

TEHRAN -- An IAEA official visited Tehran Tuesday for talks with Iranian authorities, marking the first meeting since Iran suspended cooperation following Israeli attacks on its nuclear sites.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said discussions focused on "the manner of cooperation" under new circumstances, with Iran protesting the IAEA's "failure to exercise responsibility" during the attacks. The visit did not include inspections of nuclear facilities, rejected earlier by Iran.

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- U.S. President Donald Trump has agreed on the "need" for an additional Israeli military invasion of Gaza, following a conversation with Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to a report by Israeli Channel 12 on Monday evening.

The report quoted an Israeli official familiar with the details of the discussion, saying, "Trump agreed in his conversation with Netanyahu on the need for an additional military operation in Gaza." The source added that Trump gave Netanyahu a wide margin to carry out military actions and expand the aggression on Gaza.

Viewpoint

The Triumph of Faith Over Fears

The Significance of Arba'een

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"Fortunate are those who are with Husain and unfortunate are those who leave him. Know that Husain is one of the gates of Paradise; and his enemies will be deprived by God of even the fragrance of Paradise."

The above Hadith is indeed an excellent description of the merits and virtues in the Sight of God of the Younger of the Two Leaders of the Youths of Paradise, Imam Husain -- the grandson of the Almighty's Last and Greatest Messenger to all mankind with the universal message of Islam, Prophet Muhammad (SAWA).

great was the sacrifice of Imam Husain (AS) that the saga of his martyrdom has continued to resonate with increasing devotion every year, inspiring seekers of truth and inviting the firm of faith to his shrine from all over the world, especially on the occasion of Arba'een (Safar 20) or the anniversary of the traditional 40th day of the immortal epic of Ashura (Muharram 10).

They come in millions to Karbala, the rendezvous of martyrs, undeterred by the threats of terrorists, the soaring temperatures surmounting 50 degrees, and the dangers posed to the faithful by warmongers.

Pilgrimage to holy sites is an act of worship that dates back to the dawn of creation and the Father of mankind, Adam (AS). On Divine Commandment Adam built the holy Ka'ba in what is now Mecca as the Symbolic House of God the Unseen but Omnipresent. It is said that although Adam travelled around the Earth and lived in different places, he made it a point to visit the holy Ka'ba, and at least 70 times he performed pilgrimage to the House of God.

If worship is accompanied with hardships, irrespective of its rewards, it is indeed a great pleasure, since the driving force is faith in God and devotion to His Last and Greatest Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (SAWA), followed by love and reverence for the Immaculate Ahl al-Bayt, as commanded by the holy Qur'an.

Thus, in view of the numerous hadith from the Prophet, there are special merits attached for pilgrimage to the holy shrine of his younger grandson and third Infallible Heir, Imam Husain (AS), who sacrificed his life and that of his near and dear ones in order to grant eternity to Islam and all humanitarian values.

The pilgrims tread the footsteps of the Prophet's loyal companion, Jaber ibn Abdullah al-Ansari, who in spite of his old age, poor eyesight, and the tyranny of Yazid's rule, had left Medina for Iraq on hearing of what had befallen the Leader of the Youths of Paradise, and reached Karbala on the 40th day of the tragedy of Ashura, along with his companion, Aatiya bin Sa'd al-Kufi. Imagine the spectacle that had greeted the Jaber on the first ever Arba'een, 1382 lunar years ago, as he stumbled at every step while making his way to the grave of Imam Husain (AS), after having bathed in the River Euphrates.

For Jaber it was the height of grief as he threw himself over the tomb crying incessantly with the words "habib man la ya'raf al-habib" (how could a friend not recognize a friend?).

In his salutation to the person whom he had often seen as a child in the lap of the Prophet, he outlined the lofty humanitarian ideals for whose preservation Imam Husain had sacrificed his life.

Today, in the footsteps of Jaber, devotees from all over the world, converge on Karbala on the Day of Arba'een to pay respects at the shrine of the Chief of Martyrs, with chants of "Labbayk Ya Husain (AS)".

It means "Here we are O Husain" to your call that went unanswered on the Day of Ashura when surrounded by the bloodthirsty Omayyad army you raised the cry: "Hal min naserin yansurouni" (Is there any helper to help me).

Atiyah bin Sa'd al-Awfi, one of the famous Hadith transmitters who accompanied Jaber to Karbala relates:

"On Arba'een, we reached Karbala. Jaber took a dip in the River Euphrates, cleansed himself from the dust of the journey and put on neat clothes. He then moved at a slow pace, with tears flowing down his eyes, towards the holy grave of the Prophet's grandson. At every step, he would supplicate to God and glorify Him for having bestowed this blessed opportunity. On reaching the grave, Jaber, who had almost lost his eyesight, asked me to help me place my hand on the grave. Upon touching it, he cried and fainted. On regaining consciousness, he cried out three times, Ya Husain! Then he said: "Doesn't a friend know his friend?" Then he said: How can Husain (AS) answer while his jugular vein has been cut off and his head separated from his body? I testify that you are the Son of the best of the Prophets, the Master of Messengers.

"Jaber then turned towards the graves of the other martyrs, saying: "Greetings to you, O blessed souls that reside beside Husain (AS). I testify that you truly maintained prayer, gave alms, enjoined good, forbade evil, waged jihad against the infidels, and properly worshipped God, thereby reaching the status of certitude. Then he said: "By Him Who granted prophethood to His Messenger, we share in what you achieved (of the rewards)."

"I asked him: How do we have a share, when we were not present on that day in that place, didn't go through any hardship and didn't fight with the sword, while these dear ones sacrificed their lives, their heads were separated from their bodies, and their children imprisoned!"

"Jaber said: Atiyah, I heard the Messenger of God say, "Anyone who (whole-heartedly) supports a group will be resurrected with it (on Judgement Day) and anyone who supports the deed of a person will have a share of it."

According to a narration, on day of Arba'een, while Jaber was in Karbala, the caravan of the released captives also arrived from Damascus at the grave of Imam Husain (AS), led by Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS) and his aunt Hazrat Zainab (SA). Jaber embraced Imam Zain al-Abedin (AS) and the two wept bitterly recounting the magnitude of tragedies that had befallen the Prophet's Ahl al-Bayt. They stayed in Karbala for three days and held mourning ceremonies for the Imam and the rest of the martyrs.

Many Arbaeen pilgrims start their march to Karbala from Holy Najaf after homage at the shrine of Imam Husain's (AS) Father, the Commander of the Faithful, the Gateway of the City of Knowledge, the Symbol of Justice, the Epitome of Valour, the Prophet's Divinely-designated Heir, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS). A hadith from the Prophet's 6th Infallible Heir, Imam Jafar al-Sadeq (AS), reads: "When the pilgrim visits the shrine of the Commander of the Faithful, the gates of heaven will open for him."

Abu Shu'aib Khorasani narrates that he asked the Prophet's 8th Infallible Heir Imam Reza (AS), about pilgrimage to Najaf. The Imam answered: "Imam Husain (AS) attained martyrdom in a tragic and brutal manner with profound grief in the way of God; so, it is obligatory on God that no one goes for pilgrimage to his tomb but God the Exalted removes his grief and returns him happy; yet the superiority of reward for pilgrimage to (the shrine of) Imam Ali (AS) is the superiority of Father over the Son"

"Peace upon Husain, the oppressed, the martyr. Peace upon the one surrounded by a tightening circle of sorrow and grief; killed by a horde of savages."

Arabaeen: The Journey Uniting Millions Across Borders



Iranian Wushu Fighters Grab Two Medals in Chengdu World Games



Larijani Opens Door to Broader Persian Gulf Security Ties

Iran Stands Firm in Lebanon's Darkest Hour



A man holds up a Hezbollah flag in front of the headquarters of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut, on July 26, 2025.

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Ali Larijani, Iran's Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, here Tuesday expressed openness to expanding security cooperation between Iran and its Persian Gulf neighbors, following a proposal from Iraqi officials for a regional security dialogue.

Larijani highlighted the deep historical and strategic ties between Iran and Iraq, emphasizing the ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation across economic, social, and political spheres.

"We must create broader platforms for collaboration that can serve as the foundation for lasting security between our countries," he said.

Larijani referenced a security agreement signed between Iran and Iraq on Monday, describing it as a framework designed to establish stable and enduring security relations.

"This agreement provides mechanisms for oversight and monitoring, and we hope it will secure sustainable peace and stability between our nations," he

noted.

In addition to security, Larijani spoke about economic discussions with Iraqi counterparts, particularly the development of trade corridors and infrastructure projects that promise mutual benefits. "These economic initiatives can bring significant advantages to both Iran and Iraq," he said.

Regarding the security pact, Larijani remarked that both Tehran and Baghdad are committed to respecting each other's sovereignty and security needs.

"There is a clear will on the Iraqi

side to respect Iran's security, and we reciprocate. This cooperation can pave the way for progress in various sectors," he said.

Larijani also addressed the Iraqi government's suggestion for Iran to hold a security meeting with Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. He recalled that similar proposals had surfaced in the past, particularly following the ceasefire agreement between Iran and Iraq.

"The Iraqi Foreign Minister suggested that we could work on this in the future. We do not oppose expanding security cooperation between Iran and regional countries," Larijani said.

Turning to the broader regional dynamics, Larijani commented on the role of the resistance front, describing it as deeply rooted in the region's populations and a "national asset" for the countries involved.

"The groups within the resistance front understand the conditions well and know how to act at every stage. All efforts must focus on preserving these capabilities," he said.

Larijani announced that he would remain in Iraq until the Tuesday evening before traveling to Lebanon, indicating ongoing diplomatic efforts in the region amid heightened tensions and complex geopolitical challenges.

Majid Emani, Iran's ambassador to Lebanon, emphasized that the

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Police: Over 21,000 Arrested Amid 12-Day Aggression

TEHRAN -- Iranian police arrested around 21,000 people on various charges during the 12-day war with Israel, Iran's national police force said Tuesday.

According to police spokesperson Saeed Montazerolmahdi, more than 7,850 public tips were received during the fighting, leading to the arrests.

He noted that the Iranian Cyber Police (FATA) handled 5,700 cybercrime cases, including internet fraud, unauthorized withdrawals, and a cyber attack on the Nobitex exchange.

He said 2,774 "illegal citizens" were detained, with 261 people arrested on suspicion of espionage and 172 detained for unauthorized filming -- some for filming "sensitive centers" around the country. Examinations of the suspects' mobile phones led to the opening of 30 special security cases.

Speaking on the Evin Prison incident, he said that police arrested 127 "security and political" inmates during an escape attempt, including two of whom were

dressed in firefighter uniforms.

Fars News Agency reported on more than 700 people had been detained over the previous 12 days on charges of "security cooperation with Israel."

Separately, Judiciary spokesman Asghar Jahangir said that 75 prisoners escaped during an Israeli missile strike on Evin Prison.

According to Shargh Media Group, Iranian Minister of Intelligence Ismail Khatib said, "The intelligence and security organizations have the resources [personnel, assets, and operational capabilities] to mobilize them both internally and within the regime itself. During the imposed 12-day war, we witnessed seven million public reports."

He added, "We hope that as this unity has been the axis of destroying all influence, hostility, conspiracy, and sedition, we will all be able to protect this unity and cohesion."

During the June war, Israel launched coordinated attacks inside

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HTS Turns to Russia to Fill Security Void in Syria Against Israel

DAMACUS (Dispatches) -- The regime in Damascus, now controlled by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) under Abu Muhammad al-Jolani, has formally requested the Russian military to resume patrols along Syria's southern border.

This move, reported by Russian media, underscores Damascus's belief that a renewed Russian presence could help deter Israeli incursions, which have escalated since the fall of the Assad government.

Since HTS took control last year following the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's government, southern Syria has seen an intensification of Israeli military aggression.

Zionist forces have expanded their presence through regular raids and airstrikes, targeting strategic sites including Syria's Defense Ministry and Presidential Palace in Damascus. Despite these ongoing aggressions, HTS has failed to mount a significant military response.

This failure is rooted in several

factors. The downfall of Assad's government left Syria's military infrastructure fragmented. HTS, initially a militant group with takfiri origins, now faces the challenge of governing a country rife with internal divisions and fractured armed factions. Its inability to unify these forces has severely limited its capacity to organize an effective defense against Israel.

Moreover, HTS's cautious stance reflects a strategic calculation. Israel's military superiority and advanced intelligence capabilities make direct confrontation risky and potentially devastating for HTS-controlled areas.

Internally, HTS must manage sectarian tensions which it is stirring and fragile alliances, and avoid further destabilization that could undermine its rule. This cautious approach has led HTS to prioritize political consolidation over military retaliation.

In this context, the request for Russian forces to resume patrols

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