

Iran congratulates Iraq on 'successful holding' of parliamentary elections

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi congratulated the Iraqi people and government for "successful" holding of the parliamentary elections in the Arab country.

Qassemi said through participating in the elections, the Iraqis once again tried to cement their victories and achievements in their fight against terrorism with a resolute will, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The Iraqi people demonstrated that they can play a key role in consolidating the stability, tranquility and prosperity of their country as well as regional security under the leadership of religious scholars and through national unity, he said.

The spokesman also added that Iran attaches great significance to efforts to strengthen political partnership and democracy in Iraq.

On Saturday, Iraqis voted in the first parliamentary elections since the country declared victory over the Daesh terrorist group at the end of 2017.

Iran positive on nuclear deal hopes after EU talks

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When he quit the deal last week, US President Donald Trump gave businesses a maximum of six months to wind up operations in Iran or face swinging penalties under American sanctions.

US 'illegal' actions

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani asked the European Union to stand against the United States' "illegal and illogical" actions, saying that Tehran could stay in the accord only if it fully benefits from it.

"Iran can stay in the JCPOA only if it fully benefits from the deal," Rouhani said.

He said the US exit from the nuclear deal was a "wrong" decision, and a "political and moral failure" for the United States that would lead to Washington "isolation" in the world. Zarif's meetings in Brussels cap a whirlwind global tour, including trips to both Russia and China, the two other signatory nations, in a bid to bolster support.

Washington's decision to go against its European allies' advice and abandon the deal has pushed them closer to Beijing and Moscow on the issue as diplomats try to keep the pact alive.

French President Emmanuel Macron held phone talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Tuesday, according to a Kremlin statement, which said they had "confirmed Russia and France's commitment to make the deal work."

Zarif was in Moscow to meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday, a day after visiting leaders in Beijing.

"The final aim of these negotiations is to seek assurances that the interests of the Iranian nation will be defended," Zarif said at the start of a meeting.

On Monday Zarif also sent a letter to the United Nations in which he accused the US of showing a "complete disregard for international law" in pulling out of the deal.

AFP, AP and Reuters contributed to this story



Rouhani stresses expansion of ties in meetings with new envoys

Political Desk

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani held separate meetings with new foreign ambassadors from Lebanon, Latvia, Estonia, Nepal and New Zealand while receiving their letters of credence on Tuesday.

During his meetings with the new foreign envoys, president Rouhani stressed on the importance of improving relations.

Speaking in a meeting with the new Ambassador of Lebanon Hassan Abbas, Rouhani described the relations between Iran and Lebanon as friendly, saying that Tehran welcomes deepening relations with Beirut in all fields, the president's official website reported.

He said Iran will continue supporting the Lebanese government and nation to resist against terrorist groups and aggression by the Israeli regime.

In his meeting with new non-resident Ambassador of Latvia to Tehran Pteris Karlis Elferts, Rouhani stressed the importance of cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries to take the best advantage of potentials and opportunities for further development of ties.

The president also held a meeting with new ambassador of Estonia to Tehran, during which he referred to the close relations between Iran and Estonia, saying that the Islamic Republic is ready to deepen relations



Photos by president.ir

and cooperation with Estonia in all fields of mutual interest.

President Rouhani underlined that there is no obstacle on the path of promoting relations in various scientific, cultural, economic and tourism fields.

In his meeting with new Nepali Ambassador Sewa Lamsal, the Iranian president said that businesspeople and investors of the two countries can cooperate more closely with each other.

Rouhani added that development of security in the world is very important for Iran and both countries

can have positive and constructive cooperation.

President Rouhani also met with the new Ambassador of New Zealand Hamish MacMaster.

Rouhani expressed appreciation for the positive stances taken by New Zealand on the Iran nuclear deal and said, "2015 was the year of success of politics and diplomacy over hostility and unfriendly relations among countries and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that constructive interaction with the world and adoption of a win-win approach will be beneficial for the entire world."

Iran strongly condemns Israel's killing of Palestinians, US Embassy transfer

Iran strongly condemned Israel's killing of dozens of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the transfer of the US Embassy in Israel to Al-Quds on Monday.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Iranian government deplored the recent crimes by the Israeli regime in "a joint and provocative scenario by the US government," the president's official website reported.

On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Nakba Day (the Day of Catastrophe), tens of thousands of Palestinians marched on the fence separating the Gaza Strip from the occupied territories.

Israeli forces used live fire and tear gas against the Palestinians, who were rallying in protest at the expulsion from their homeland and the subsequent creation of the Zionist entity in 1948.

Israel's use of lethal force made Monday the deadliest single day in Gaza since 2014, with 61 Palestinians killed and more than 2,700 injured.

The protest took place on the same day that the US formally transferred its embassy from Tel Aviv to the Israeli-occupied city of Al-Quds despite condemnations worldwide.

The Iranian government's statement said that after 70 years of the establishment of the fake Israeli regime and occupation of Palestine, it is time for the international community to break its prolonged silence on the issue by taking steps to end the occupation and secure the rights of the Palestinians as the real owners of the occupied territories, and put an end to the longest crisis in the Middle East and the world, which is the source of other chronic crises in the region.

"Stain of shame" for Israel, US

Iran's top parliamentarian also denounced Israel's killing of Palestinians, which coincided with the inauguration of the US Embassy in Al-Quds, as "a stain of shame" for both Tel Aviv and Washington.

During an open parliamentary session in Tehran on Tuesday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said Israel's latest "crime and massacre of Palestinians in Gaza...is a great stain of shame for the Zionist regime and the US, which will go down in history," Press TV

reported.

He also stressed that the Gaza carnage was out of the Israeli regime's "desperation" rather than its power.

The anti-Israel rallies in recent days show that Palestine remains a "live and dynamic nation" and is holding firm on its rights.

Larijani said the deal, which is said to be hugely biased in favor of Israel, has strengthened Palestinian unity and will only help the nation to keep its resistance against the Tel Aviv regime.

The United States blocked the adoption of a UN Security Council statement that called for an "independent and transparent investigation" into Israel's killing of Palestinian protesters.

The statement, drafted by Kuwait ahead of a meeting on Tuesday, expressed "outrage and sorrow" at the deaths of the Palestinians during the Monday demonstrations.

It also demanded that all countries comply with a decades-old Security Council resolution calling on them not to station diplomatic missions in the contested holy city.

US seeking to abolish UN

Larijani also condemned the relocation of the US Embassy and said Washington is seeking to discredit international organizations, including the United Nations, Tasnim News Agency reported.

"Apparently, the Americans decided many years ago to discredit international institutions," Larijani said, adding that Washington is seeking to abolish the United Nations.

"War criminal"

Additionally, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi held the US and some of its regional allies responsible for the bloodletting in Gaza.

Israel's never-ending crimes are the outcome of "unwavering US support as well as the treacherous compromise and the ignominious inaction of some regional governments," he pointed out.

Qassemi also called on regional and international organizations and bodies to immediately condemn the Israeli regime's atrocities and take it as a "war criminal" to international courts.

"Proper, firm and urgent measures are needed to put an end to the ongoing brutal killings of thousands of defenseless people at the hands of the occupying Zionists," the Iranian official added.



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