

## Foreign Ministry Summons Italian Ambassador

TEHRAN -- The Foreign Ministry on Friday summoned the Italian Ambassador to Tehran Paola Amadei over the continued detention of the Iranian citizen Muhammad Abedini in Italy. Amadei was summoned by Director General of Western Europe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Majid Nili who said the detention of Mr. Abedini is an illegal act that was carried out upon the US Administration's request and in line with the political and hostile goals of the country to hold Iranian citizens hostage. "This not only harms the long-standing relations between Iran and Italy, but also contradicts the principles and standards of international law, including the rules of human rights, and can be a form of arbitrary detention," he added.

## Army Deploys Troops to Western, Eastern Borders

TEHRAN -- A senior Iranian Army commander said Friday the Islamic Republic has deployed several brigades of ground forces on the Western and Eastern borders of the country to maintain its security and preserve its territorial integrity. Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, deputy chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination, said, "Border control will prevent the entry of smuggled products, drugs and other materials into our country." "We must control our borders in order to maintain our social and internal security and prevent any unwanted incidents."

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Saturday, January 4, 2025, Dey 15, 1403, Rajab 3, 1446, Price 500,000 Rials

### Iran Calls for Afghan Cooperation on Water Rights



### Ammar Film Festival Concludes in Tehran



### Azmoun Among Top IFFHS World Best International Goalscorer 2024



### Rockets Fired From Gaza After New Israeli Carnage



## The Lasting Legacy of Imam Hadi (AS)

By: Seyyed Ali Shahbaz

"He who obeys you has in fact obeyed Allah; he who disobeys you has in fact disobeyed Allah; he who loves you has in fact loved Allah; he who hates you has in fact hated Allah..." (Ziyarah al-Jame'a)

Today is a doleful day in Islamic history. On Rajab 3 in the year 254 AH (868 CE) another Infallible Imam of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA) was martyred. This time the terrible tragedy took place in the city of Samarra in Iraq. The victim was Imam Ali an-Naqi al-Hadi (AS). He was 10th in the line of Divinely-decreed succession that had begun 234 years earlier on 18th Zilhija, 10 AH, with the Prophet's proclamation of his dear cousin and son-in-law, Imam Ali ibn Abi Taleb (AS), as Vicegerent at Ghadir-Khom, on the expresses revelation of Ayah 67 of Surah al-Ma'edah, while returning from the Farewell Pilgrimage.

At 42 years, he was in the full bloom of manhood when martyred in a cowardly manner through a fatal dose of poison. He was al-Mu'taz, the 13th self-styled Abbasid caliph and the 26th of the line of Godless debauchees and bloodthirsty tyrants that had started with the seizure of the caliphate by the Omayyad scoundrel, Mu'awiyah ibn Abu Sufyan, from the Prophet's elder grandson, Imam Hasan (AS) in 41 AH.

The reason for his martyrdom was obvious. It was his number, that is, "Tenth" of the Prophet's Infallible Heirs. This was a worrisome number. It was too close for comfort for the usurpers, in view of the famous Hadith (recorded by both Sunni and Shi'ite narrators) that the number of righteous Imams will be 12, and the last of them will rise as Qa'em al-Mahdi (AS) to end oppression and corruption on earth by establishing the global government of peace, prosperity, and justice.

That was also the reason for the martyrdom of his predecessor, the Prophet's 9th Infallible Successor, Imam Muhammad at-Taqi al-Jawad (AS), by the caliph Mu'tasim in 220 AH in Baghdad at the young age of 25 years - also through poisoning - when Imam Ali al-Hadi (AS) was a mere boy of 8 years.

The next step taken by the crafty Mu'tasim (born of a Turkish slave-girl to the infamous Haroun Rasheed), was to place the orphan of his venerable victim under the tutelage of the scholar al-Junaydi. It was an attempt to indoctrinate and mislead him in the matters of faith, on the assumption of ending the chain of Infallible Guidance linked directly to the Prophet.

It was obvious that the arrogant Abbasid usurper was ignorant of the fact that the All-Wise God says explicitly in the Holy Qur'an of giving Yayha (John the Baptist) the Scripture while still a child, and entrusting Prophethood to Jesus while still an infant in the cradle. To the horror of the caliph, it was the young boy who taught the bearded scholar of knowledge he knew not. Imam Hadi (AS), not just acquainted al-Junaydi with the finer points of Arabic literature but also enlightened his mind with the proper understanding of the holy Qur'an, to the extent that he concluded that this was divine cause beyond the ken of ordinary human beings.

Mu'tasim, notorious for his prohibition of "Ijtihad" (independent reasoning with the Holy Qur'an and the Prophet's practice as basis) and his splintering of the general Muslim populace into four court-sanctioned schools of jurisprudence, also gave free rein to his neo-Muslim Turkish generals to repress any opposition - a blunder that in later years resulted in disorder on a massive scale.

Nonetheless, despite the persecution of the Prophet's progeny and widespread official promotion of all sorts of vices in society, the Tenth Imam continued his guiding role. He groomed in various branches of sciences a large number of scholars, whose names are immortal to this day - Seyyed (Shah) Abdul-Azeem al-Hasani (his shrine is in Rayy, south of Tehran), Fazl bin Shazan, Ali bin Mahzyar, Ali bin Bilal Baghdadi, Ali bin Ja'far al-Hamadani, etc.

The most testing times for the Imam during his 34-year mission, was the almost 14 year misrule of the tyrannical Mutawakkel - born of a Greek concubine to Mu'tasim and notorious as the "most infidel of the Abbasid caliphs" (Akfar al-Muluk al-Abbasiyya). Mutawakkel forced Imam Hadi (AS) to leave Medina and live under virtual house arrest at Samarra, especially after the grand reception of the Prophet's successor in Baghdad on his way by tens of thousands of Muslims of various persuasion.

The Imam had to endure with patience the destruction of the shrine of Imam Husain (AS) by the caliph and the ban on all pilgrimages to Karbala. The scholar Ibn Sikkit (to be brutally murdered by Mutawakkel for boldly replying that even Imam Ali's (AS) slave Qanbar was better than the caliph's sons when asked whether the caliph's brats could be compared to the Prophet's grandsons, Imam Hasan and Husain), composed an elegy in this regard:

"By Allah, if the Umayyads had killed the (grand)son of the Prophet unjustly, His cousins (the Abbasids) did the same; Here (in Karbala) is his tomb destroyed! They felt sorry that they did not participate in killing him, So they chased him in the grave."

Time and space do not allow me to go into details of the life of the Tenth Imam, who rests in eternal peace in the shrine in Samarra - rebuilt on a grand scale following the two blasphemous bomb blasts (22 February 2006 and 13 June 2007).

To be brief, he ably groomed the seekers of truth, wherever in the world, for the long occultation of the 12th Imam. Among the lasting legacies of Imam Hadi (AS), are two Ziyarahs or standard forms of salutations to the Prophet's Infallible Successors. The first is that of Imam Ali (AS) for the Day of Ghadeer or completion of faith and divine favours. The second is the "Ziyarat-al-Jame'ah" that embodies the unrivalled merits of the Ahl al-Bayt.

The "Ziyarat-al-Jame'at-al-Kabira" begins with the phrases: "Peace upon you, O the Household of Prophethood, Location of the Divine Mission; Descent of Angels; Abode of Revelation..."

This is indeed an excellent description of the pivotal position of the Ahl al-Bayt of Prophet Muhammad (SAWA), whose spotless purity God Almighty Himself has vouched in the Holy Qur'an (33:33), commanding Muslims to adhere to them. This famous "Ziyarah" or standard form of salutation comprehensively dwells on the fundamentals of faith, the bounties of the world of creation and the eternal bliss of paradise promised to the true believers.

## Iran Pays Tribute to 'Commander of Hearts'



This combo shows ceremonies held in Kerman and Tehran to mark the fifth anniversary of the martyrdom of Gen. Soleimani on Thursday.

TEHRAN -- Iranians flocked to the southeastern province of Kerman on Thursday to pay homage to General Qassem Soleimani as hundreds of thousands participated in ceremonies to mark the fifth anniversary of his martyrdom.

General Soleimani's hometown and burial site hosted a deluge of the legendary commander's lovers and followers from all walks of life and various social strata in a cold snowy weather.

"In an era when warfare relies on weapons, the mass of bombs, and the number of piles of dead, he became known as the 'Com-

mander of Hearts' because great commanders are not the conquerors of geographically known lands; they are the conquerors of hearts, and that is why their conquests remain forever," Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei wrote on X.

"On the anniversary of the martyrdom of the brave commander of Islam, the pride of the resistance, the soldier of the homeland, and the great hero in the fight against terrorism, Hajj Qassem Soleimani, we honor his memory and salute the souls of all the martyrs who defended the Ira-

nian nation and resisted aggression, terrorism, and occupation," he added.

General Soleimani, commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), and their companions were assassinated in a U.S. drone strike at Baghdad airport on January 3, 2020.

Both commanders were highly revered across West Asia because of their key role in fighting the Daesh terrorists in the region,

particularly in Iraq and Syria.

Addressing a ceremony Tehran, chairman of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) Fali al-Fayyadh praised Gen. Soleimani's key role in defeating Daesh.

"Our victories were due to the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially Martyr Soleimani," he said.

"We are commemorating the martyrdom of those, who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Iraq's sovereignty and unity, and notched up an outstanding victory."

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## Yemen Hits Zionist Targets With Ballistic Missiles

SANA'A (Dispatches) -- Yemen's armed forces on Friday fired a hypersonic ballistic missile and a drone at the city of Yaffa near Tel Aviv, say they struck their intended target with accuracy.

A Palestine-2 projectile and an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) were used in the operation, the Yemeni military said in a statement.

"The missile force of the Yemeni armed forces carried out a military operation targeting an enemy-linked power station east of the occupied area of Yaffa, using a hypersonic ballistic missile, type 'Palestine 2,'" the statement said. "It (the missile) has successfully hit its target."

"The UAVs force of the Yemeni armed forces also carried out a military operation targeting a military target in the occupied area Yaffa, using a 'Yaffa' drone, and it achieved its target successfully," the statement said.

The operation was in response to the Israeli massacre Gazans, and came within "the fifth phase

of the supportive stages in the battle of the Promised Conquest and the Holy Jihad (Struggle) and in retaliation to the aggression against our country", it said.

Yemeni troops began launching their operations against Israeli targets last October in support of the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Earlier Friday, Yemeni forces launched a missile attack, triggering air raid sirens in the center and south of the Israeli occupied territories.

Israel's military claimed that the missile "was intercepted", citing reports about shrapnel from the interception that fell in the area of Modi'in. However, a video shared on social media showed the missile fired from Yemen hitting an Israeli target.

Israel's emergency service provider, Magen David Adom, reported that 12 people required treatment for injuries sustained in the rush to bomb shelters and nine suffered anxiety attacks.

Yemen's National Salvation Government (Continued on Page 7)

## Suicides Soar Among Zionist Troops Hamas Comeback Exposes Zionist Lies

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Israeli media reports have cast doubt over the number of resistance fighters in the Gaza Strip, pointing to their "substantial comeback" 15 months into the bloody war on the Palestinian territory.

Zionist media outlets, including The Jerusalem Post, estimated that there are between 20,000 and 23,000 resistance fighters across Gaza, including those of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, along with local fighters.

"Hamas is making a substantial comeback by recruiting new forces," The Post reported.

The newly reported figures challenge the Israeli claims of nearing total victory over Hamas. At the beginning of its brutal Gaza onslaught, the Zionist military vowed to eliminate Hamas and its 25,000 fighters.

Recently, the occupation's military claimed that it had killed 17,000-20,000 Hamas and Islam-

ic Jihad fighters over the course of the war on the besieged territory.

A comparison between the Israeli military's figures and those by the regime's media shows that Hamas has recruited almost an entirely new force, fully replacing its old force.

Another possibility is that preliminary Israeli estimates were inaccurate and that Hamas had 30,000 or even up to 40,000 members before the start of the bloody Israeli aggression.

On Thursday, the Israeli army reported a sharp rise in suicides among soldiers since the regime launched a campaign of death and destruction against the besieged Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the military said that at least 28 Zionist soldiers had committed suicide since October 2023.

"The figure is higher than 2023 when (Continued on Page 7)