

Leader pardons, reduces sentences of 691 convicts

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei pardoned or commuted the sentences of a number of Iranian convicts on the occasion of the Eid al-Fitr.

Ayatollah Khamenei on Sunday agreed to a request by Iran's Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raiesi to pardon or reduce the sentences of 691 eligible inmates convicted.

The inmates had been found guilty by public courts, the Islamic Revolution tribunals, the Judicial Organization of the Armed Forces and the State Discretionary Punishment Organization, Press TV reported.

In an earlier letter to the Leader, the Iranian judiciary chief had asked for clemency for the eligible convicts on the occasion of the Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

The fasting month of Ramadan – the ninth month on the Islamic calendar – ends with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, which is one of the main religious holidays in Islam.

The occasion falls on the first day of the lunar calendar month of Shawwal, the start of which varies based on the sighting of the new moon by local religious authorities.

Also on Sunday, the Iranian Judiciary spokesman rejected media reports that the name of Nizar Zakka, a Lebanese citizen who was detained in 2015 for spying, is on the list of those inmates who have been pardoned by the Leader.

Iran has received an amnesty request from Beirut for the Lebanese citizen but has yet to make a decision on the case, said Gholamhossein Esmacili.



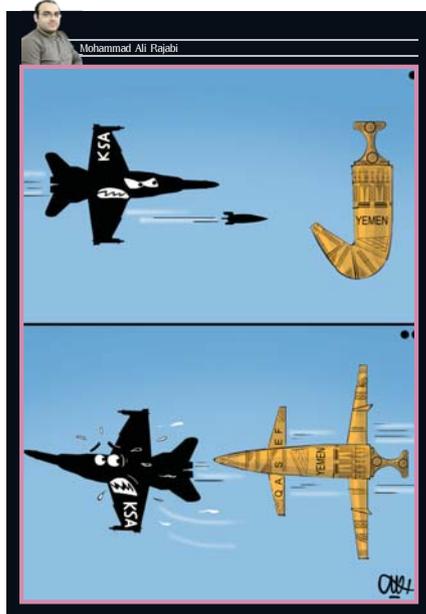
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Lebanon state news agency, NNA, last week quoted the Foreign Ministry as saying that Iran had agreed to amnesty for Zakka, an information technology expert who was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 2016 and fined \$4.2 million.

"We have received a request filed by the accused and other Lebanese officials to grant amnesty and release him. We are looking into this request as a special case," Esmacili was quoted as saying by the Judiciary's official website, Mizan.

Media reports suggested that the head of Lebanon's General Security, Abbas Ibrahim, traveled to Tehran on Sunday to facilitate the release of Zakka from prison, according to a statement from the agency.



Rouhani: Iran determined to boost economic ties with Turkey



REUTERS



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Iran's president said that Tehran is resolved to promote economic relations with Turkey, adding that the expansion of bilateral ties will play a major role in promoting stability and security in the region.

Iran and Turkey are two "powerful and influential" countries in the Muslim world, Hassan Rouhani said in a phone call with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday, Tasnim News Agency reported.

He added that Tehran is determined to strengthen economic cooperation with

Ankara and use the two countries' national currencies in their transactions.

Iran and Turkey have agreed to step up their economic cooperation with the aim of reaching a \$30-billion target set for their annual trade, voicing concern over the reimposition by the US of unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic, a move which they say could affect the entire region's economy.

The Iranian president further expressed sorrow for the continued bloodshed and the killing of people in Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Afghanistan and said Iran and

Turkey, in cooperation with other friendly countries, can put an end to the ongoing "unfortunate and dangerous" situation and properly solve the issues of the region and the Muslim world.

He also stressed the importance of bolstering cooperation between Iran and Turkey in the fight against terrorism in the region and promoting security at the common borders.

In a meeting with his Turkish counterpart in the Russian resort city of Sochi in February, Rouhani lashed out at Western states, especially the US, for throwing

their support behind terror groups.

The Turkish president said the expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations would serve the interests of two nations and the entire region.

Erdogan added that the two countries can increase their cooperation to play further role in boosting stability and security and fighting terrorism across the region.

He slammed the unilateral and cruel sanctions imposed by the United States against Iran and emphasized that his country would not accept such restrictions.

Larijani: Macron changes his words based on person he meets



IRNA

The Iranian Parliament speaker on Sunday criticized recent anti-French remarks by the French president in a meeting with his American counterpart, saying that he changes his words based on the person he meets.

Ali Larijani said, "Recent remarks by the French president in a meeting with Trump were shameful and inept... Macron's comments did not match what he has been telling our president... in their meetings and on the phone."

Recently, French President Emmanuel Macron, in a meeting with the US President Donald Trump, said Paris wanted to make sure Tehran would not get nuclear weapons.

"We had an accord until 2025 and we want to go further and have full certainty in the long run... (Then) reduce ballistic activity and contain Iran regionally."

"It seems that he [Macron] says anything that the person he meets would like to hear," Larijani said.

Iran insists its nuclear activities are entirely peaceful and has repeatedly refused to discuss its missile program.

"If Macron is so skilled in resolving international issues and threatening other nations, wouldn't it better for him to settle his own country's internal problems first, to prevent so many casualties in France?" the Iranian speaker asked.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi had earlier dismissed Macron's statements, saying such remarks will not help preserve the Iran nuclear deal.

"Despite some remarks and political statements, the European parties have failed so far to fulfill their commitments under the JCPOA and their obligations following the US' illegal withdrawal from the agreement," Mousavi said.

The Europeans, he added, have failed to prepare the ground for Iran to fully benefit from the multilateral agreement.

Iran unveils new indigenous air defense system

Iran unveiled a domestically-designed and manufactured air defense system capable of simultaneously destroying six incoming hostile targets.

The system, dubbed Khordad 15, was inaugurated in the presence of Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony, Hatami said the system was capable of detecting fighter jets and combat drones from 150 kilometers away and of tracking them within a range of 120 kilometers.

The system, he added, can also detect stealth targets at a distance of 85 kilometers and engage and destroy them within a range of 45 kilometers.

He also said the Khordad 15 air defense system used Sayyad 3 missiles and was capable of simultaneously detecting, intercepting, and shooting down six targets, adding that it could be readied to engage hostile targets in less than five minutes.

The minister also noted that the Islamic Republic was developing systems to counter missiles and other aerial threats given the presence of extra-regional forces at bases in countries around Iran.

US Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook recently said that Iranian authorities use 'photoshopped' images



TASNI

of their defense equipment to create a "false impression of their activities and their true intentions."

"Iran has photoshopped images of missile launches to try and show its increased missile capabilities. They've also photoshopped antiquated aircraft and tried to pass them off as new stealth fighter jets," he said on the video.

"We will see about that," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad

Zarif reacted to Hook's remarks on Sunday.

Iran has recently made major breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing military equipment and hardware despite facing sanctions and Western economic pressure.

The Islamic Republic says its military power is solely for defensive purposes and does not pose any threat to other countries.

Brief Notice of International

Second Announcement Tender No. 9701639R2



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Confidential Secretariat of ESCO, next to Melli Bank, Esfahan Steel company, End of Zobahan Highway, Esfahan, Iran or

Through the e-mail address toa@esfahansteel.com.

For the confirmation of the receipt of offer by ESCO, you can contact through Tel. No. 0098-31-5257-2197.

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