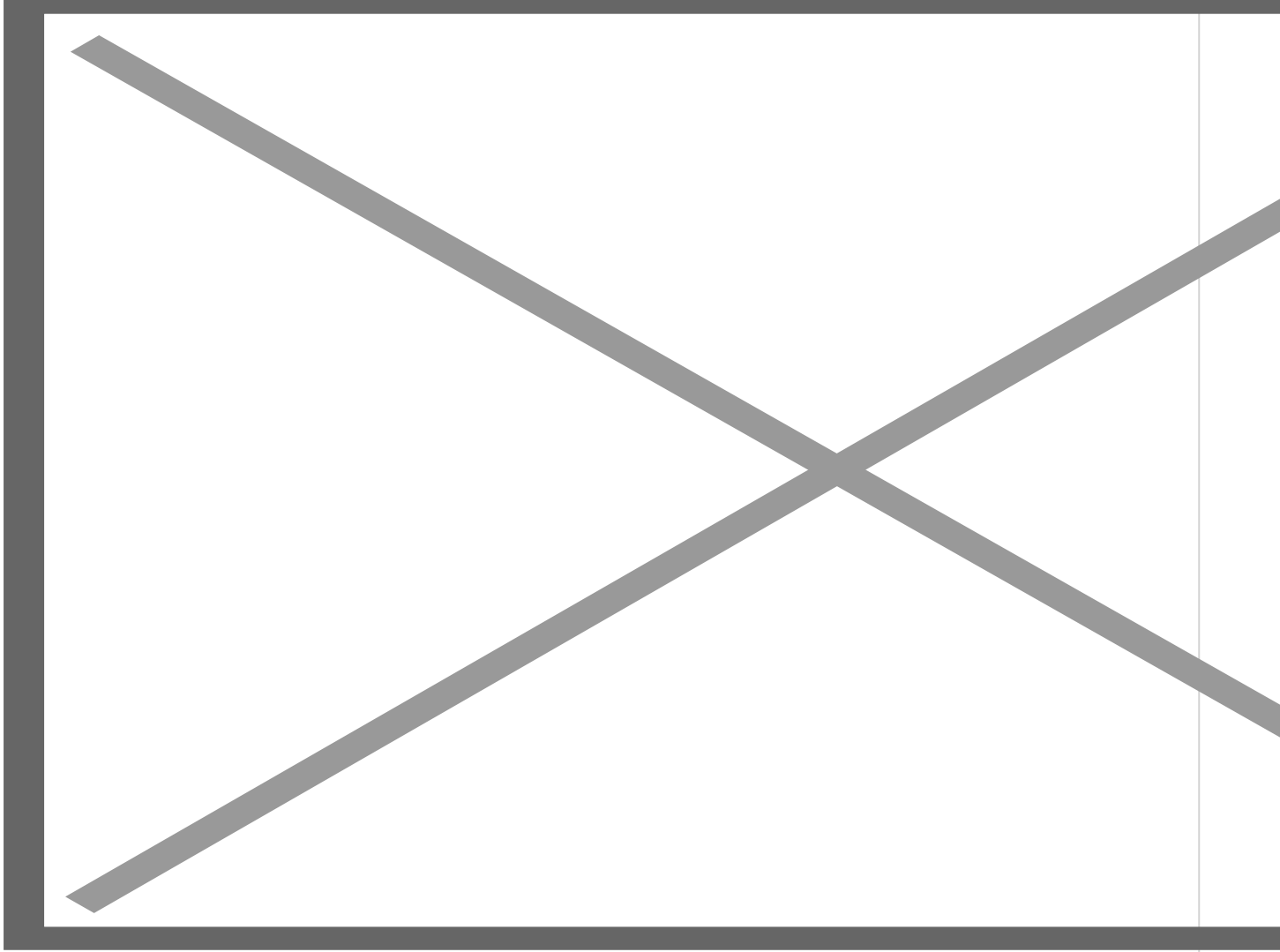


Acting Iranian foreign minister says Tehran seeks to prevent realization of Israeli dream of regional war

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Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani

Tehran, August 12 (RHC)-- Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani says the country is seeking to prevent realization of the Israeli regime's "dream" of triggering an all-out regional war.

The top diplomat made the remarks in a series of posts on the X social media platform on Sunday. He was referring to the flurry of acts of willful and deadly aggression that the regime has been staging across West Asia, which have been threatening to engulf more expanses of the region in unbridled violence.

The violations have seen the regime bringing the Gaza Strip under a genocidal war, waging near-daily simultaneous attacks on neighboring Lebanon, and assassinating regional resistance figures, including Hamas' political leader, Ismail Haniyeh.

Tel Aviv has denied responsibility for the targeted killing that took place in the Iranian capital Tehran late last month, but Tehran has held it squarely responsible for the atrocity and vowed to serve it with a harsh response.

At the same time as trying to confront the Israeli provocations of further regional hostilities, the Islamic Republic was seeking to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of the regime within the framework of the international law and the United Nations Charter, Bagheri said.

An advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says preparations have already been made to severely punish the Israeli regime. "We believe that going unpunished would further embolden the regime in its crimes," he asserted, urging Muslim countries to resort to common coordinated efforts at bringing about an end to the genocide in Gaza.

"With its widespread massacre of civilians, including women and children, the Zionist regime set a new record of barbarity in the [international] human society," Bagheri said.

He pointed to the regime's most recent carnage in the coastal sliver, which saw it killing more than 100 people at a school sheltering displaced Palestinians east of the Gaza City.

Bagheri lambasted Western governments for their "reprehensible" double standards, when it came to the regime's atrocities. Had any party other than the occupying entity committed such bloodletting, Western governments "would be competing each other to condemn it in the strongest terms and subject the perpetrator to sanctions and [other] restrictions," he said.

The same governments, however, close their eyes and exercise lenience towards the regime, and even protect it at the UN Security Council with their pro-Israeli votes, noted the official. "The Western governments' duplicity and hypocrisy is not ignorable," he underlined.

Bagheri concluded his remarks by pointing to his earlier discussions with Khalil al-Hayya, Hamas' deputy Political Bureau chief, during which the former had extended his congratulations over the movement's recent appointment of Yahya Sinwar as Haniyeh's replacement.

Speaking to Hayya, the Iranian official had also praised the regional resistance front's underway courageous struggle against the "criminal and child-killing gang in Tel Aviv," and assured the members of the front of the Islamic Republic's ongoing support for the oppressed Palestinian nation.

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