

Pezeshkian: Enemies Cannot Force Iran to Surrender

TEHRAN -- President Masoud Pezeshkian said Wednesday that foreign adversaries cannot coerce the Iranian nation through military pressure, underscoring the country's resilience in the face of recent crises. Pezeshkian said challenges such as the eight-year Iran-Iraq war and a recent 12-day war with Israel and the U.S. highlighted the importance of broad public support against external threats. He hit out at the United States and Israel for assuming military strikes could turn Iranians against their government. "The enemy must know that even with all their equipment and aircraft, they cannot force a determined, resistant, and steadfast nation to surrender," he said, calling for national unity across ethnic, gender, and linguistic lines.

IRGC Navy Holds Military Exercise in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN — The Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said it will begin a two-day exercise from Thursday in the Persian Gulf. The drill will cover the Persian Gulf, the trio of southern Iranian islands (including Abu Musa), the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman. The IRGC said the exercise is designed to project its naval strength and readiness.

Viewpoint

Another Misleading UN Resolution of Palestine

Fajr Film Festival Wraps With Major Wins From Hungary to Palestine



Abolfazl Zandi Claims Gold at World U-21 Taekwondo Championships



UAE-Backed Forces Capture City Amid Saudi-Emirati Rivalry in Yemen



Islamic Leaders: Defending Iran Religious and Strategic Duty

TEHRAN – Prominent Islamic thinkers from Algeria and Malaysia have called for robust support of Iran, describing it as both a religious obligation and a strategic necessity for the Muslim world, emphasizing the country's role in defending Islamic causes and resisting Western and Israeli influence.

Speaking at the second international webinar titled "Islamic Iran: The Front of Islamic Dignity Against the Zionist Regime," organized by the Qadimun Global Assembly, prominent Algerian intellectual Yahya Abu Zakariya asserted that defending the Islamic Republic is essential to protect the region from the expansion of Zionism, U.S. influence, and the promotion of a "Greater Israel." Abu Zakariya said Iran has faced "thousands of conspiracies" from Western powers and international Zionist networks since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. He highlighted Tehran's support for "the oppressed" and noted that the country has adhered to the principles set forth by the late Imam Khomeini in defending Palestine and regional resistance groups.

The Algerian thinker criticized some Arab clerics and religious movements for issuing rulings that harm Iran, contrasting these with religious arguments that have been used to justify diplomatic and economic ties with Israel.

"Over four decades, Iran has paid heavy costs to defend Islamic causes," Abu Zakariya said. "It could have aligned with Western powers like some regional states, but it chose instead to stand with the oppressed nations of the world."

He characterized West Asia as divided between two opposing projects: "resistance" and "normalization," asserting that Iran has consistently remained on the side of resistance.

Abu Zakariya warned that Western powers and Israel are aligned in efforts to weaken Iran, but he said the country has maintained its position under the leadership of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Quoting Ayatollah Khamenei, he said the Iranian people "will not accept humiliation or foreign domination," describing this as a continuation of the Ashura tradition, a central event in Shi'a

Islam symbolizing resistance against oppression.

He urged Muslims to unite, reject sectarianism, and support Iran across political, cultural, media, and security domains, stressing that the country's regional and international presence over the past four decades has benefited the wider Islamic world.

In a separate event in Tehran, Malaysian Islamic scholar Azmi Abdul Hamid, head of the Malaysian Islamic Affairs Organization, spoke on the theme of "Rights of Nations and Legitimate Freedoms" at a conference on the ideological views of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei.

He emphasized that Ayatollah Khamenei's concept of freedom is rooted in justice, resistance to oppression, and the defense of human dignity.

Abdul Hamid traced Ayatollah Khamenei's views on liberty and humanity to his early experiences as a young seminary student in Mashhad, resisting the Pahlavi regime before the 1979 revolution.

"Freedom is achieved through courage and resistance against tyranny," he said, noting that the Eminent Leader's perspective on liberty is both divine and ethical, grounded in justice and the protection of the oppressed.

He highlighted that real freedom cannot be granted by global powers, many of which claim to champion liberty while supporting authoritarian regimes. Abdul Hamid said that confronting injustice, supporting nations under oppression, and resisting imperialist powers constitute a moral duty, according to Ayatollah Khamenei's thought.

Abdul Hamid also cited Ayatollah Khamenei's longstanding support for Palestine, describing it as a universal moral responsibility. He said the Leader views Israel as a symbol of global injustice, and defending Palestine is inseparable from the broader defense of human dignity.

"The ideological foundation of Imam Khamenei's views on freedom and humanity is shaped by his revolutionary struggle," Abdul Hamid said, adding that human dignity and liberty cannot be realized without justice and steadfast opposition to oppression and global hegemony.

Leader: Achievements of Iranian Women Unprecedented



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of women and girls from across Iran in Tehran on Wednesday.

TEHRAN -- Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei told Iranian women and girls from here Wednesday that Islam grants women a very high and exalted status and equal rights with men in social and political life, condemning the "corrupt Western culture" toward women.

"The expressions of the Qur'an regarding the identity and character of women are the highest and most progressive," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting.

In his speech citing the qualities of Fatima al-Zahra (SA), the beloved daughter of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him), Ayatollah Khamenei said the Iranian woman "takes lessons from such a sun".

The Leader described Fatima (SA) as "an exalted human being adorned with the highest qualities in all arenas", including worship and humility, selflessness and sacrifice for the people, resilience in hardships and tribulations, coura-

geous defense of the rights of the oppressed, elucidation and clarification of truths, understanding and political action, housekeeping, managing a household and raising children, and participation in significant events in early Islamic history.

"The Iranian woman, thank God, takes guidance and lessons from such a sun, who, according to the Prophet, is the leader of all women in all times, and moves in accordance with her goals," he

said.

The Leader said women and men in Islam have "equal roles in the life and history of humanity" and "equal opportunity to reach spiritual perfections," adding that those who misunderstand religion or reject it "are in contradiction" with these principles.

"In Islam, in social activities, business, political activity, attaining most governmental positions, and in other arenas, women have equal rights with men, and in spiritual conduct and individual and public efforts, the path to their advancement is open," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Ayatollah Khamenei criticized Western culture, saying: "The corrupt Western and capitalist culture is completely rejected from the perspective of Islam."

The Leader said Islamic limitations on gender interaction, dress and modesty are aimed at preserving the dignity of women and controlling dangerous and powerful sexual desires, adding that Western culture pays no attention to such issues.

"In Islam, to preserve women's dignity and control very strong and dangerous sexual desires, there are limitations and rulings regarding 'interaction between women and men, women's and men's dress, women's hijab, and encouragement of marriage,' which are entirely in line with

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Prominent Lebanese Journalist Recounts Aftermath of Iran's Retaliation: Total Destruction, Casualties Censored, U.S. and Israel Alarmed

BEIRUT/TEHRAN -- Senior Lebanese journalist and analyst Hussein Mortada has described the unprecedented havoc caused by Iranian missile strikes on Israel during a 12-day war, emphasizing both the destruction inflicted and Israel's attempts to suppress information about casualties and damage.

"The missiles hit military installations, research centers, and even residential areas in the occupied territories," Mortada said in a detailed interview with Iran's Tasnim news agency.

"Some buildings were completely destroyed, and many people were killed or injured. Israeli authorities tried to hide these casualties from their own citizens. They imposed severe censorship to prevent the public from knowing the true extent of the damage."

Mortada described the initial aggression against Iran as a dual attack. "The first part targeted civilian areas and involved assassinations, clearly violating Iran's sovereignty. The second targeted nuclear facilities, which Iran had protected under international

agreements with the IAEA. Even so, sensitive information about Iranian nuclear engineers was leaked. This was a combined attack, similar in nature to what we saw in Lebanon in past conflicts."

He sharply criticized Israel and the United States for miscalculating Iran's response. "Only 24 hours after the attacks, Trump publicly stated that the Iranian regime had collapsed. They expected internal chaos that could be exploited by certain groups inside the country. But they were immediately shocked by Iran's missile capabilities and the rapid, organized counterattacks."

Highlighting Iran's leadership, Mortada said, "The commander of this battle was Imam Khamenei. Even after some commanders were targeted, he appeared in the operations room within hours, appointed replacements, and ensured continuity. The retaliatory strikes began less than a day later, demonstrating the speed and decisiveness of Iran's military command."

By the twelfth day of the war, Mortada said, Iran's missiles had inflicted unprecedented damage

inside Israel.

"We saw, to our surprise, buildings completely destroyed — military centers, research facilities, and even civilian areas. Casualties were severe, yet Israeli authorities censored all reports. They did not want their own people to witness the devastation and loss of life."

Mortada emphasized that the censorship was systematic and pervasive. "Images, videos, and social media posts showing the destruction were removed or blocked. Even when eyewitnesses shared footage, authorities acted swiftly to erase it. Israel wanted to erase the evidence, but the impact of the strikes was already evident, and many people saw the missiles and destruction firsthand."

He also noted Iran's continued strategic preparedness. "Iran has repaired all prior damages and continues to produce advanced missiles around the clock. The country has filled the gaps identified during the 12-day war, and missile development is ongoing 24 hours a day. If Israel or the United States attack again, they

will be surprised by the new capabilities Iran has deployed."

Mortada highlighted the importance of media strategy in Iran's response, particularly citing a Hebrew-language documentary produced by Iranian news agency Tasnim.

"This documentary reached Israeli audiences directly and exposed the realities of the 12-day war, despite severe censorship imposed by the Israeli regime. By presenting the facts in the enemy's own language, Iran bypassed traditional barriers and revealed truths Israel tried to conceal."

He stressed that media is a parallel battlefield. "The media war begins before military operations, continues during them, and persists afterward. Exposing Israeli aggression and Iranian retaliation undermines Israel's carefully constructed narrative internationally. The censorship itself proves the impact — if it were not effective, Israel would not try so hard to remove it."

Mortada recounted the psychological effect of the strikes on Israeli society.

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