



Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Naser Kanaani during a press briefing session in Tehran

Iran Rejects Role In Hamas Terror Attack, While Continuing Rhetoric

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Author: **Iran International Newsroom**

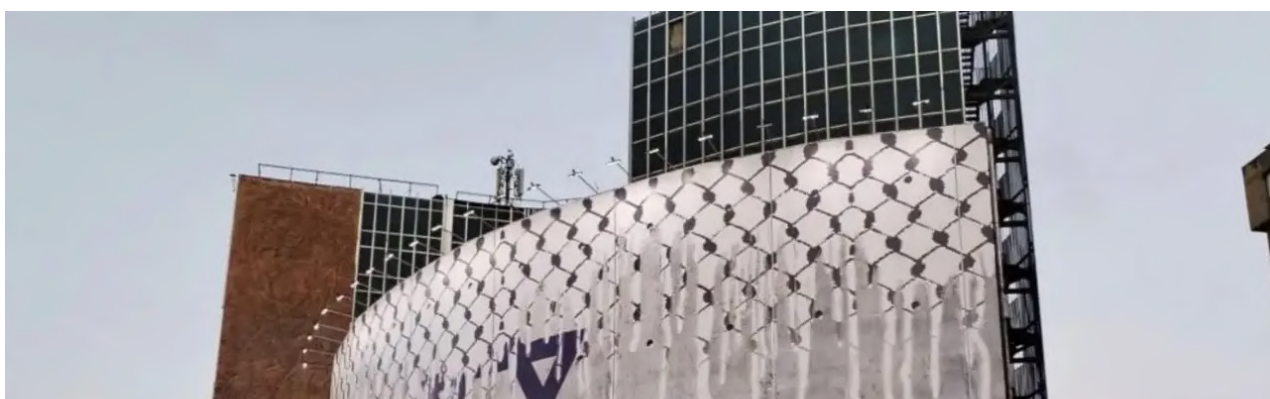
Conflict - Military Iran Israel

Iran on Monday rejected accusations that it had any role in the terrorist invasion of Israel, despite Hamas representatives thanking Tehran for aiding the group.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Naser Kanaani told the media that Palestinians launched the attack relying on their own power and insisted that accusations against Iran have political motives.

Hamas spokesman Ghazi Hamad told the BBC on Sunday that Iran provided support to the Palestinian terror group to launch its surprise attack on Israel on Saturday. **The Wall Street Journal also reported** that both Hamas and Hezbollah sources confirmed the involvement of Iran's Revolutionary Guard in planning the attack and in the final decision to set a date.

The Iranian regime also **immediately launched celebrations** on Saturday while the killing of Israeli civilians was still going on, and even erected large banners in Tehran within hours bearing the codename for the operation, a fact that betrayed Iran's foreknowledge of the attack.





A mural at Tehran's Vali-Asr square in support of the attack on Israel, what Hamas calls "the operation al-Aqsa storm."

The Iranian regime signaled its support for Hamas, which is largely financed and armed by Tehran. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's social media, President Ebrahim Raisi and a host of other officials and the state media widely expressed their satisfaction with the attack the very first day.

Hardliner regime loyalists in Iran continued to defend their policies in supporting the Palestinian Islamic Hamas, some by issuing threats against regional countries.

"The best way to destroy Israel is the overthrow of the regional puppet governments. Israel does not have the audacity to attack Iran, with the advanced weapons we possess, we will destroy Israel. We have things they are unaware of." These were the **words of Fereydoun Abbasi** on Monday, a hardliner member of the Islamic parliament and a former head of Iran's nuclear agency.

His reference to "puppet governments" is a typical label used by Iranian officials to refer to Saudi Arabia and its allies. Abbasi's comment shows how shallow the apparent détente is between Tehran and Riyadh, who restored diplomatic ties in March with Chinese mediation. His comments, along with many others since October 7, also show more than ever the Iranian regime's commitment to eradicate Israel.



Ali-Akbar Velayati, foreign policy advisor to Ali Khamenei was quoted on Monday as telling his Syrian counterpart, "Those who believe that by so-called normalization of relations with the Zionists and cutting off ties with the Muslim nations of the region can solve their problems should take heed of these events."

Kanaani also made it clear during his briefing that the Hamas attack was linked to the rapprochement between Israel and Saudi Arabia. He underlined that Khamenei had warned Arab countries last week not to engage in such a "gamble" and instead support the Palestinians.

The large-scale terror attack on Israel will probably keep the Islamic Republic firmly in the category of rogue regimes for some time to come. Statements by regime figures clearly show that Iran's aging ruler Ali Khamenei took the Hamas gamble to disrupt the emerging normalization between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Since its inception in 1979, the Islamic Republic has relentlessly pursued an anti-West, anti-Israel ideology. Its foreign policy is to a large extent the by-product of this ideology based on 20th century propaganda rhetoric largely disseminated at the time by the Soviet Union and its Communist and leftist allies around the globe.

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