

Assassinations of scientists meant to hinder Iran's progress: Leader

TEHRANTIMES TEHRAN — Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said that the main objective behind the assassinations of Iranian scientists is to intimidate the country's academics and hinder its scientific progress.

The Leader made the remarks during a meeting with a large gathering of students from universities across the country in Tehran late on Wednesday.

The hegemonistic powers' bloc has a chain of plans to show their animosity toward the Islamic Revolution, and the imposition of economic sanctions on Iran, the promotion of immorality in society, and the assassinations of country's academics are links in this chain, the Leader stated.

He also called on Iranian people, particularly students to be on their guard against the enemies' intrigues, saying the students should shoulder a historic responsibility for presenting Iran as a perfect model for other countries.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said the Islamic Revolution of Iran is unparalleled in history since it is the only revolution that has not deviated from its goals.

The Leader added that the adherence to Islam, the resistance against hegemony, the maintenance of the country's independence, the elevation of the status of human, the defense of the oppressed, and the progress of the country are among the main causes of the revolution.

Prior to the Leader's address, a number of students made remarks at the meeting, in which they expressed their opinions on various issues.

■ **It is too soon to discuss electoral issues**

One of the students asked the Leader to express his viewpoint on elections, but he said, "The time has not come (for me) to speak about electoral issues, and such matters will be discussed in the future God willing."

In addition, the Leader replied to a question about the activities of the country's foreign policy apparatus regarding the developments taking place in the region and described the diplomatic efforts as good and satisfactory.

LATEST NEWS

Yemenis stage rallies, demand president step down

SANAA (AP) — Hundreds of thousands have poured onto the streets of major cities and towns across Yemen, demanding the country's embattled president step down.

Defying the scorching summer weather and the dawn-to-dusk fasting hours during the holy month of Ramadan, the crowds are waving Yemeni flags and chanting slogans against President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

One of the protesters, Gamal Gaber, says no one is leaving the rally "until we topple Saleh and all his regime members."

Meanwhile, thousands of Saleh loyalists gathered for Friday prayers in a mosque near the presidential palace in the capital Sanaa.

Bahrain fires 23 pro-democracy medics



Medical staff provide treatment to an injured demonstrator at the Salmaniya hospital in Manama on February 17, 2011.

AP staff & agencies

MANAMA — Bahrain's health ministry has announced that it will fire 23 medical staff members for supporting the anti-regime protests.

The ministry also said that investigations are waiting for more than 420 other workers over their alleged connections with the protesters, Press TV reported.

Moreover, the country's officials have said that suspended workers can only return to their jobs if they promise to follow government laws and regulations.

On June 14, Robert Fisk wrote at The Independent, "Has the Khalifa family gone mad? Yesterday, the Bahraini royal family started an utterly fraudulent trial of 48 surgeons, doctors, paramedics and nurses, accusing them of trying to topple the tin-pot monarchy of this Sunni minority emirate. The defendants in this

flagrantly unfair military court are, of course, members of the majority Shia people of Bahrain. And since I was a witness to their heroic efforts to save lives in February, I can say – let us speak with a frankness that the Bahraini rulers would normally demand – that the charges are a pack of lies."

Fisk added, "Doctors I saw, drenched in their patients' blood, desperately trying to staunch the bullet wounds of pro-democracy demonstrators shot in cold blood by Bahraini soldiers and police, are now on trial. I watched armed policemen refusing to allow ambulances to collect the wounded from the roads where they had been cut down."

"These are the very same doctors and nurses I stood beside four months ago in the Sulaimaniya emergency room, some of them weeping as they tried to deal with gunshot wounds the like of which they had never seen before."

"How could they do this to these people?"

one of them asked me. 'We have never dealt with trauma wounds like these before.' Next to us lay a man with bullet wounds in the chest and thigh, coughing blood on to the floor."

"The surgeons were frightened that they did not have the skills to save these victims of police violence. Now the police have accused the doctors and staff of killing the patients whom the police themselves shot."

"How could these fine medical men and women have been trying to 'topple' the monarchy?" Fisk wrote.

Hundreds of public sector employees have lost their jobs since the anti-regime demonstrations against the Al Khalifa dynasty began in mid-February.

Scores of protesters have since been killed and many more arrested, including doctors and nurses, in the violent US and Saudi-backed crackdown on peaceful protesters.

Contd. on P. 15

White House hopeful admits U.S. enmity toward Iran dates to 1953 coup



Ron Paul arrives at the Stephens Auditorium at Iowa State University on August 11. (Getty Images)

AMES, Iowa, USA (AP/TPMDC) — Congressman Ron Paul says rival White House hopeful Rick Santorum has his history wrong on Iran, arguing that the United States has been at war with Iran since it helped orchestrate regime change in the 1950s.

Paul and Santorum clashed during Thursday's debate over Iran's nuclear program. Paul says Santorum engages in "war propaganda." Santorum says Paul is "obviously not seeing clearly" on the subject and does not understand the threats to the country from what he called Islamic militants.

Paul said, "We should at least talk to them (Iranians) – (as) Reagan talked to the Soviets."

Paul added that during the Cold War the Soviet Union and China had many nuclear weapons and represented genuine threats to the United States, but America did not go to war with those countries, instead maintained diplomatic relations. This prompted a fiery response from Rick Santorum, who boasted of how he had passed legislation to isolate Iran when he was in the Senate.

"Iran is not Iceland, Ron," said Santorum. "Iran is a country that has been at war against us since 1979," and is an "existential threat" to Israel.

Paul responded that conflict between Iran and the United States goes back much further than 1979 – going to when the United States installed the Shah of Iran in a military coup in 1953, with blowback coming later in the Iranian revolution of 1979.

Britain's hypocrisy denounced by Syria



Syrian ambassador to the United Nations, Bashar Ja'afari

Syria's ambassador to the United Nations Bashar Ja'afari has sparked diplomatic furor by comparing the unrest in his country to the riots in Britain, adding that anti-government groups had killed 500 Syrian security forces.

According to Day Press News, Ja'afari said "It's very indicative and informative to hear the prime minister of England describing the riots and the rioters in England as by using the terms gangs while they don't allow us to use the same term for the armed groups and the terrorist groups in my country. This is hypocrisy."

Bashar Ja'afari says the country's sovereignty "is a red line that must not be crossed".

"We know our commitments, our obligations but at the same time we know what our rights are. And our rights do not stem from any political pressure. They stem from our own political will," he said after sessions at the United Nations Security Council in New York.

He criticized Western nations for accepting the British government's denunciation of rioters as members of gangs, while denouncing Syria for its crackdown on anti-government elements.

"They don't allow us to use the same term for the armed groups and the terrorist groups in my country. This is hypocrisy, this is arrogance," he said.

"They tried to manipulate the truth and to hide important facts and elements related to the so-called situation in Syria," said Ja'afari. (Source: Agencies)

Tehran summons British diplomat over police crackdown

TEHRANTIMES TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned on Thursday the British charge d'affaires to Tehran to protest police's brutal crackdown on protesters.

An official at Iran's Foreign Ministry expressed his concerns over the police brutality and called on London to meet British citizens' demands.

On Wednesday, Ahmadinejad also criticized the UN Security Council for remaining silent about the developments taking place in Britain, saying, "The UN Security Council should intervene and show if it is able to condemn a permanent member for its police's brutal crackdown on protesters."

Meanwhile, Iranian charge d'affaires in London criticized UK's double standard policies toward protesters. Five people have been killed in the riots over the last few days in Britain, which were sparked by the British police's killing of a black man. Three men were killed on Wednesday when a car ran over them, who were protecting a mosque and their businesses from the looters. Later on Wednesday, a fifth victim also succumbed to his injuries suffered during the unrest.

PERSPECTIVE

Ramzy Baroud

Gaza. Somalia. Humanity lives on

I remember how exhilarated I felt when I was told I was old enough to fast for the month of Ramadan. My feelings had little to do with abstinence from food and drink between dawn and sunset each day. For a child, there is little joy in that. The meaning and implications for me were much greater. I believed that the occasion signaled I had now become a man. I wanted to share this news with all my brothers, friends and neighbors.

Three days into the fast, lethargy set in. The end seemed near. Although I fared well in my first attempt at fasting for an entire month, I had my weak and reprehensible moments. I hid in dark corners with my favorite snacks: a cucumber, a tomato, a loaf of pita bread. To be caught would be shameful and degrading, a regression back into childhood, a terrible example to my younger siblings, and a ripe topic of ridicule from my older brothers.

Ramadan in a Gaza refugee camp is an entirely different experience from Ramadan anywhere else. A malnourished population of impoverished refugees abstains from food and gives endless thanks for life's fortunes. The irony didn't escape me then, as it doesn't escape me now. The imam of our refugee camp's Great Mosque would spend much time thanking Allah for his numerous gifts. Hands extended to the sky, and faces lowered to the ground, the faithful would repeat in impressive unison: "Amen." Even as Israeli helicopters buzzed above their heads and military vehicles speed nearby, the faithful kept their faces lowered. Even as the smell of gunpowder and teargas poisoned the atmosphere, their hands stayed extended. "Alhamdulillah," said the Imam. Thanks to God. And the crowd repeated, "Amen." Contd. on P. 15