” (Testamentary Legatee) and cousin, who was the foremost in belief and the bearer of witness upon everything that the Prophet had brought from Allah? Was not Hamza, the Chief of Martyrs, the uncle of my father? Was not Ja'far, who flies with two wings in Paradise, my uncle? Are you not aware of the Prophet's statement about me and my (elder) brother as Leaders of the Youths of Paradise? ... By Allah, between the east and the west there is no Son of the Prophet's Daughter except me, either amongst you or amongst others.”

This was Imam Husain (AS), the son of Hazrat Fatema az-Zahra (SA) and Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), whose immortal saga continues to inspire the seekers of truth all over the world to this day.

When the stonehearted Omayyad forces refused to heed the voice of reason and insisted that he give oath of allegiance to the libertine Yazid, he drew his sword and said:

“By Allah! I shall not give my hands in yours like a base man, nor shall I flee away like a slave.”

The account of his martyrdom is too tragic a scene to picture here. Readers can refer to authentic books of Hadith and history in this regard.

Imam Husain (AS) thus drew a permanent line between truth and falsehood, between faith and disbelief, and between humanity and beasts in human form, that continues to define the struggle between right and wrong right up to our own times.

If not for his heroic stand for the sake of justice and against injustice, mankind would have long lost all humanitarian values and become another of those rapacious animal species – though two-legged and with the power of speech and thinking – that wantonly tear apart each other.

Today, if some segments of the human race are behaving with the bestiality of devils while shamelessly calling themselves Muslims, it is clear that these are on the other side of the line drawn by the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA). By whatever denomination they go (Takfiri, Wahhabi, Salafi, Zionists, Yankees, etc.), they are an ugly blot on humanity, and their identity is clear.

It is worth noting that Imam Husain (AS) was not the victim of the Sabeans or their progeny posing as Muslims, and neither were his killers, Jews, Christians, Hindus, Zoroastrians, or their Islamized offspring.

Those who cruelly martyred him, and violated the letter and spirit of Islam by parading the Prophet's noble womenfolk and children as captives through the streets of Kufa and Damascus, were actually the sons of the polytheists of Arabia masquerading as Muslim.

In other words, they were the issue of Mecca's pagan Arab, who had plotted to kill Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) on the crucial night of Hijra, but had failed, because of the heroism of Imam Husain's (AS) father, Imam Ali (AS), to sleep on his cousin's bed to ensure that their intended victim would migrate undetected to Medina.

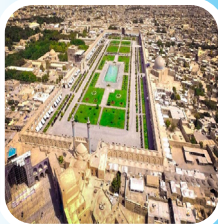
In Medina, these very same pagan Arabs in alliance with Israelites (progenitors of today's Zionists) would continue to fail despite imposing battles (sometimes in alliance with the Israelites) on the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messengers, because of the valour of Imam Ali (AS).

When the heads of the martyrs of Karbala reached Damascus, Yazid unmasked himself and his ill-begotten sires, when he gloated that if only his pagan ancestors killed in the Battles of Badr and Ohad (for opposing Islam) were alive to see how he had avenged their blood.

Similar to what the today's takfiris say in the depth of their hearts, the Godless Yazid burst out saying: The Hashemites played the game of kingdom; neither a prophet was there nor any revelation from heaven.

That is the reason we commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Husain (AS) and hail him as the Saviour of not just Islam, but of all humanitarian values.

Minister Calls on UNESCO to Protect Iran' Heritage From War



Iran Squad for 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup Qualification Named



Yemen Strikes Ben Gurion With Hypersonic Missile



Iran Shuts Door on IAEA Over U.S.-Israeli Collaboration



President Pezeshkian ordered all administrative organizations to implement a parliamentary directive to halt cooperation with the UN nuclear agency.

TEHRAN -- Iran on Wednesday formally suspended cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency for facilitating U.S. and Israeli attacks on its nuclear facilities.

President Masoud Pezeshkian ordered all administrative organizations to implement a parliamentary directive to halt cooperation, Tasnim news agency reported.

The Iranian parliament voted June 25 to suspend cooperation with the IAEA, one day after the

conclusion of a 12-day Israeli military aggression targeting Iranian sites. The decision was approved by the Supreme National Security Council and Constitutional Council.

In a CBS interview, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi acknowledged serious damage to the Fordow nuclear facility. “No one exactly knows what has transpired in Fordow. That being said, what we know so far is that the facilities have been seriously and heavily

damaged,” he said.

Government spokeswoman Fatima Mohajerani also confirmed significant damage to Iran's nuclear sites resulting from the attacks.

The Israeli aggression began shortly after the IAEA Board passed a resolution accusing Tehran of noncompliance with its nuclear obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The resolution was based on a political report by IAEA chief Rafael Grossi in May. Iran's Foreign Ministry said last

month the IAEA report helped pave the way for the June 13 Israeli strikes.

Tehran recently rejected Grossi's request to visit damaged nuclear sites.

Foreign Minister Araghchi criticized Grossi's insistence on visiting the sites as “meaningless and possibly even malign in intent.” The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has suggested it may pursue legal action against Grossi. The IAEA chief has been barred from entering Iran.

According to the Iranian parliament's bill, IAEA inspectors will not be permitted to enter Iran unless the security of the country's nuclear facilities and that of peaceful nuclear activities is guaranteed, which is subject to the approval of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

In an unprovoked act of aggression on June 13, Israel targeted Iranian military commanders and nuclear scientists who had previously been placed on sanctions lists based on IAEA reports as well as civilians.

On June 22, the U.S. bombed Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan nuclear sites in violation of the United Nations Charter, international law and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Grossi failed to condemn the aggressions, drawing criticisms from Iranian officials.

Report: Israeli Jets Dumped Iran Mission Bombs on Gaza

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Israeli fighter pilots returning from missions during the 12-day war with Iran were routinely authorized to unload their leftover munitions on the Gaza Strip, according to a report by Maariv on Wednesday.

The move, initially a pilot-led initiative to “assist” Israeli ground forces in Khan Yunis and northern Gaza, was quickly expanded by air force commander Tomer Bar into a daily operational policy across all squadrons.

The report outlines how, during the aggression, pilots assigned to intercept missiles and drones launched from Iran were equipped not only with air-to-air missiles but also with air-to-surface munitions.

After completing their Iran-related missions, pilots contacted Gaza operation control rooms and offered to drop remaining bombs on designated targets in the enclave.

Air force officials embraced the initiative. Within hours, the ad hoc proposal became standard practice, with squadrons instructed to coordinate with ground units

before landing and to strike Gaza on their return.

Military officials described the program as a “force multiplier” that allowed the air force to expand bombing raids in Gaza without additional resources.

“Instead of bouncing planes off the ground for an attack policy, planes that were already in the air carried out the missions,” an Israeli air force source told Maariv.

The result was what the report describes as “waves of powerful airstrikes” on the strip, far removed from the Iranian front. According to the Israeli military, dozens of fighter jets participated daily, each releasing surplus munitions over the besieged enclave before landing.

While presented as a resource-efficient strategy, the practice effectively turned Gaza into a secondary front in a war that had no operational connection to the territory.

The attacks were directed based on instructions from Israeli ground forces already operating in Khan Yunis and northern Gaza, (Continued on Page 7)

From Golan to Quneitra: Israel Expands Syria Occupation

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) -- Local sources in southern Syria say Israeli forces have established a new base on Eastern al-Ahmar hill in Quneitra governorate, according to a report by Lebanese daily Al-Akhbar.

The hill lies adjacent to a nearby Israeli base established months earlier on the western side of the same ridge.

Local tribal sources told Al-Akhbar that Israeli forces are “rapidly working to turn it into a key operational hub,” prompting fears among residents of a repeat of the destruction in Al-Hamidiyah, where on 17 June, troops demolished 16 homes.

A UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) patrol arrived ten days later only to assess the damage.

Israeli troops have also begun building a new outpost near Beer Ajam and stepped up patrols inside Syrian villages, including Abu Madrah farm near Saida al-Golan.

Roads connecting villages within the Quneitra buffer zone have

been destroyed, raising concerns that Israel intends to impose de facto borders. Residents now face the choice of fleeing or living under occupation.

The occupation has spread to other parts of southern Syria, including Hader and Mount Barbar, while UN forces remain confined to passive observation. The fate of 22 detained Syrians remains unknown, with UNDOF reportedly telling local officials that their release “depends on broader peace negotiations.”

The expansion comes as Israeli officials openly link normalization with Syria to retaining control of occupied territory, with foreign minister Gideon Saar declaring that Tel Aviv “will not withdraw from the Syrian [Mount] Hermon (Jabal al-Sheikh).”

This followed security advisor Tzachi Hanegbi's admission of ongoing daily talks with the current takfiri-linked regime in Damascus.

A day earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump lifted most sanctions (Continued on Page 7)