

# Ayatollah Khamenei meets families of General Soleimani and other martyrs

Exclusive report from Jahan Akhbar newspaper



Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has met with the families of a group of Iranian martyrs on the sixth anniversary of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani's martyrdom. The meeting took place at the Imam Khomeini Religious Center in Tehran on Saturday, January 3, marking the day General Soleimani was killed in a US drone attack near Baghdad, Iraq, in 2020. Families of General Soleimani and his comrades, as well as martyrs who were killed during the US-Israeli 12-day war against Iran in June, attended the meeting. Ayatollah Khamenei commented on the recent protests in Iran,

including those by businessmen, stating that protests are different from riots, and emphasizing that Iranian officials are working to find solutions to the surge in foreign currency rates. TEHRAN, Jan. 03 (MNA) – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the enemy is behind the economic problems in the country through the rial depreciation, calling for an intensified crackdown on foreign-backed rioters. The Leader held a meeting with the families of the martyrs of the 12-day war against the United States-backed Israeli regime on Father's Day, which marks Imam Ali birthday anniversary

and martyrdom anniversary of former IRGC Quds Force commander Lt. General Qasem Soleimani on Saturday at Imam Khomeini Hussainyeh in downtown Tehran. "We will not back down in the face of the enemy. By relying on God Almighty and trusting in the support of the people, we will bring the enemy to his knees with divine success," said the Leader after blaming the foreign enemies for depreciations of the rial and its fluctuations. He pointed to recent protests held in Tehran by traders and shopkeepers over the currency fluctuations, saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran respects the right

to protest while it cannot tolerate riots. "The uncontrolled rise in foreign currency prices [against the rial] is not natural and is the work of the enemy, which has to be stopped," he said, stressing that "We talk to the protestor, but there's no point in talking to the rioter." "A bunch of mercenaries hired by the enemy infiltrated in the ranks of the shopkeepers and traders and chanted anti-Islam, anti-Iran, and anti-Islamic Republic slogans," Ayatollah Khamenei said. He called on the security forces to intensify the crackdown on the enemy's mercenaries who try to undermine the country's security through riots. Ayatollah Khamenei said that the president and senior officials are trying hard to tackle the economic problems. Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has met with the families of a group of Iranian martyrs on the sixth anniversary of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani's martyrdom. The meeting took place at the Imam Khomeini Religious Center in Tehran on Saturday, January 3, marking the day General Soleimani was killed in a US drone attack near Baghdad, Iraq, in 2020. Families of General Soleimani and his comrades, as well as martyrs who were killed during the US-Israeli 12-day war against Iran in June, attended the meeting. Ayatollah Khamenei commented on the recent protests in Iran, including those by businessmen, stating that protests are different from riots, and emphasizing that Iranian officials are working to find solutions to the surge in foreign currency rates. TEHRAN, Jan. 03 (MNA) – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the enemy is behind the economic problems in the country through the

rial depreciation, calling for an intensified crackdown on foreign-backed rioters. The Leader held a meeting with the families of the martyrs of the 12-day war against the United States-backed Israeli regime on Father's Day, which marks Imam Ali birthday anniversary and martyrdom anniversary of former IRGC Quds Force commander Lt. General Qasem Soleimani on Saturday at Imam Khomeini Hussainyeh in downtown Tehran. "We will not back down in the face of the enemy. By relying on God Almighty and trusting in the support of the people, we will bring the enemy to his knees with divine success," said the Leader after blaming the foreign enemies for depreciations of the rial and its fluctuations. He pointed to recent protests held in Tehran by traders and shopkeepers over the currency fluctuations, saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran respects the right to protest while it cannot tolerate riots. "The uncontrolled rise in foreign currency prices [against the rial] is not natural and is the work of the enemy, which has to be stopped," he said, stressing that "We talk to the protestor, but there's no point in talking to the rioter." "A bunch of mercenaries hired by the enemy infiltrated in the ranks of the shopkeepers and traders and chanted anti-Islam, anti-Iran, and anti-Islamic Republic slogans," Ayatollah Khamenei said. He called on the security forces to intensify the crackdown on the enemy's mercenaries who try to undermine the country's security through riots. Ayatollah Khamenei said that the president and senior officials are trying hard to tackle the economic problems

## IRGC: Trump's anti-Iran threats stem from desperation

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has issued a statement, emphasizing that recent threats by US President Donald Trump against Iran reflect desperation. The IRGC has also reaffirmed its commitment to defend the Islamic nation and counter ongoing hostile plots. The IRGC issued its statement on Saturday on the anniversary of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani's assassination by the US in Iraq on January 3, 2020. It said that Trump's recent rhetoric follows unsuccessful attempts to force Iran into submission, arguing that such efforts were thwarted by public awareness and unity. According to the statement, the IRGC renewed its allegiance to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, pledging to continue to serve the Iranian people and remain committed to the goal of a strong, independent Iran, despite external pressure. The IRGC also described Martyr Soleimani as a defining figure whose legacy continues to shape the Axis of Resistance. It said that six years after Soleimani's assassination, his influence has expanded as resistance movements in the region have grown stronger. It also said that Iran's resilience during the June 12-day war with Israel demonstrated that numerous people like Martyr Soleimani are living in Iran.

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# Venezuela says United States carried out military aggression on its soil

Smoke raises after explosions and low-flying aircraft were heard in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, January 3, 2026. Tehran, IRNA – The Venezuelan government says the United States has carried out a "very serious and grave military aggression" against multiple parts of the country. In a statement issued on Saturday, the government said the US launched attacks on the capital, Caracas, as well as the states of Miranda, Aragua, and La Guaira. President Nicolás Maduro signed a state of emergency and ordered all national defense plans to be implemented "at the appropriate time and under the appropriate circumstances," according to the statement carried by CNN. Earlier in the day, multiple explosions were reported in Caracas and other locations, while the sound of low-flying aircraft were heard over the capital. At least seven explosions rocked Caracas, where smoke was seen rising from the hangar of a military base, according to The Associated Press. Another military installation in Caracas lost power, and residents in multiple neighborhoods rushed into the streets of the capital city. Local media outlets reported similar explosions in La Guaira state, north of Caracas and in Higuerote, a coastal city in Miranda state. The blasts

come after months of tension between Venezuela and the United States. President Donald Trump has accused Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro of being involved in drug trafficking, an allegation strongly dismissed by Caracas. On Thursday, Maduro said he was open to negotiating a deal with the US to combat drug trafficking. The US has carried out more than 20 airstrikes in the sea near Venezuela since September as part of what Washington called an anti-drug campaign. US President Donald Trump confirmed on his Truth Social media platform that Washington carried out a "large scale strike against Venezuela" and that President Nicolas Maduro and his wife have been captured. "The United States of America has successfully carried out a large scale strike against Venezuela and its leader, President Nicolas Maduro, who has been, along with his wife, captured and flown out

of the Country," Trump said in his post carried by CNN. Trump said that the operation was done "in conjunction with US Law Enforcement," adding that a news conference will be held later on Saturday to announce details. Venezuela says doesn't know whereabouts of Maduro. Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez said that the government does not know the whereabouts of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores. "We demand immediate proof of life from the government of President Donald Trump regarding the lives of President Maduro and the first lady," Rodríguez said in an audio call to state-run VTV Venezuela, as reported by CNN. She also said that the US attack has cost the lives of officials, military personnel and civilians across Venezuela. [This item is being updated.] Smoke raises after explosions



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