October 6, 2024

Statement of the Association of Iranian National Friends on the War with Israel

We vehemently say no to war with Israel and to the Islamic Republic regime.

The ominous shadow of war between the Islamic Republic regime and the extremist right-wing government of Israel looms over the innocent people of both nations. The emergence of this war is due solely to the Ummah-like nature of the Islamic regime governing Iran and Ali Khamenei as the Supreme Leader, and the warmongering nature of the Israeli government and Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister. Neither party seeks peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. Khamenei's worldview and his regime are Jihadist, aiming for Islamic supremacy worldwide, whereas Netanyahu's and his government's worldview is based on indiscriminate destruction and slaughter to secure Israeli territory and safety. Should a full-scale, devastating war erupt between the Islamic Republic and Israel, the responsibility for the slaughter, destruction, homelessness, and suffering of the innocent people of Iran and Israel would rest on the shoulders of these two governments and their main leaders, both previously recognized as war criminals and who should subsequently be arrested and tried by international courts.

The issue of having a commander like Benjamin Netanyahu is for the Israelis to address. However, the problem of having a Supreme Leader and an anti-Iranian Islamic Republic regime falls on the Iranian people. Therefore, it is upon the shoulders of the Iranian people to overturn this government as soon as possible and replace it with one that prioritizes the interests of Iran and not the Islamic Ummah. It is the duty of Iranians at home and around the world to unite for a free and democratic Iran, without endorsing any individual, to prevent and further the catastrophe of war between Iran and Israel and its allies.

Our patriotism is unequivocally against any foreign aggression. Honesty and truthfulness also compel us to acknowledge and vocally condemn the Islamic Republic's role in forty-six years of continuous enmity towards Israel and its support for terrorist and Jihadist groups including Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and Iraqi and Syrian militants. This corrupt power thirst for regional conquest under the guise of "Ummah unity" has driven Iran to the brink of confrontation with Israel. The practice of Islamic-Ummah saber-rattling must end now.

Israel, nearly 2000 kilometers away from Iran, shares no border with Iran. Why should Iran be the scapegoat for the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, especially when almost all Arab and Muslim countries have political relations with Israel? Historically, relations between Iran and Lebanese Shiites have been established through Shiism. Even such a commonality does not exist

between Iranians and Palestinians. This does not mean Iranians are indifferent to the oppression and killing of Palestinians by Israel and do not rise up in outrage. Peace-loving Iranians also despise and condemn the killing of Israelis by Hamas, including on October 7, 2023. Overall, Iranians, like the majority of the world's people, desire a just peace between Israel and the Palestinians that leads to the establishment of a state for them. Therefore, an Iranian government should be a messenger and agent of peace between the Palestinians and Israelis. Conversely, for forty-six years, an Islamic-Ummah government has sought the destruction of Israel and intervened in the relationship between Israel and the Palestinians more than Sunni Arab countries, with provocative slogans like "Death to Israel." For comparison and to clarify its hypocrisy, the Islamic regime ruling Iran shows no opposition or action against Russia and China for their slaughter or oppression of Muslims in those countries. Thus, the issue of enmity with Israel, alongside hostility towards America, is one of the fundamental reasons for the existence of the Islamic Republic regime.

Forty-six years have passed since the regressive Islamic Republic regime took over the Iranian nation. In the early years, the Iranian people demonstrated that despite having a dishonorable and criminal religious government, they fought to defend Iran's soil against Iraqi aggressors. Yes, once again, if necessary, the Iranian nation will defend its territorial integrity and independence against any other aggressor. But today, Iranians know more than ever that if a war with Israel were to occur, it would essentially be a war between the Supreme Leader and the Islamic Republic regime and its protectors, the Revolutionary Guards, and the right-wing Israeli government and its military.

The future can only be with peace and reconciliation. For more than two years, the Iranian nation has proven to the world through the Woman, Life, Freedom movement that it desires to live in peace, reconciliation, and to thrive in prosperity within a democratic government. War and conflict should never have started and should never continue with the destruction and slaughter of the innocent. Those who desire peace and reconciliation between nations and countries are far braver than the warmongers who, in the name of religion, engage in troop deployments and killings.

We loudly say: Yes to peace and reconciliation, and no to war and the Islamic Republic.

Long live Iran.

May peace and tranquility prevail.

Association of Iranian National Friends

Sunday, 15th of Mehr 1403 Solar Hijri equivalent to October 6, 2024