

Iran president confident Riyadh summit can help end Israeli crimes

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Riyadh, November 11 (RHC)-- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian says he is confident that an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Arab League will yield "effective and tangible" outcomes in halting the Israeli regime's aggression in Gaza and Lebanon.

Pezeshkian made the remark in a phone conversation with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Sunday as Riyadh is expected to host Arab and Muslim leaders for a summit scheduled for Monday that will focus on Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon.

The joint OIC-Arab League summit is scheduled to discuss the continued Israeli genocidal war in Gaza and its aggression on Lebanon as well as the current developments in the region.

"I have no doubt that this summit will have effective and tangible results leading to the cessation of the Zionist regime's crimes and the war and bloodshed in Gaza and Lebanon," Pezeshkian said.

He added that he could not accept the invitation of the Saudi King to take part in the summit due to his heavy executive work, but noted that the first Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref would participate in the event.

The Iranian president expressed hope that Tehran and Riyadh will further improve relations in all fields given the determination of both sides. The Saudi crown prince hailed a historical turning point in Tehran-Riyadh relations and expressed hope that mutual ties will reach the highest levels in all fields.

Salman added that he would take the opportunity of the Iranian vice president's presence in Riyadh to discuss ways to expand relations. He once again invited the Iranian president to travel to Saudi Arabia and hoped grounds would be prepared in this regard as soon as possible.

Earlier on Sunday, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri and Saudi Chief of General Staff General Fayyad bin Hamed al-Ruwaili discussed in Tehran the promotion of defense diplomacy as the Israeli regime continues to significantly escalate tensions in the region.

In March 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed under a Chinese-brokered deal to restore diplomatic relations severed in 2016.

As part of a joint statement issued by the two sides, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to implement a security cooperation agreement signed in April 2001 and another accord reached in May 1998 to boost ties in various sectors.

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