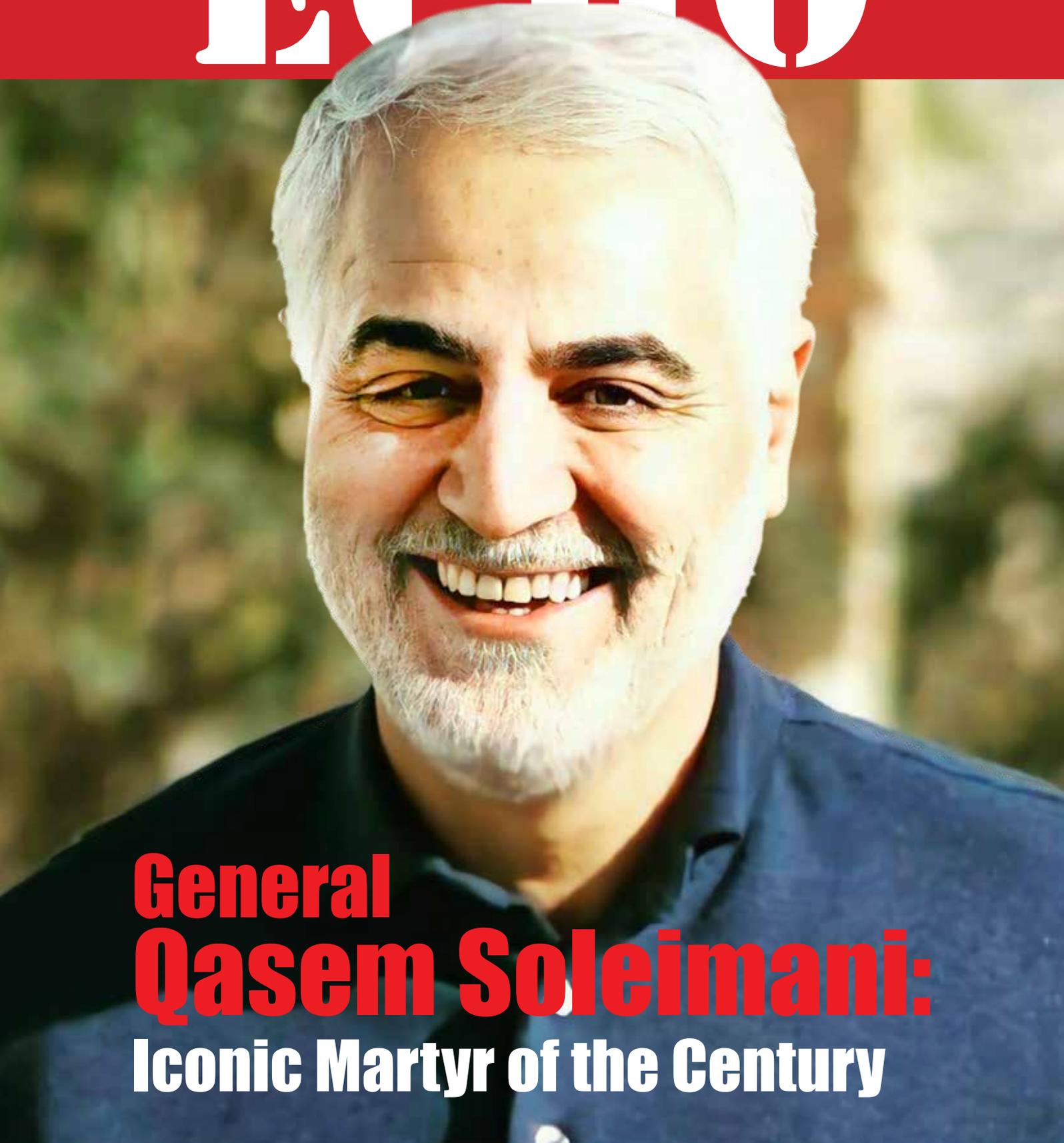


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General Qasem Soleimani: Iconic Martyr of the Century

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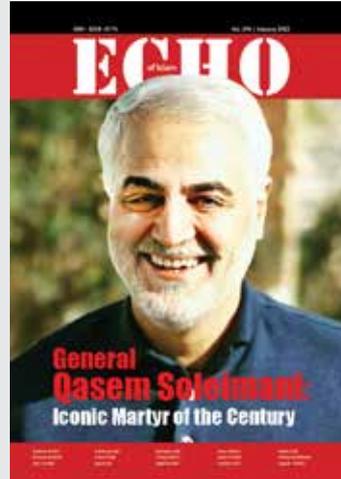
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Note:

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رَفَاهِيَّةُ الْعَيْشِ فِي الْأَمْنِ

Imam Ali (as) is quoted to have said: “The comfort of life is in safety”¹

Hojat al-Islam Mohammad Asadi Movahed

Islamic Research Scholar and Managing Director of Al-Huda International Cultural, Artistic and Publishing Institute

Talking about Martyr Qasem Soleimani is not an easy task; a warrior from the Kerman region of Iran who devoted his life to safeguarding his nation and eventually achieved his long-awaited desire of martyrdom.

It was during the Iranian Sacred Defense against the Ba’athist invasion that General Soleimani demonstrated his extraordinary qualities as a revolutionary guard. At the time when the Ba’athist enemy had occupied parts of the Iranian territories, warriors like Soleimani entered the scene, liberated their country, and brought victory to the Iranian forces. After the imposed war, too, Martyr Soleimani defended the Iranian nation on another front, by combating drug dealers and becoming a nightmare for them. He served his people and ensured their safety and security by being present wherever he was needed. Through the help of the people, he was able to create security in many parts of the Islamic world. This powerful commander defeated ISIS in Iraq and Syria by mobilizing the Iraqi and Syrian people and forming a national army in these two countries.

At the time when the ISIS forces had reached the borders of Baghdad and were about to seize it and becoming a serious threat to Iranian borders and causing crisis by spreading atrocities in Iranian border provinces, Haaj Qasem Soleimani arrived in Baghdad, blocked their way, and forced them to retreat, and then liberated Tikrit. He then went to Mosul and crossed the Iraqi border into Syria and liberated parts of Damascus that were occupied by ISIS.

General Soleimani created a new school of defense and a new way of warring, which ensured the legitimate rights of the nations in the region and strengthened the independence of these nations.

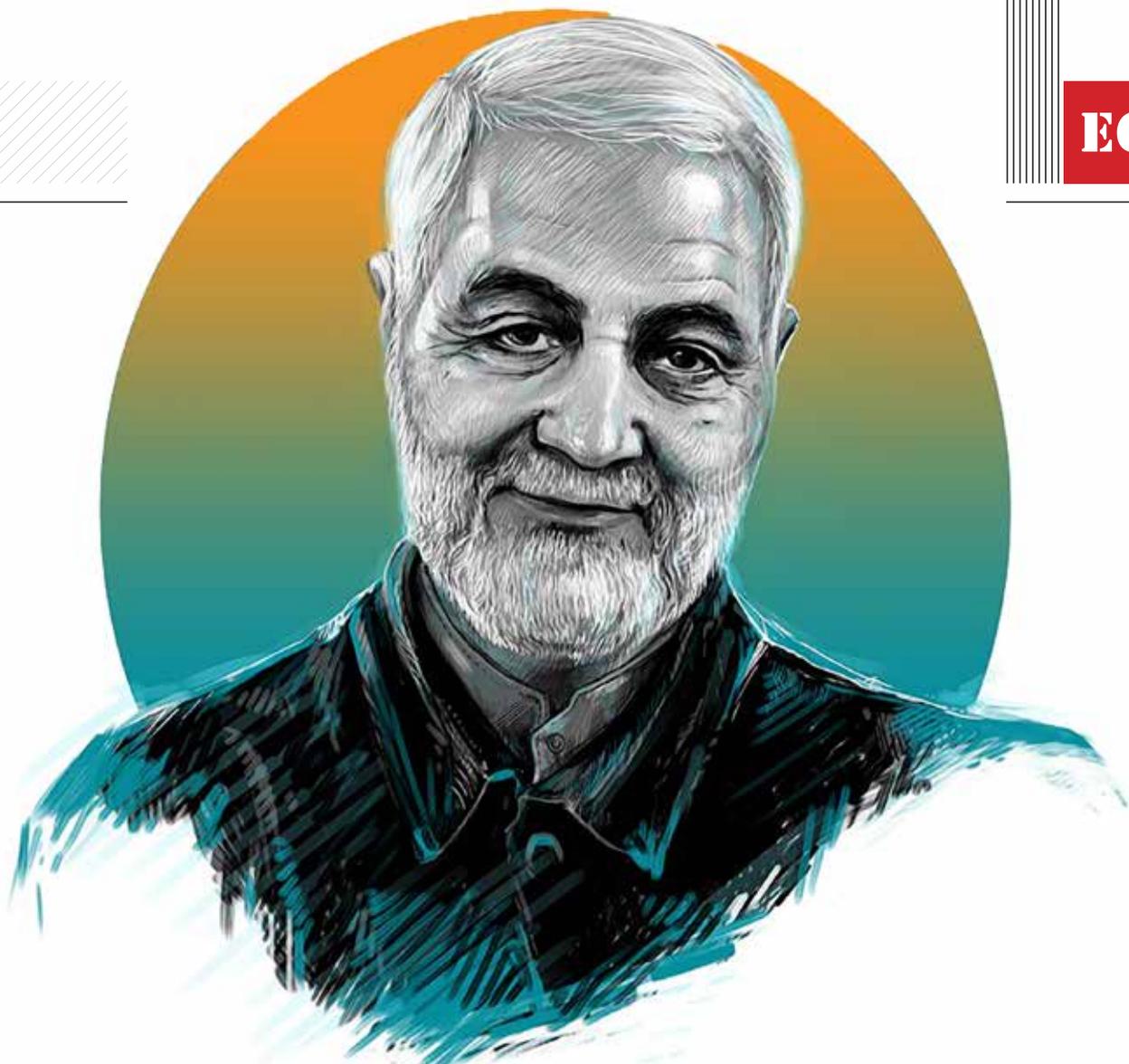
Under the leadership of Commander Qasem Soleimani, the Resistance Front expanded and turned into a regional and global force; showing a new path to the freedom-seeking nations. By the same token, he also proved that the Iranian nation is a great and humane nation and a defender of peace and stability in all parts of the world and is ready to send its sons to stop the enemy wherever human



lives are endangered.

Commander Soleimani was a self-made personality whose enemies considered him to be the most important obstacle to the way of achieving their illegitimate goals, and the Iranian people considered him to be the unknown national hero of hard days of the imposed war and sacred defense. He was also considered a man of policies but not in the field of party and political games. He was rather a man of policies on the battlefields, who, according to many Western media, played an important role in shifting the balance of power in the Middle East. Even the Americans themselves acknowledged his being the man of hard times and the commander of the Middle East.

Mark Kirk, a US senator, had once stated - during General Soleimani’s lifetime - that he is everywhere and nowhere. Americans were so apprehensive of



Martyr Soleimani that every week some US media outlets, such as the Washington Post and the New York Times, talked about his key role in the region.

This shadow commander, who, as admitted by the Associated Press, did not wear a bulletproof vest on the front lines, played such a decisive role in exposing the US policies in the region that the then-president of the United States called him a respectable enemy.

According to Der Spiegel, Commander Soleimani had the ability to defeat any US operation in the Middle East. His importance was such that even his martyrdom was another defeat for the United States, so much

so that the New York Times referred to the assassination of General Soleimani as a strategic defeat for the United States.

Undoubtedly, he can be referred to as a man of the most influential person in maintaining stability and security in the Middle East. In fact, one of the prominent achievements of commander Soleimani was the suppression of ISIS, and paying attention to the greatness of this issue suffices talking about him.

Martyr Soleimani was a first-class, influential and universal model in fulfilling missions and this was the cause of inspiration for others. Introducing Martyr Soleimani's school of thought is

a very accurate move in educating the current Iranian generation and that of the countries of the Islamic world and, therefore, in line with its cultural duties and with the aim of introducing this school as a pure Islamic model, Al-Huda International Cultural, Artistic and Publishing Institute has undertaken to publish a special issue on him in several foreign languages. It is hoped that this special issue will be an effective move in introducing this great man of the history of Islam and our beloved Iran.

1. Ghurar Al-Hikam Wa Durar Al-Kalim (Exalted Aphorisms and Pearls of Speech), Vol. 1, P. 389.



Following is the full text of the speech delivered on December 2020 ,16, by Ayatollah Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, in a meeting with the officials of the Martyr Soleimani Commemoration Anniversary and with the family members of that great martyr.

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, and peace and greetings be upon our Master Muhammad, and upon his pure household, and may God curse all their enemies

First of all, I very much thank the brothers and sisters who organized the Shahid (martyr) Soleimani Commemoration Anniversary and who also organ-

ized commemoration ceremonies for other great martyrs of the world of Islam, including the martyrs of defending the Holy Shrines. We could also refer to the event that the honorable family of our esteemed martyr organized under the name of "The Soleimani School of Thought". All these are very good, necessary and beneficial events and by Allah's favor, they should be pursued in a power-

ful, vigilant and careful way. All of you should do your best. As our Sardar [Sardar Hussein Sa-laami, the Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps] mentioned, you should pay attention that the events related to our dear Shahid Soleimani be public events. In other words, it is the people themselves who should cooperate and show their creativeness in various cultural areas, as they

did so during the burial ceremony and other such events. We should not confine the events to particular groups and orientations.

What I wish to say about the martyrdom of our dear Shahid Soleimani – I will never forget his memory and that of Shahid Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis (May Allah bestow paradise upon them) – is that the Soleimani martyrdom is a historic event. It is not a normal event that will be erased from historic memory. That event was recorded in history as a brilliant incident. Shahid Soleimani turned into the champion of the Iranian nation and the Islamic Ummah. This is a fundamental point. Iranians are proud of themselves for the fact that a man rose from a distant village who turned into a brilliant personality and a champion of the Islamic Ummah as a result of his endeavors and self-edification. Later on, I will raise two, three more points in this regard.

He is the champion of the Iranian nation because the people saw in him their own cultural, spiritual and revolutionary assets and values. While he was still alive and while he was pursuing his work – in a very simple manner and without any ostentation – the people would put up his photos on the street and they would feel proud of him. And when he was martyred, it was not only revolutionaries who commemorated him. Rather, people from all social backgrounds showed their sentiments towards him: even

those who were not expected to show their feelings for a revolutionary figure. Why is that? It is because of this fact: he was the embodiment of Iran's and the Iranians' cultural values. This is really valuable.

From another perspective, he enjoyed a spirit of courage and resistance. Courage and resistance are among Iranian qualities. Humiliation, retreat, passiveness and other such negative qualities are the antithesis of our national sentiments. Those who claim to be nationalists, but who act in a weak and humiliated manner are self-contradictory. He was the embodiment of courage and resistance. Everyone could see and witness this in him.

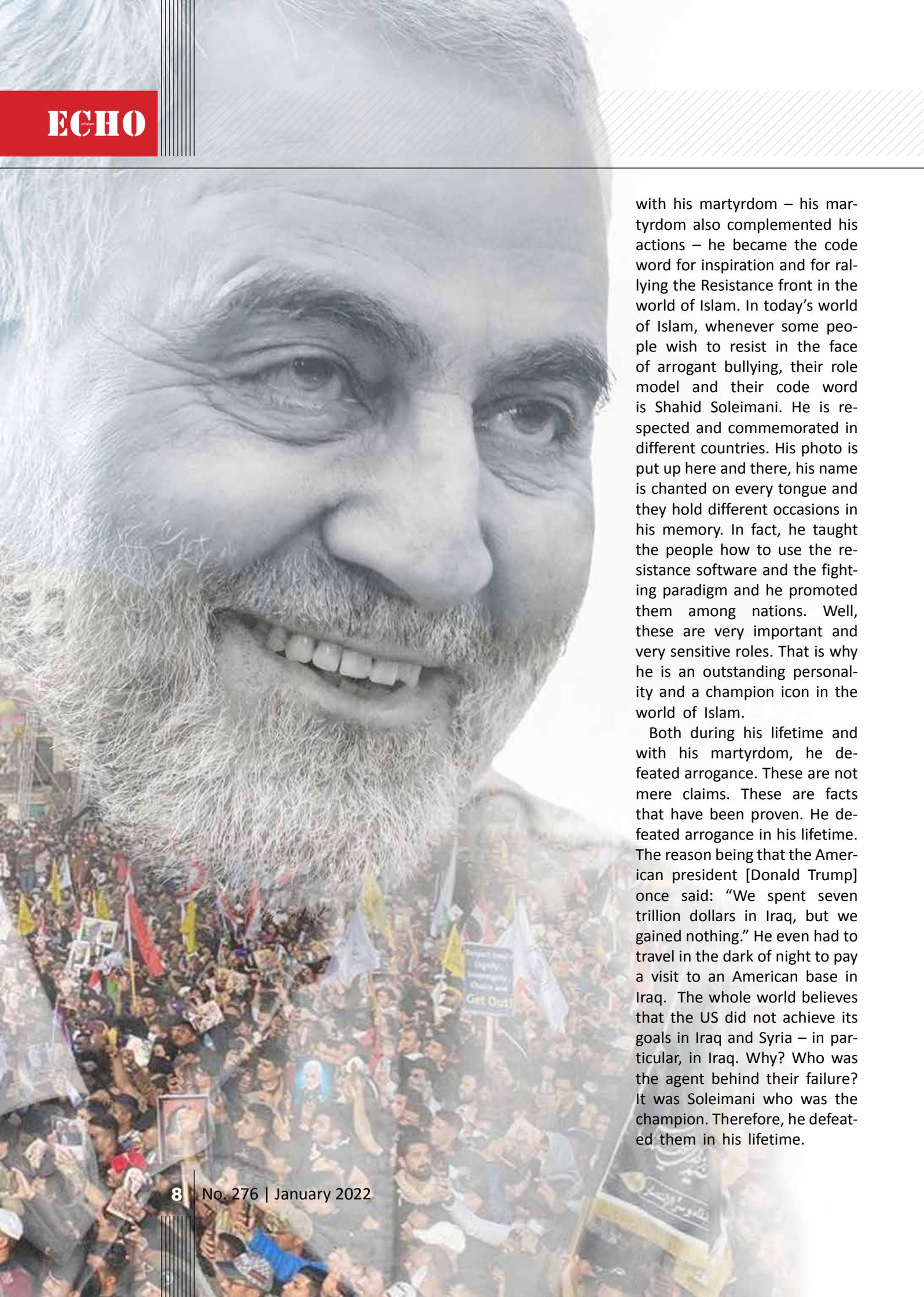
We could equally refer to his acumen and intelligence. He was very smart. There are many points about this aspect of his. Long before its realization, he predicted the emergence of a so-called religious orientation

that was inclined to a particular denomination and that worked against the Resistance and he shared his thoughts with me saying: "According to what I see in the world of Islam – he mentioned the names of some countries – a certain orientation is coming into being." And after a while, DAESH came into being! He was a shrewd and intelligent person. When dealing with the affairs in the countries where he was involved, he would act in a very wise and judicious manner. I could easily feel this. Well, we were constantly in contact with one another about different matters. He was shrewd. This is another Iranian quality. This is another quality of our Iranian cultural assets.

He also exhibited a spirit of self-sacrifice and love for human beings. He did not attach significance to this or that nation. He loved all human beings and he sacrificed himself for everyone. Moreover, he was a man of spirituality, purity and piety. He was really spiritual, pure and mystical and he did not pretend. Well, these are a collection of valuable virtues and ethics. The people saw these in him and he embodied them. In the deserts and mountains of such and such countries, he faced different enemies and he embodied and reflected the values of Iranian culture. Therefore, he turned into the champion of the Iranian nation.

On the other hand, we said that he was a champion of the Islamic Ummah. Why? Because with his moves and ultimately,

▶ **He is the champion of the Iranian nation because the people saw in him their own cultural, spiritual and revolutionary assets and values.**



with his martyrdom – his martyrdom also complemented his actions – he became the code word for inspiration and for rallying the Resistance front in the world of Islam. In today’s world of Islam, whenever some people wish to resist in the face of arrogant bullying, their role model and their code word is Shahid Soleimani. He is respected and commemorated in different countries. His photo is put up here and there, his name is chanted on every tongue and they hold different occasions in his memory. In fact, he taught the people how to use the resistance software and the fighting paradigm and he promoted them among nations. Well, these are very important and very sensitive roles. That is why he is an outstanding personality and a champion icon in the world of Islam.

Both during his lifetime and with his martyrdom, he defeated arrogance. These are not mere claims. These are facts that have been proven. He defeated arrogance in his lifetime. The reason being that the American president [Donald Trump] once said: “We spent seven trillion dollars in Iraq, but we gained nothing.” He even had to travel in the dark of night to pay a visit to an American base in Iraq. The whole world believes that the US did not achieve its goals in Iraq and Syria – in particular, in Iraq. Why? Who was the agent behind their failure? It was Soleimani who was the champion. Therefore, he defeated them in his lifetime.



He defeated them after his martyrdom as well. The burial ceremony that was organized in Iran for him was really astonishing and unforgettable. The same is true of the burial ceremony in Iraq with the presence of millions of Iraqis. They bid farewell to his body in Najaf and Baghdad: with the participation of millions of people! He as well as Shahid Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis were bid farewell. That ceremony and the following commemoration events astonished the soft war generals in the camp of arrogance. The outstanding and most influential generals in the soft war of arrogance were astonished to see that incident and they could not understand, in any way, the great movement that defeated them.

Of course, what happened following his martyrdom was the first hard slap delivered to the US. That great popular movement was the first slap deliv-

► **Our revolutionary youth and our religious personalities should shatter America's hollow power with their determination and they should deliver another hard slap to it.**

ered to the US and after that, our brothers delivered another one. However, the harder slap is a software victory over the hollow power of arrogance. This is a hard slap that should be dealt to the US. Our revolutionary youth and our religious personalities should shatter America's hollow power with their determination and they should deliver another hard slap to it. This is the first slap. Another one is to expel the US from the region. This requires the determination of nations and the policies adopted by the Resistance front. They should fulfil this duty. This slap will be a hard one.

Of course, these measures are different from taking revenge on the assassin. The measures that I referred to are related to ar-



rogance and the US in their entirety. Soleimani's assassin and those who issued the order will pay the price. This is another issue in its own respect. Of course, according to a dear personality, even Soleimani's shoes are worth more than his murderers' head and even if his murderer loses his head, Soleimani's shoes will still be worth more. This is true, but after all, they have done a wrong thing and we should take revenge against them. Both those who ordered his assassination and the assassins themselves should know that we will take our revenge in due time – at the proper time.

This is a good meeting that has been decorated with the name of Shahid Soleimani. Therefore, I will issue three, four pieces of advice, which are very important:

First of all, I wish to advise the officials of the country and our dear people to become strong. As our Poet from Khorasan said: "Go become strong if you wish to have the comforts of life" [from a poem by Ali Akbar Azadi Torbati]. You should become strong both in the economy, in science, in technology and in military defense. You should become strong. As long as you are not strong, the enemies will keep their greedy eyes on you. They will transgress against you. This is my first piece of advice, which is one that I have always offered. I myself will pursue the issue as long as I am capable of doing so and as long as God gives me the blessing to pursue it. Officials are also obliged to

follow it.

Secondly, you should not trust the enemy. This is my definitive word of advice. You should not trust the enemy. You should not trust this and that's promises with the purpose of smoothing the path of resolving the people's problems and of building the future of the country. This is addressed to officials. Such promises are not made by good people. They are made by bad and malicious people and not even one out of 100 promises made by such individuals will be honored.

You should not forget the enmities. They showed enmity towards us. You witnessed what Trump's and Obama's America did to you. Of course, their enmity is not confined to Trump so much so that now that he is not there, we say that their enmity is over. This is not the case. Obama's US behaved in a nasty way towards you too. They were mean towards the Iranian nation. The same is true of the three European countries. These three European countries showed absolute disloyalty and they showed their mean, two-faced and hypocritical face to the Iranian nation. This is the second piece of advice.

The third piece of advice is that you should preserve national unity. Our country needs unity: the Iranian nation's unity. On many matters, the Iranian nation has a unanimous voice and a unanimous demand. However, officials can destroy this. It would be quite a feat on the part of our officials to shatter

to pieces this unanimity and to destroy the nation. The officials of the country should do something to reinforce this unity. The three branches of government should work and cooperate together, in particular the heads of the three branches. If such solidarity, unity and cooperation are realized, national unity will certainly be strengthened on a daily basis. Well, one can negotiate. There are or might be certain differences. You should resolve them through negotiations. You speak about negotiating with the world. Very well, how is one able to negotiate with the world but not able to negotiate with domestic forces? You should negotiate with one another and resolve the problems. Some of the comments that we hear these days are a source of sowing discord, not unity.

The fourth and the last point: I have said this before as well, but I wish to repeat it again:

▶ **I have said this before as well, but I wish to repeat it again: lifting the sanctions is in the hands of the enemy, but counteracting them is in our own hands. Is this not the case? We cannot lift the sanctions on our own. It is the enemy who should do so.**

lifting the sanctions is in the hands of the enemy, but counteracting them is in our own hands. Is this not the case? We cannot lift the sanctions on our own. It is the enemy who should do so. However, we ourselves are capable of counteracting the effects of his sanctions. Therefore, this takes priority and is the right course of action. We should follow the latter more. Of course, I am not saying that we should not be after lifting the sanctions. If we are able to lift the sanctions, we should not delay it even for one hour. Of course, there is a four-year delay. Since 1395, they have been intending to lift them all at one, but until today, not only have they not been lifted, but they have also increased. However, if we can lift them in a correct, reasonable, dignified, Islamic and Iranian way, we should do so. Nonetheless, you should not think too much about this. You should rather think about counteracting sanctions, which is an issue in your hands as you are capable of doing it. And you should follow the matter and cooperate with one another in a diligent manner. This is my advice to you. I will support the officials of the country, but provided that they are committed to the nation's goals.

I hope that Allah the Exalted will bestow on all the officials of the country the blessing to be able to accomplish great feats, God willing.

Greetings be upon you and Allah's mercy and blessings



Martyr Soleimani Is a Role Model

By: H.E. Dr. Mohammad Mahdi Esmaili, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance

Undoubtedly, every battlefield is a scene of hardship and suffering. However, this field is also full of spirituality and precious lofty human values; if it is to defend a right and just cause.

Since there is no escape from struggle and war in preserving human dignity and honor and removing oppression, the hu-

man soul is bound to get polished in the bargain and man gets closer to his heavenly and divine essence.

Certainly, being a role model is a function of certain characteristics and one has to have an influential personality, be a man of lasting services, and be of unity-creating presence in order

to successfully, nobly, and honorably pass various divine tests. In other words, it is under such circumstances that one gets to be recognized and noticed as a respectable role model and exemplar for others.

Having had many valuable traits and good qualities, Martyr Haaj Qasem Soleimani was

one of those rare human beings who have come to be transnational models.

General Soleimani was one of the most religious, most faithful, and most devout guards of the Islamic Revolution who worked for the establishment of religious principles in society and the defending the lofty values of Islam before and after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Martyr General Qasem Soleimani was actively involved in the battlefields of fire and blood for many years and despite his heartfelt faith in the Shiite school of thought and the religion of Islam, he respected the religious thoughts and beliefs of others. Thus, just as he tried to liberate the Shiite areas, he made a lot of effort and sacrifices and displayed a lot of courage to ensure the safety of the Sunni, Yazidi, and Christian areas of the region, too.

He used to frankly, honestly, and clearly say: "Our society is our family". He considered the existing differences to be a natural phenomenon and had easily accepted them, and it was as a result of this view that he fascinated millions of people and made himself a beloved personality to his nation.

The precious experiences he had gained in the course of the imposed war and sacred defense, in different countries of the region, and in various responsibilities vested onto him, had taught Martyr Soleimani that the greatest problem of Islamic society and Iran is lack of

unity.

Therefore, Haaj Qasem Soleimani sought to resolve this problem through cohesion and unity, and the type of unity he looked for was solidarity among all classes, religions, sects, and political groups. This is the sign of the great honor and lofty nobility of a brave commander who never uttered a single word or sentence that could become the source of discord and dissonance in Iranian society and other Islamic countries.

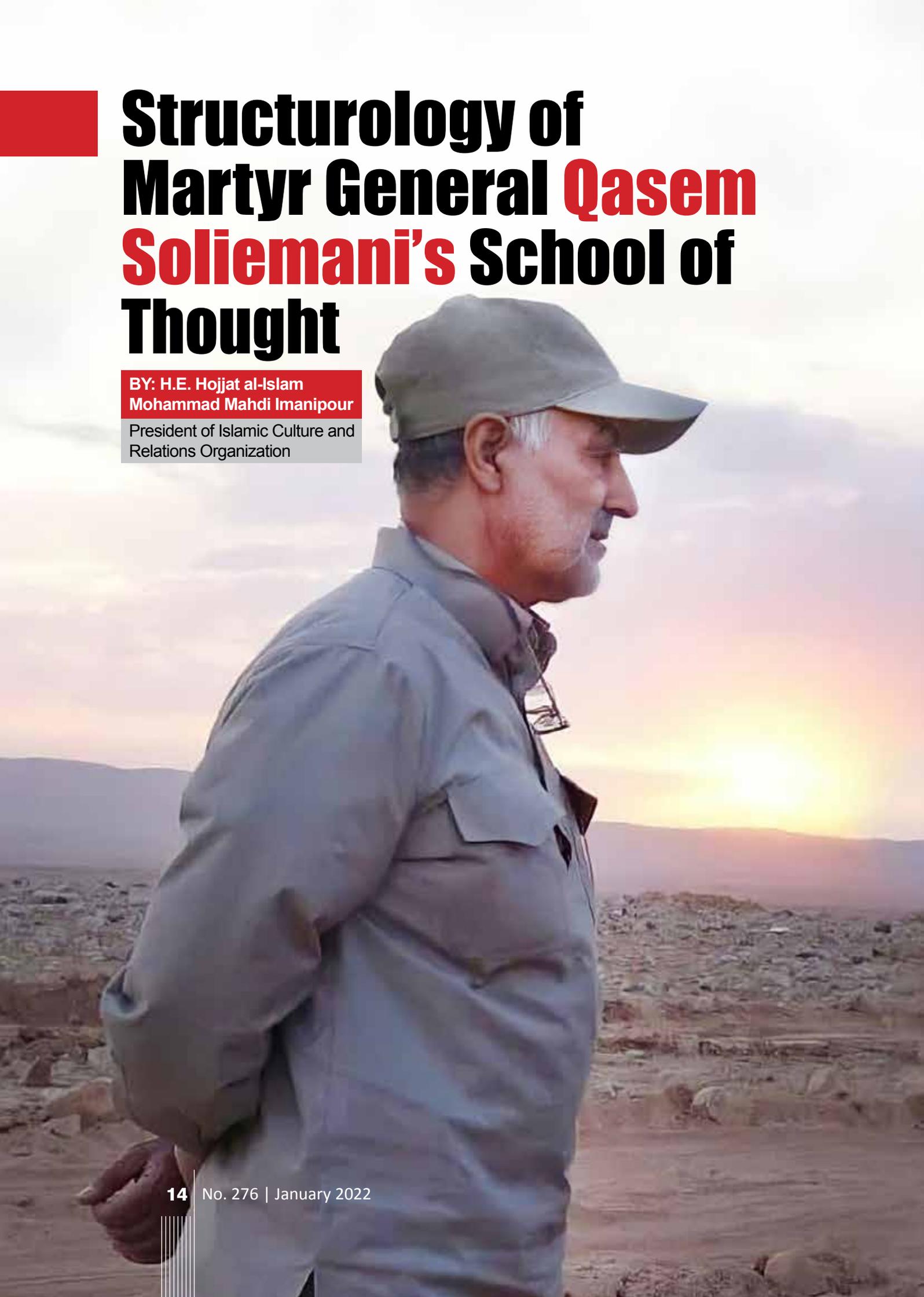
Martyr Soleimani's school of thought is an anti-arrogance school. A review of the practical code of conduct of this popular commander clearly reveals that anti-arrogance is not possible in the absence of a powerful and efficient weapon called unity and cohesion.

There is a reward for every sincere task and the reward of years of self-sacrifice, being present on the battlefronts and going from trench to trench, hope in divine grace, and the abundant efforts in humbly serving his Creator in the form of prayers and supplications - done privately to gain closeness to God Almighty - is nothing except the honor of martyrdom, which is the art of the men of God.

No other form of demise, except martyrdom, would have been worthy of Haaj Qasem Soleimani and people like him.

The lofty personality of such a devout servant of God Almighty deserved the beautiful grace of martyrdom; the martyrdom that became life-giving.



A man in a grey jacket and cap is shown in profile, looking out over a rocky, desert-like landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The man's hands are behind his back.

Structurology of Martyr General **Qasem Soliemani's** School of Thought

BY: H.E. Hojjat al-Islam
Mohammad Mahdi Imanipour

President of Islamic Culture and
Relations Organization

Introduction

There are very few national heroes who have, during their lifetime, adhered to such virtues as honor, courage, patriotism, and righteousness and displayed self-sacrifice to protect their homeland, as a sign and symbol of the collective identity of their nation. For example, the history of Iran has witnessed such personalities as Sattar Khan, Baqer Khan, Mirza Kuchak Khan Jangali, Re'is Ali Delvari, and Amir Kabir who bravely fought to drive away the invaders from their homeland and made exemplary efforts to bring honor, dignity, and independence to their motherland.

On the other hand, human history testifies that the martyrdom of great martyrs, like the martyrs of the imposed wars on Iran - from the beginning of Islam to recent years - has been the source of awakening for their nations; encouraging them to bravely defend themselves against the invading enemies.

Thus, the sacrifices made by the martyrs have been the source of many blessings, including the revival of the serious determination and willpower of their people as well as creating awareness about their undeniable divine and human rights.

Martyr Qasem Soleimani can undoubtedly be considered the source of many unique blessings; both during and after his blessed lifetime. A close look at the history of the Iranian identity reveals that like many truth-seeking and ideal-oriented martyrs, Sardar Soleimani was the exemplar of the Qur'anic Verse "Among the faithful are men who fulfill what they have pledged to Allah: there are some among them who have fulfilled their pledge, and some of them who still wait, and they have not changed in the least".¹

1 - Martyr Soleimani's School of Thought was an Evolved Movement

It is quite obvious that every product, both from the material and spiritual point of view, is the result of the evolution of a general trend. Now, if we were to agree that intellectual and ideological trends, right from their beginning to the end, are subject to a definite path and certain en-route stops, without going through which the intended ends will not be obtained, it can be concluded that the practical school of thought of Sardar Soleimani is a complete and evolved movement.

"Mujahidat" (divine struggle) in its Qur'anic sense - that could be perceived from various hadiths and exegesis on the Holy Qur'an - indicates that being in the path of God Almighty and



moving in the path of truth in order to perceive absolute truth call for possessing some of the above-mentioned unique char-

acteristics.

1-2 - The Interrelatedness of the Concepts of "Struggle" and

“Resistance”

The starting point of the school of thought, of which Martyr Soleimani is one of the most prominent examples, is traversing the true path of closeness to God Almighty with absolute devotion and sincerity, and this can only be achieved through continuous effort. Hence, struggle and endeavor in the divine path is a movement that requires “resistance”. As a matter of fact, such a struggle is a perfect example of resistance and this is what seems remarkable and undeniable in the school of thought of Martyr Soleimani.

He spent many years of his honorable life fighting on the battlefields against the deceivers and political, religious, and ideological conspirators in the Islamic world, on the one hand - and their unthoughtful followers, on the other hand - without losing hope or even taking a step back. Being equipped with the weapon of firm faith and reliance on the benevolence of God Almighty, he always maintained a forward-looking and far-sighted vision and it was the realization of such factors that led him and his allies to victory in the brutal war launched by ISIS and Western beasts against the oppressed people of various religions and denominations in Islamic lands.

2 - Martyr Soleimani’s School of Thought Is Dynamic and Always on the Move

2-1 - The Condition for the Survival of Intellectual-Practical Schools of Thought

In order to survive, a new intellectual or practical school of thought must be able to remain on the right track over time and it must not stop moving forward so that it does not fall prey to such plagues as shallowness, obscurity, and extinction, which are directly related to the passage of time.

The history of the emergence of some revolutions and new ideological-behavioral movements in each era shows that many schools of thought such as “Communism”, “Socialism”, “Marxism”, etc. experienced passionate and tumultuous beginnings but began to face decline after some time.

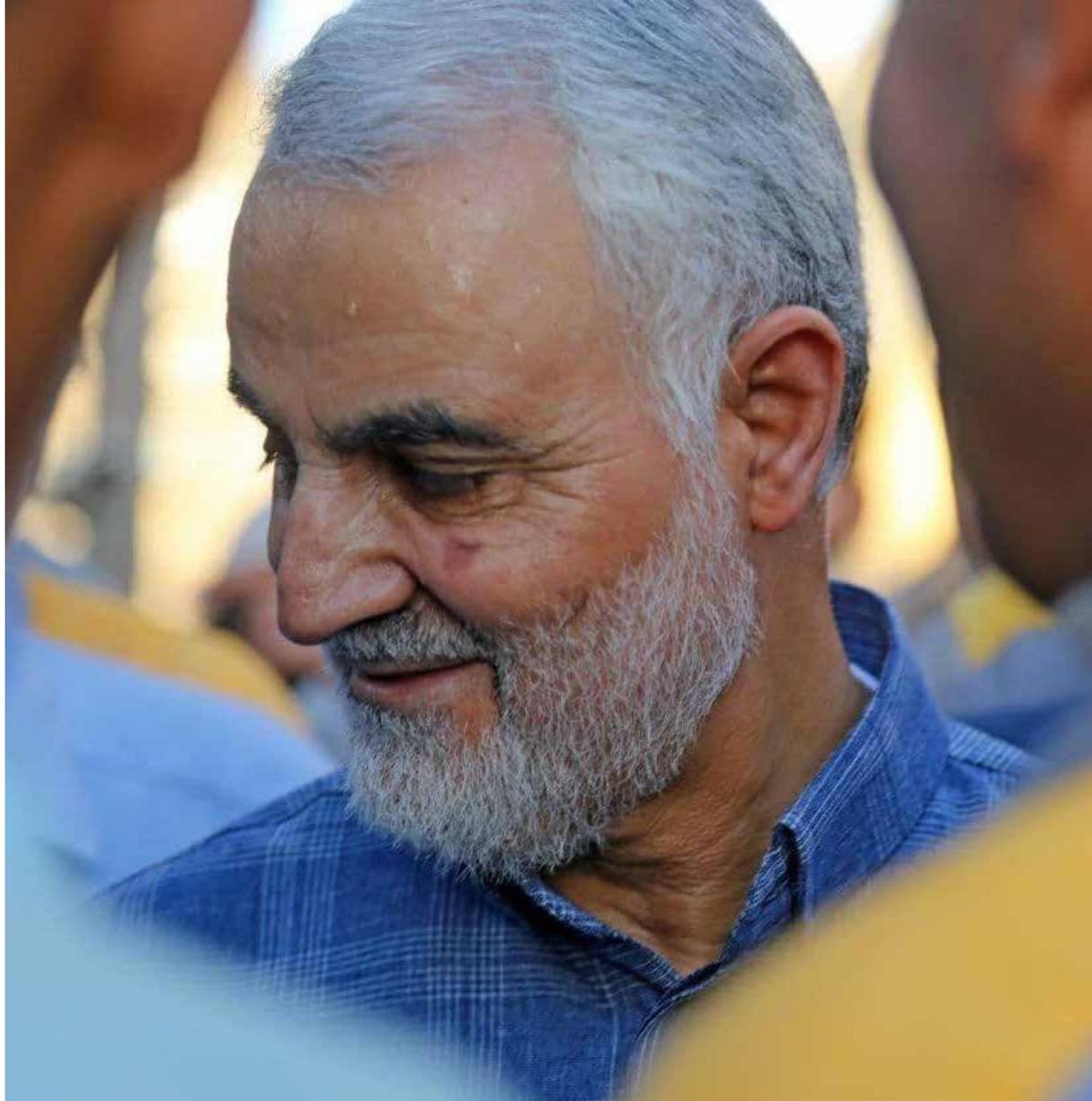
The lack of generative rational foundations and frameworks that could move them forward and revitalize and evolve their essence in line with “time and its requirements” resulted in the collapse of these schools of thought after a short life, and

soon their hollowness and uselessness began to be manifested and, as a result, they were gradually abandoned by their fans.

The school of thought that the great and honorable martyrs were its flagbearers since the beginning of Islam and were carried forward until the time of the rise of Martyr General Soleimani is of sufficient intellectual foundations, among which mention can be made of justice and equality; moral and humanitarian values, such as brotherhood and equality among the people and their equal rights to life; rebellion against the exploitation of the oppressed and deprived; rejection of ideological and religious deviations that lead to hatred and violence among societies; struggle against superstition; and resistance towards anti-ideological illusions and all kinds of backwardness, reactionism, and mental instability, etc.

The school that Martyr Soleimani began to re-read after nearly 1400 years has strong and sound intellectual foundations and is, therefore, indestructible and far from stagnation. The concepts that form the theoretical foundations of this school of thought constitute the elements of human instinctive life, according to which the “soul” gets the power of liberation and ascension, and the “thought” begins to blossom and achieve depth. Furthermore, because it is always alive and fertile in human beings, it does not take on the color of vanity and does not suffer from forgetfulness and abrogation.

▶ **The starting point of the school of thought, of which Martyr Soleimani is one of the most prominent examples, is traversing the true path of closeness to God Almighty with absolute devotion and sincerity, and this can only be achieved through continuous effort.**



3 - Martyr Soleimani's School of Thought Enjoys Primacy of Theory and Stability in Purpose

There have always been some intellectual and practical schools of thought throughout the ages that were based on genuine theories and hypotheses and survived because of being responsive to positivist methods while there were other schools of thought that joined the history as soon as they stopped being of any use to the requirements of the time.

What acts as the driving force in all philosophical, ethical, sociological, psychological, political, educational, etc. schools of thought is the power of advancing forward as well as thought-

fulness and reason, and what gets distanced from common sense is doomed to destruction. The ultimate goal of such schools of thought is to ensure man's safety, health, growth, and development, and if there is any deviation in the essence of this goal, in its true sense, it will result in a change in its original structure and will disrupt the functionality of the components of the system and will disintegrate it.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the school of thought in which martyrs, and especially Martyr Soleimani, played a role with all sincerity, has a goal that has remained unchanged (not only since 1400 years ago) from

the beginning of man's creation and human history.

That goal is the ultimate goal, and - like the soul of the school of thought of our great martyr - is imbued with the pure essence of monotheism, is original and pure in its essence, and is free from the need to rely on theories or hypotheses constructed and produced by the changing human mind. Such a school of thought has been founded since eternity and its ultimate goal has been designed for "eternity" and, therefore, it is everlasting.

1. مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ رِجَالٌ صَدَقُوا مَا عَاهَدُوا اللَّهَ. 1. عَلَيْهِ فَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ قَضَىٰ نَحْبَهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَنْتَظِرُ وَمَا بَدَّلُوا تَبْدِيلًا, Surah Al-Ahzab, Verse 23.



H.E. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Martyr General **Soleimani**

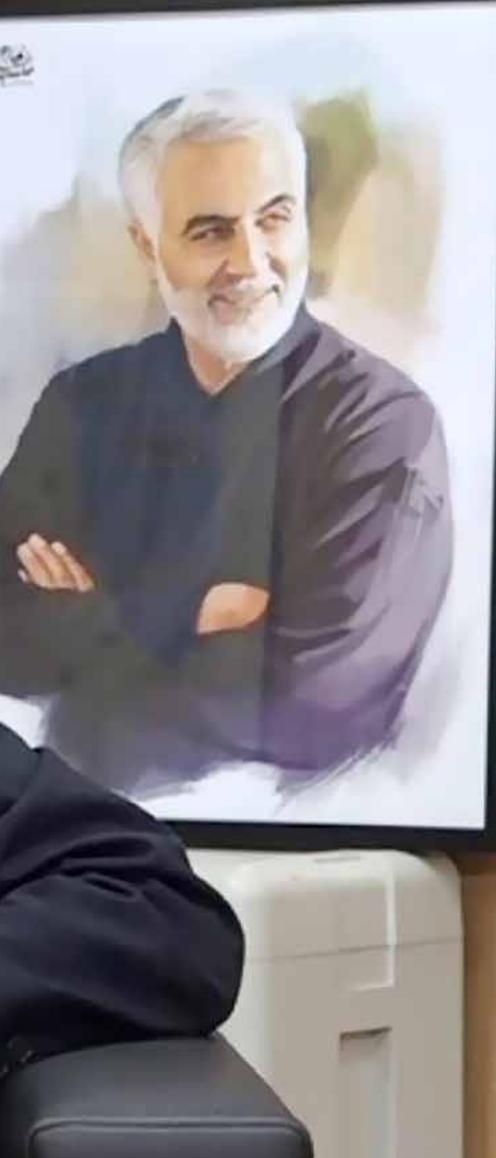
The followings are excerpts from what H.E. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, had shared about Martyr Qasem Soleimani in an interview.

I have had the fortune of

knowing Martyr Saoleimin maybe from the early 1990s, when I entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and it was at the very beginning of my career that I got to know him closely. You may be interested to know that the first thing that really attracted me to

him was his religious spirit and his humbleness in interacting with others.

In my opinion, the most important characteristic of General Soleimani was that he strongly believed in Velayat-e Faqih. Many times, in meetings where



we may have been in the minority, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Information and other departments - while the majority of his colleagues were IRGC commanders and friends of the Quds Force - we heard him say that we have been fortunate to be able to work for the holy system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and this is a great honor.

General Soleimani was a “diplomat” in the true sense of the concept. This statement may seem very strange to some people. How can a military general be a diplomat? His work and coordination at the regional level

followed three important axes and three basic strategies, all of which culminated in a key point and that was to promote the Islamic world and revive Islamic civilization in the contemporary world. The three important strategies that Martyr Soleimani pursued in his day-to-day endeavors were: promoting the Islamic world, fighting terrorism, and preventing the disintegration of Iraq and Syria, and he has been decisively successful in achieving all the three strategies.

As regards fighting terrorism, Martyr Soleimani was able to expose the complex Zionist-US plan, which was funded by some Arab countries, in a way that he could explicitly announce that ISIS would be finished in the West Asian region in less than three months. And this important occurrence did take place as predicted by him.

There are many unknown things about the character of this national commander. General Soleimani, has left behind many unforgettable memories of himself in the region, and these memories of his and his unique way of operating continue to play a role in the region. This is the reason that dozens of books have been written about his role during the eight years of sacred defense, his fight against smugglers and miscreants in the eastern part of the country, as well as the way he fought against terrorism and the agents of the Zionist regime.

General Soleimani had a spe-

cial personality and characteristics, but, unfortunately, less than five percent of his memoirs and thoughts have been revealed so far, and now we have realized what a national hero the American terrorist butchers and the Zionists took from us.

With the martyrdom of General Soleimani, a great vacuum has been created in the region and we strongly feel his absence because one of his brilliant characteristics was that he had a wide horizon and vision for the future, and I emphasize that his genius will continue to be manifested in the region for at least the next five decades. There are many memories of Martyr Soleimani that prove this great commander is still present in the region and the country.

I had a long meeting with Martyr Soleimani in 2018, which lasted more than 3.5 hours. In this meeting, General Soleimani said that one of his concerns was about some countries in the Persian Gulf, which will start a close relationship with the Zionist regime in less than two years and this is going to be gradually revealed to everyone.

During one of my trips to Syria, some of General Soleimani’s friends told me that in the course of some of the operations they carry out against the Zionist forces in the region, they dream of General Soleimani who shows them the roadmap and tells them how the operation is to be carried out.

General Qasem Soleimani: Iconic Martyr of the Century



By: Dr. Kevin Barrett

Though the 21st/15th century, like its predecessors, has witnessed far too many martyrs, only one name is currently rising to world-historical status: that of General Qasem Soleimani, commander and inspiration of the Axis of Resistance that is transforming the Muslim East and, with it, the world. On January 3, 2020, General Soleimani was murdered in the most odiously cowardly fashion imagina-

ble. Soleimani was ambushed by gutless drone operators who would need to wear adult diapers and leg irons if they ever faced actual combat. Their even more cowardly commander-in-chief who authorized the slaughter, a certain Donald J. Trump, had avoided the Vietnam-era draft by claiming to have a vague problem with his foot. Trump—a certified narcissist, sociopath, dullard, and

child-molesting rapist pervert—relayed the order to kill Gen. Soleimani from Trump’s boss, Benjamin Netanyahu, whose intelligence service had employed Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell to obtain blackmail material documenting Trump’s criminal sex habits.

There are several reasons why Hajj Qasem Soleimani’s martyrdom rises to world-historical stature. The first, as already suggested, is the emblematic evil of his murderers. Just as Hussein’s martyrdom was underlined by the evil of Yazid, Gen. Soleimani’s death at the hands of the most villainous cowards imaginable creates a striking chiaroscuro effect in which the darkness of the forces of evil emphasizes the bright, shining light of the martyr who stood against them.

That same “moral chiaroscuro” shines a dazzling halo around Soleimani’s battle with another avatar of sheer evil: the pitiless terrorists of Daesh (ISIS). The entire world, with the exception of Daesh’s Zionist and American sponsors, cheered as the brave General repeatedly helicoptered behind enemy lines to rally Kurdish, Iraqi, and

Syrian forces fighting the head-choppers and liver-eaters who had sullied the good name of Islam with their insane, drug-addled, U.S.-mind-controlled bloodbaths.

Due to his legendary courage, General Soleimani was loved and admired by nearly everyone, including many of his enemies. Even neocon-friendly Gen. Petraeus, who was nearly driven out of his mind by Soleimani's military and strategic genius as they clashed in Iraq, reacted ambivalently to the latter's murder, voicing barely-disguised admiration as he admitted that the martyred General had "played his hand well."

Indeed, in the long annals of military history, it would be hard to find a commander who, with a level of courage that stunned ally and enemy alike, continued to personally visit the most sanguinary war fronts under circumstances of the most extreme peril the way Hajj Soleimani did. Obviously, Gen. Soleimani knew he would almost certainly be martyred. He was undoubtedly surprised that it took so long. From his extensive time on the bloodiest fronts of 1980s Iran's imposed war against Saddam Hussein's aggression, to his battles with the biggest and nastiest U.S. and mafia-backed drug gangs of Baluchistan, to his front-lines on-the-ground leadership of the many and various struggles against the U.S.-Zionist-Daesh axis of evil, Gen. Soleimani should have, on the basis of cold actuarial calculations, died hundreds if not thou-

sands of times. His survival until 2020 is so improbable it can only be considered miraculous.

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General Soleimani's legendary charisma and optimistic can-do attitude inspired his troops, his allies, and even foreign heads of state. In 2012, the General met Syria's President Bashar al-Assad at the presidential palace in Damascus. At that moment, the plot against Syria, hatched by Zionist extremist Jeffrey Feltman, author of the 2005 Hariri assassination among other atrocities, was in full swing. General Soleimani told President Assad that Iran would offer him sanctuary if he wished to step down. If, on the other hand, he wanted to fight, Iran would stand by its long-time friend. Inspired by Gen. Soleimani, the Syrian leader chose to stay and fight a David-vs.-Goliath battle against the Zionist-American regime change effort.

That uphill battle might have been hopeless had Gen. Soleimani not paid a visit to Russian president Putin in 2015. A Russian witness to the encounter says Putin was greatly impressed by the Iranian General: "I can even say that without the

meeting, (Putin) wouldn't have committed to Assad the same way."

Gen. Soleimani's talent for inspiring Davids to rise up against Goliaths and win was also evident in Lebanon and Syria. The General's advice and support was an essential ingredient in the emergence of Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Ansarul-lah movement in Yemen. Both groups seemingly came out of nowhere to strike devastating blows against the twin scourges of Zionism and imperialism, somehow winning battles against vastly bigger, better-armed, better-funded opponents. Lebanon's defeat of Israel in the 33 Day War of 2006, and Ansarul-lah's defeat of the Anglo-Zionist Empire's proxies Saudi Arabia and the UAE, were among the most unlikely David-vs.-Goliath triumphs in military history. Such grossly improbable victories might have been downright impossible without

the daring, charismatic genius of General Qasem Soleimani.

Indeed, the against-all-odds career of Gen. Soleimani parallels the miraculous triumphs of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) and his allies against the formidably powerful Meccan oligarchy. The Qur'anic injunction to resist evil and defend the good, and to fight with utmost exertion in the cause of God, trusting that He will help with unseen forces even on the most unequal battlefields, defines and describes the career of the martyred General. Such genuinely Islamic warriors have been rare in most eras, and even more rare in ours.

Finally, any serious discussion of Gen. Soleimani's legacy cannot ignore his stature as the towering giant of the anti-Zionist struggle—the defining clash of our time, which Sheikh Imran Hussein among other eschatologists identifies with the end times (akhir uz-zaman). Virtually all Christians, as well as Muslim eschatologists, explicitly or implicitly identify Zionism with Antichrist (Dajjal). But while Sheikh Imran Hussein and other Muslims correctly argue that all people of God must stand against the lying, criminal, genocidal Zionist Antichrist, today's deviant and misguided Christian eschatologists generally support Zionism on the grounds that the more Antichrist prospers, the faster Jesus will come back to defeat him!

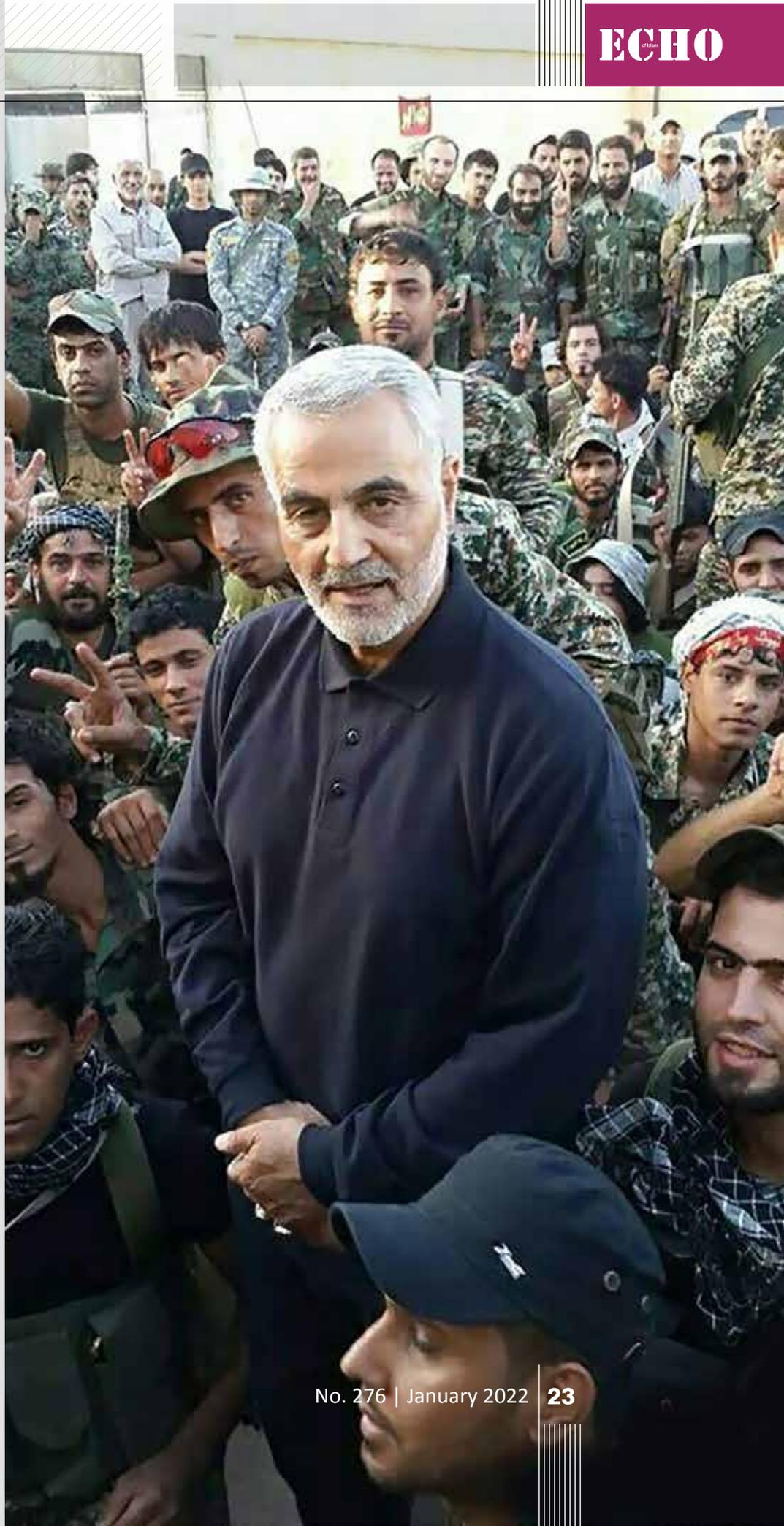
The satanically-inspired bogus Christians and bogus Mus-

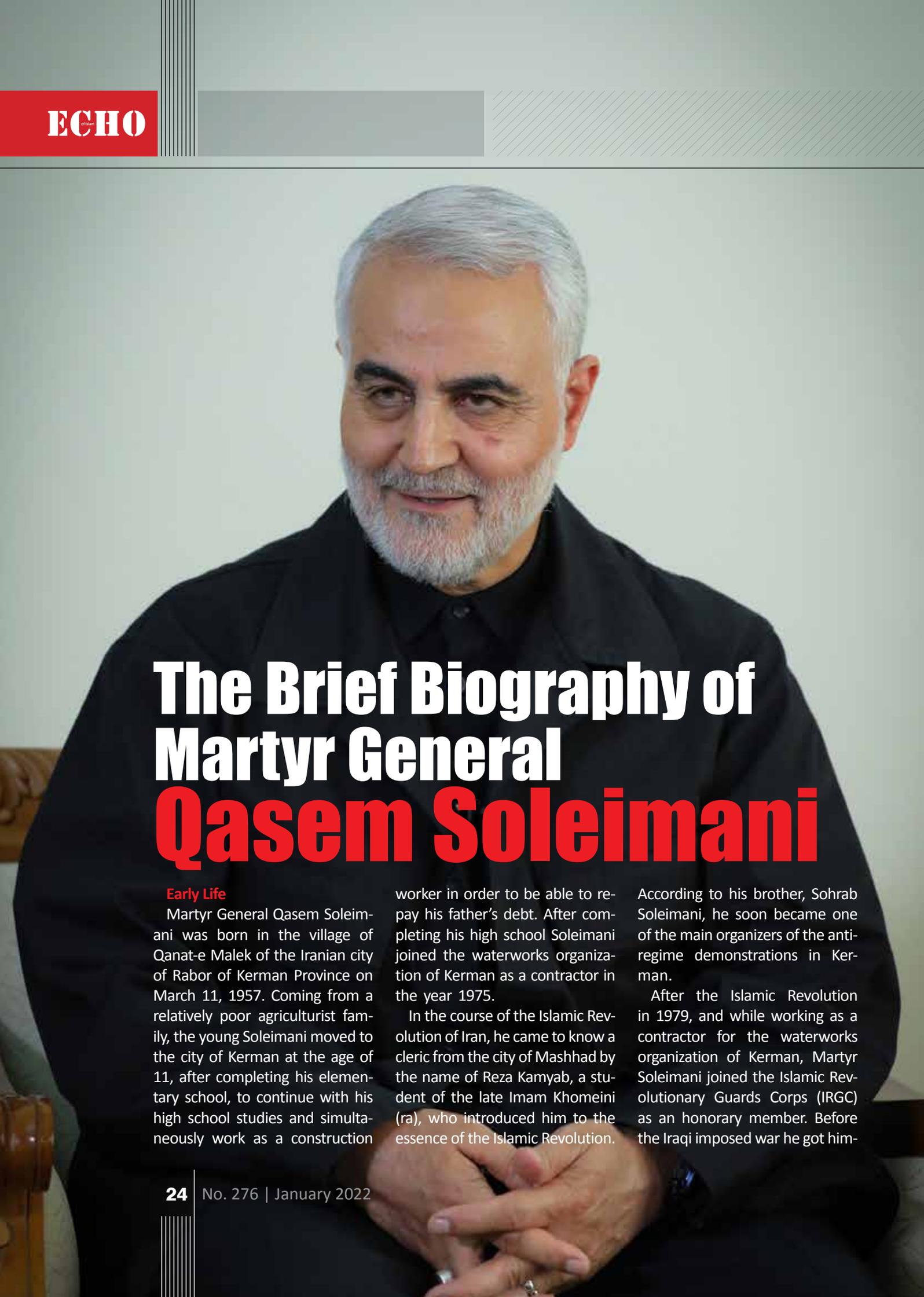
► **Indeed, the against-all-odds career of Gen. Soleimani parallels the miraculous triumphs of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) and his allies against the formidably powerful Meccan oligarchy.**

lims who fail in their duty to wage jihad against the Zionist Antichrist, neglecting to raise their voices much less their swords and allowing the genocide of Palestine to proceed, will have to answer to God for their crimes of omission. Today, many of them can plead ignorance: The Zionists have grossly distorted history. They have turned the entire mainstream media into a mendacious propaganda factory, using the proceeds of their global usury racket to brainwash most of the world's population.

But as the world gradually awakens to the shocking truth about the 20th-century world wars, the Zionist assassinations of the Kennedys and controlled demolitions on 9/11, the century-long terrorist genocide of the Palestinians, and the enablement of these and so many other crimes through the establishment of the worst criminal dictatorship in history thanks to ubiquitous Zionist usury, more and more citizens of the world, whatever their nominal national or religious affiliation, will gradually come to understand General Qasem Soleimani's heroic stature in the struggle of good against evil. A living legend in his own time and an even bigger legend just one year after his martyrdom, General Soleimani's halo will, Insha-Allah, continue to shine ever-brighter, inspiring millions to rise up against evil and struggle in the cause of God.

Source: Tehran Times Daily



A portrait of Martyr General Qasem Soleimani, an older man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a black traditional Iranian shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a calm expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

The Brief Biography of Martyr General Qasem Soleimani

Early Life

Martyr General Qasem Soleimani was born in the village of Qanat-e Malek of the Iranian city of Rabor of Kerman Province on March 11, 1957. Coming from a relatively poor agriculturist family, the young Soleimani moved to the city of Kerman at the age of 11, after completing his elementary school, to continue with his high school studies and simultaneously work as a construction

worker in order to be able to repay his father's debt. After completing his high school Soleimani joined the waterworks organization of Kerman as a contractor in the year 1975.

In the course of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, he came to know a cleric from the city of Mashhad by the name of Reza Kamyab, a student of the late Imam Khomeini (ra), who introduced him to the essence of the Islamic Revolution.

According to his brother, Sohrab Soleimani, he soon became one of the main organizers of the anti-regime demonstrations in Kerman.

After the Islamic Revolution in 1979, and while working as a contractor for the waterworks organization of Kerman, Martyr Soleimani joined the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) as an honorary member. Before the Iraqi imposed war he got him-

self posted to Eastern Iran to join the struggle against the turmoil caused by certain Iranian Kurds. Following the end of the rebellion, he returned to Kerman and was appointed as the commander of the Quds IRGC headquarters in that city.

Military Career

Early in his career as a revolutionary guard and after the suppression of a separatist rebellion by some Kurdish elements he was appointed as the commander of the IRGC headquarters of West Azerbaijan Province.

Following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iran on September 22, 1980, marking the beginning of the imposed war on Iran (1980–1988), Qasem Soleimani assembled and trained several battalions in Kerman with whom he joined the battlefield in southern Iran serving as the commander of the 41st Division. During the course of the eight years of sacred defense war against the Ba'athist invasion, he was the commander of IRGC divisions Nasr-5 and Imam Reza-21, respectively. In his early 20's, he joined IRGC and served in different divisions and left behind invaluable memorials with his comrades, and finally became commander of the Nasr-5 division to prove his capability and qualifications as a vigilant commander. He always remained committed to the principles of the Islamic Revolution and spared no efforts to materialize the aspiration of the revolution. The devoted commander also played a significant role in many military operations and brought triumphs to the Iranian side.

In the course of the Ba'athist imposed war, he quickly earned a reputation for bravery and rose through the ranks because of his role in the successful operations in recapturing the lands Iraqi troops had occupied. In early 1982, Maj. Gen. Mohsen Rezaei, Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Guards, appointed Sardar Qasem Soleimani as commander of the Sarallah Brigade while he was still in his 20s. Having gathered sufficient military skill through hard work and devotion he proved to be a successful commander in a number of operations such as Valfajr 8, Karbala 1, Karbala 5, Tak Shalamcheh, and several other operations.

Meanwhile, he also engaged in leading and organizing irregular warfare missions deep inside Iraq that were carried out by the Ramadan Headquarters. It was at this point that General Soleimani established relations with Kurdish Iraqi leaders and the Shia Badr Organization, both of which were opposed to Iraq's Saddam Hussein. After the war came to an end in 1988, Sardar Qasem Soleimani returned to Kerman and became involved in a war with miscreants who were instigated and directed from outside the eastern borders of Iran. Prior to his appointment as the commander of the Quds Force, he fought drug trafficking gangs, which smuggled opium from Afghanistan to Turkey and then Europe through Iran.

General Soleimani was appointed as the commander of the Quds Force by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution in the year 2000. As a result of his

leadership, the Quds Force helped strengthen the struggles of the Palestinian resistance. As a matter of fact, it was Sardar Soleimani's activities alongside Martyr Imad Mughniyeh, which made the resistance so strong that the Zionist regime failed to achieve its goals with regards to Palestine as well as Lebanon. It was due to the military advice provided by General Soleimani that the Hezbollah of Lebanon could withstand the Israeli invasion in the year 2006, which came to be known as "The 33 Days War" resulting in Israel's defeat in achieving its objectives of invading Lebanon.

War on ISIS in Iraq

With the emergence of the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, (ISIS), a fundamentalist, Salafi terrorist group, which committed a large number of crimes in the name of Islam, and its rise in different parts of Iraq and widespread occupation of Iraqi territory the Iraqi government asked for help from General Qasem Soleimani who played a significant role in Iraq's fight against ISIS, and his expert military advice provided resulted in the release of Baghdad and Erbil from the clutches of this terrorist group. Sardar Soleimani was described as the "linchpin" bringing together Kurdish and Shia forces to fight ISIS, overseeing joint operations conducted by the two groups. As per existing evidence, General Qasem Soleimani was in the Iraqi city of Amirli, which had been under siege for quite some time, proved to be the first Iraqi town to successfully withstand an ISIS invasion through the expertise

provided by him. The defeat faced by ISIS was the outcome of an unusual partnership of Iraqi and Kurdish soldiers, which had come about through the efforts made and advice by General Soleimani.

In 2012, Major General Soleimani helped bolster the Syrian government during the Syrian Civil War, particularly in its operations against ISIS and its offshoots.

On Thursday, September 21, 2017, and in the 40th-day ceremony the martyrdom of one of the defenders of the shrine, Sardar Qasem Soleimani made an important announcement that the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria will come to an end in less than three months. A prediction that came true within the period specified by this Iranian general.

In the operation to liberate Jurf Al Sakhar, he was reportedly “present on the battlefield”. Some Shia militia commanders described General Soleimani as “fearless”—one pointing out that the Iranian general never wears a flak jacket, even on the front lines. Hadi al-Amiri, the former Iraqi minister of transportation and the head of the Badr Organization, an official Iraqi political party whose military wing is one of the largest armed forces in the country, highlighted the pivotal role of General Qasem Soleimani in defending Iraq’s Kurdistan Region against the ISIS terrorist group, maintaining that if it were not for the efforts made and advice provided by General Soleimani, Heidar al-Ebadi’s government would have been a government-in-exile by then and that there would be no Iraq if General Soleimani had not helped us.

Serving at Imam Reza’s (as) Shrine

On his request, General Soleimani was also given the honor of serving the pilgrims to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as), the eighth Shiite Imam, in the city of Mashhad since the year 2014.

Soleimani received the Order of Zolfaghar, which is Iran’s highest military insignia in Iran, from the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Martyrdom

General Qasem Soleimani, who was killed by a US airstrike ordered by Donald Trump at Baghdad International Airport on Friday, January 3, 2020, was hailed as a hero in Iran. He was a brave, charismatic, and beloved commander for his troops.

Known as shadow commander for his indirect war against the US, he had been on the US hit list for a long time. The Zionist Regime and Saudi Arabia were also allegedly

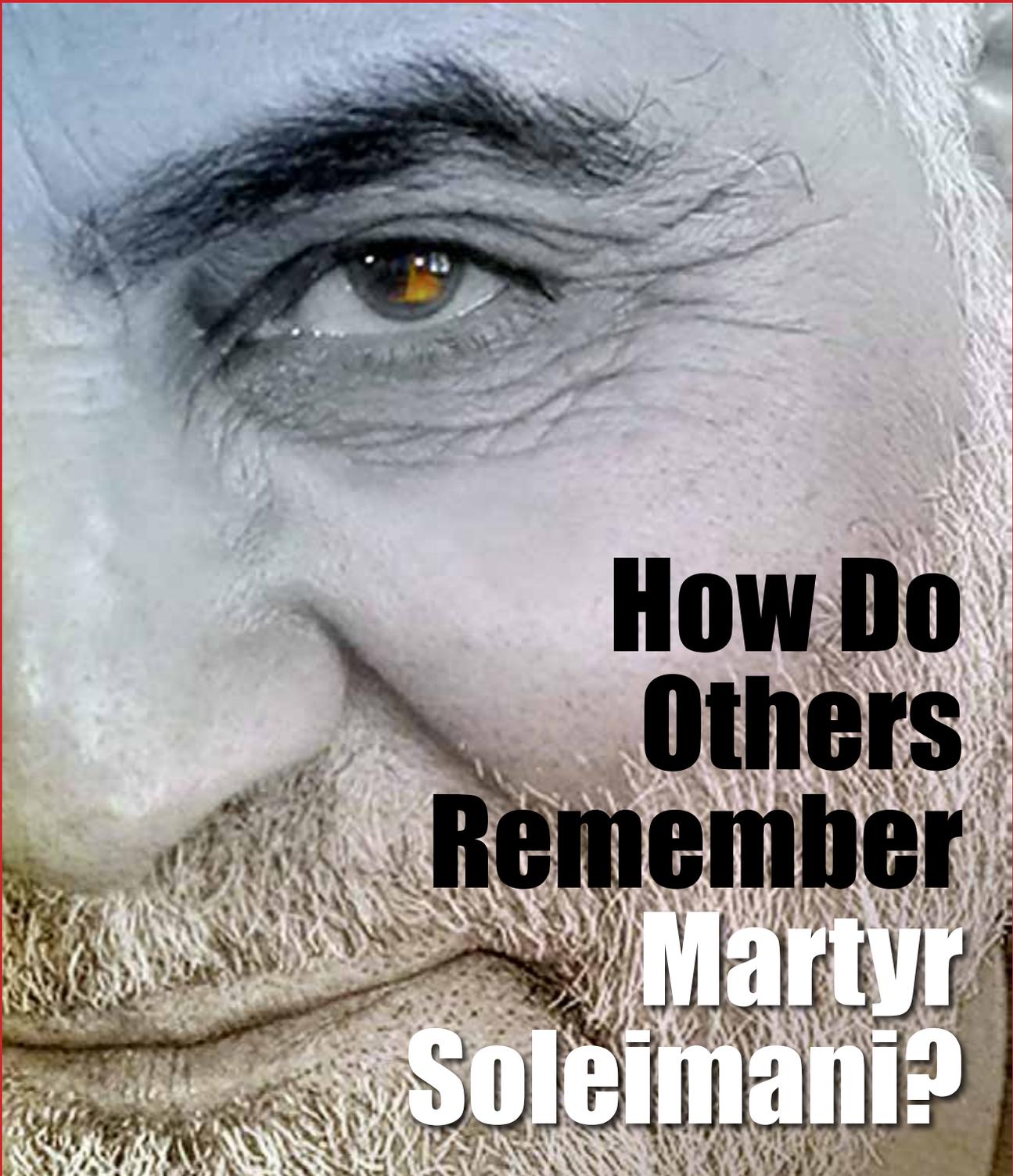
working to eliminate Soleimani for his sacred services in Syria and Lebanon.

In one of his interviews, he said the US and the Zionist Regime are much weaker to compete with Iran’s military might which backs oppressed Palestinians and people in Gaza. Over a year before his martyrdom, Soleimani had even warned US President Donald Trump of escalating war with Iran by stating: “You may start a war (with us) but it will be us who will end it”.

In his message of condolence for the Martyrdom of Major General Qasem Soleimani, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei referred to him as the “living martyr of the revolution”. He was head of the Revolutionary Guards’ Quds Force, an elite unit that handles Iran’s overseas operations. Having started his front-line military career in the Iran-Iraq war during the early 1980s, Soleimani rose to prominence to become an indispensable figure in Iran, playing an instrumental role in spreading its influence in the Middle East.

Several funeral ceremonies were held for Major General Qasem Soleimani from 4 to 7 January 2020 in some cities in Iraq and Iran - including Baghdad, Karbala, Najaf, Ahvaz, Mashhad, Tehran, Qom, and his hometown Kerman. Owing to his popularity among the people of Iran, the funeral ceremony of Soleimani in Tehran was the largest in Iran since the funeral of Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeini”, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in 1989.

▶ **Several funeral ceremonies were held for Major General Qasem Soleimani from 4 to 7 January 2020 in some cities in Iraq and Iran - including Baghdad, Karbala, Najaf, Ahvaz, Mashhad, Tehran, Qom, and his hometown Kerman.**



How Do Others Remember Martyr Soleimani?

Abu Ali Hussein Dirani, Lebanese writer and researcher living in Australia

International Conference on Martyr Soleimani and New Islamic Civilization, February 2021

All the Qur'anic verses come to mind when we are talking about Martyr Haaj Qasem Soleimani. He was a symbol of the school of (divine) jihad and self-sacrifice in the way of God in all its dimensions.

He was also a manifestation of the school of religious ethics. Elaborating on each of these aspects of his being requires writing a separate book so that we can gain a glimpse of the mystery of his being.

No matter how knowledgeable and learned a researcher maybe, one could still fail to understand the profundity of the spiritual personality Martyr Soleimani who had found his way into the hearts

of all honorable people in Arab and Islamic countries and had fascinated the whole world.

He was able to gain all the love and affection of the people because he was a sincere soldier and servant of God Almighty and he was present wherever he was needed. It was as if he was an angel whom God had commanded to help pure Muhammadan Islam and the oppressed and deprived people.



Excerpts from Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary-General of Hezbollah, on His Last Meeting with Martyr Soleimani

Despite being very busy in different areas, Haaj Qasem was very cheerful and always had a smile on his face. (The last time I met him) His face was glowing and I told other brothers that I was very worried for him.

In our previous meeting, two or three weeks earlier, I had told Haaj Qasem that the American media had their focus on him. I showed him one of the most important American magazines, which had a picture of him on

the cover, and the title of the article was “The Irreplaceable General”. I said to him that some of our friends who know the United States well say that this amount of media focus is a prelude to assassination and he has to be careful.

Well, he smiled and said: “How nice! This is my dream”. Anyway, I asked him to stay over that night. He did not accept and said that he would return to Damascus and wanted to see the brothers in Damascus and would then go to Baghdad the next day.

Usually, when the brothers

come to the office, some of our men bring cameras and take pictures. This time, Haaji (Martyr Soleimani) himself asked them to bring their camera and said: “I want to take a photo with Sayyed”. That is why there are pictures of us while praying, standing, sitting, performing ablutions, etc. But not all of them have been published. It was very interesting that he insisted and asked the brothers to bring a camera and take pictures in all those positions.

This was my last meeting with him. I once again told him: “Please Haaji, do not go to



Baghdad, the situation is not good, it is worrying". He replied: "No, I have to go. I have no other choice. I have to go because I want to see the Prime Minister and there are some important messages that I have to convey or hear... and there is no other way. I have to go to Baghdad personally.

**I Am Wearing a Plain Suit Now
Abu Hassan, Chief of an Iraqi
tribe and Commander of the
Iraqi People's Forces**

We were informed that a group of 370 ISIS men intended to launch an operation and take

Iranian pilgrims hostage near Karbala.

We considered it our duty to immediately inform Haaj Qasem Soleimani about the matter as he was the commander of the team for the protection of the Arbaeen pilgrims. He quickly monitored the movement of ISIS forces and waited for them with 20 of his best men.

Haaj Qasem Soleimani's men clashed with the ISIS forces, which lasted for half an hour. After the clash, I went to the area with my forces and saw with my own eyes that all the ISIL forces had been killed except one who had been taken prisoner. Wearing a plain suit, Haaj Qasem Soleimani turned to the ISIL captive and said: "As you can see, I am not wearing a war suit. Woe to your people if my leader, Sayyed Ali, orders me to wear military clothes"!

**Haaj Qasem's Night Prayers
Hojjat al-Islam Sa'adatnejad,
Imam Hussein University, October 2020**

Ever since getting to know God Almighty, the revolution and the battlefield - until the time he passed away and irrespective of the situation he was in - Haaj Qasem never missed night prayers. I accompanied Haaj Qasem on some trips. We would reach our resting place at about 2 or 3 am and I would go to sleep and wake up for morning prayers. But Mr. Safari (may his soul rest in peace) who also accompanied us in such trips told me that Haaj Qasem had not slept and had spent the night praying and he wondered how he (Martyr Soleimani) would be able to handle his affairs the next day. He did not get tired. God had given him such a power that

in spite of being engaged in an operation even for 3 days and nights he would not sleep and would not abandon his night prayers. Haaj Qasem's night prayers were not confined to a simple ritual. It was accompanied by supplications, and I could see him reciting part of Abu Hamza Supplication and weeping in his night prayers; in prostration or in qunut.

**Serious Perseverance of the
Martyr Haaj Qasem and Martyr
Pourja'fari**

Sardar Mohammad Ja'far Asadi

In Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and the whole region, in Pakistan, Afghanistan, wherever you go, you will see that the services of Haaj Qasem Soleimani have been very outstanding.

Even if you go to the Balkans you can see Haaj Qasem's services have even been outstanding there. In these 40 years, I have not seen anyone more persevering than him. He was not like many other people who would say that the war is over now and it is time to rest. I am a witness that in the past 22 years he only slept 2 or 3 hours every night. Another brother who was really very persevering and was martyred was Mr. Pourja'fari, whose services could never be compensated for in this world; but I am sure and have no doubt that he will, with the grace of Allah, have a lofty position in the hereafter.

He usually offered his night prayer in Haaj Qasem's house. Mr. Pourja'fari used to come with a piece of rug in the back of his car, he would spread it there, engage in night prayers before the time for morning prayer, and would wait for Sardar Soleimani to come out and would then

drive on to pursue their missions.

If I want to say it correctly, I have no doubt that Haaj Qasem spent two-thirds of his time outside his home. That is, if we assume that a month is thirty days, he was out of home for at least twenty days. And a few hours of the other ten days of his were spent praying at night; resting very little. He was mostly in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan or another country attending to certain missions, and he truly deserved martyrdom and that too at the hands of the cruelest and the worst evil people of the world.

He Would at Times Borrow from His Father

Hojjat al-Islam Asgari, the Imam of Friday Prayers in Rafsanjan

He (Martyr Soleimani) lived a very simple life and even though he spent many days attending to his missions abroad and in dangerous situations, he never accepted any payment for these missions. At times, he would tell me privately that his salary would not be enough for managing the expenses of his life. He would at times borrow from his father; when his father was alive. The last time he asked me to calculate the amount of khums of his property the amount was only three million tomans; which he paid.

Soleimani's School of Thought Means Turning Threats into Opportunities

General Safavi of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

In Martyr Soleimani's school of thought, strategic management means turning threats into opportunities.

Martyr Soleimani turned the

threat of ISIS into an opportunity, and in Iraq, he organized more than 22 brigades of people alongside the Iraqi army. In Syria, too, he mobilized more than 60 or 70 thousand of its people and organized them into a powerful force to fight their enemies. This transformation of threat to opportunity means creating a lasting infrastructure for the security and independence of nations.

The hardships that Martyr Soleimani had faced during his childhood and adolescence, which have been published in his autobiography, and the experiences and tragedies he went through during the course of the sacred defense had turned him into a tolerant, patient, and resilient figure. This God-pleasing man and the righteous servant of God went through a lot of physical and mental pressure throughout all these years. Yet, he would not waste his time and would either recite the Holy Qur'an or engage in writing something when being driven from one place to another. In

terms of moral characteristics, he was a spirited revolutionary guard with a lot of courage to confront the enemy.

How Martyr Soleimani Solved the Problem of a Zoroastrian of Kerman

Hojjat al-Islam Du'aei, the Representative of the Supreme Leader

I have been told by a friend that once when Haaj Qasem was to take a flight from the Kerman airport to Tehran. While on the bus, from the terminal to the plane, Mr. Soroushian, a Zoroastrian personality of Kerman, recognizes Haaj Qasem, goes to him, touches him on his shoulder, and tells him "We love you Haaj Qasem". Here I must say that the Zoroastrians of Kerman are very popular among the people of this city and are respected for their honesty and sincerity. They participate in the mourning programs of Imam Hussain (as) and they even share part of the expenses of these programs. Anyway, recognizing Mr. Soroushian, Haaj Qasem gets up, hugs him, kisses him on his cheeks and they both sit together. Haaj Qasem then asks him if he can be of any help and Mr. Soroushian tells him that he is going to Tehran for a legal case. Haaj Qasem then asks him for his mobile number and tells him that he would ask one of his friends to help him with his problem. The next day someone goes to Mr. Soroushian, listens to the details of his problem, takes his documents, follows the case, and resolves the problem. One of the prominent advocates of the Kerman court, Dr. Anoushirvan Monshizadeh, told me that on hearing the news of Haaj Qasem's martyrdom, Mr.

▶ **He (Martyr Soleimani) lived a very simple life and even though he spent many days attending to his missions abroad and in dangerous situations, he never accepted any payment for these missions.**

Soroushian cried bitterly and could not stop his tears. He then added that he told him “You are a Zoroastrian” and he (Mr. Soroushian) then narrated the story and said: “In spite of his position, responsibilities, and engagement, this man (Martyr Soleimani) would sincerely listen to the problems of his Zoroastrian fellow-citizens of Kerman and would do his best to resolve their problem with the highest level of sincerity and this is what I will never forget.

This is one of the examples of the characteristics of a human being who had penetrated the hearts of people with his deeds and helped them (irrespective of their beliefs) when he recognized that they deserve help and support. (February 2020)

Photographs with the Children of Nubl and Al-Zahra Revolutionary Guard Commander, Mahmoud Chaharbaghi

Haaj Qasem was one of the first people to come to Nubl and Al-Zahra townships. He asked me to accompany him to Nubl and I agreed. We passed through olive trees - I have the pictures - then we sat in the car and went to Nubl. The people of Nubl and Al-Zahra who had lived under seizure for many years could not believe that Haaj Qasem was among the Iranians paying a visit to their place. I do not know how and by whom they were informed about the news. They would come in groups and ask where Haaj Qasem was. They wished to see him and take pictures with him. On the other hand, Haaj Qasem, too, would go to their houses, caress their little children and give them sweets and chocolates

and take pictures with them and make them feel so happy as if they had been given the whole world. This is the difference between an Iran General and an American one.

presidential elections. He did not let me finish my sentence and said: “You know my view” and I responded by saying: “I myself disagree and my answer to people who ask me about it

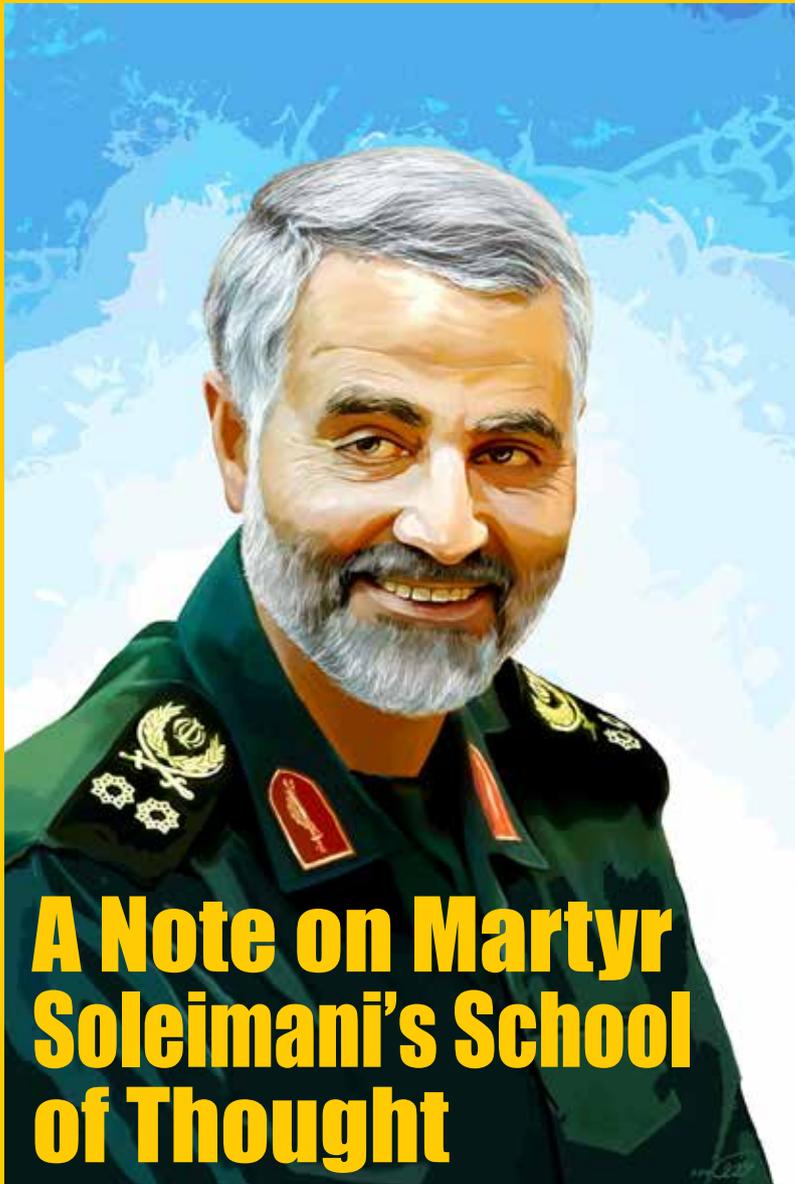


Haaj Qasem and Presidential Elections

Hojjat al-Islam Ali Shirazi, the Representative of the Supreme Leader in the Sarallah Headquarters (narrated in the book: “The Haaj Qasem that I Know”)

Presidential elections were close by and many people were, either by writing letters or in cyberspace, asking General Soleimani to run for the elections. Some people would contact me and ask me about Haaj Qasem’s view. I once went to him and told him that many people are interested in him standing for

is that General Soleimani is the president of several countries. But I am just conveying people’s request and I want to hear what you have to say about it”. He replied: “Tell people, on my behalf, that Soleimani is just a soldier and nothing else.” I then said: “What if the Supreme Leader supports their view?” He smiled - like always - and said: “If the Supreme Leader obliges me to stand for election I will go to him and will not stop pleading and begging to him in tears until he removes the obligation.



A Note on Martyr Soleimani's School of Thought

By: Mohsen Pakayin, Research Scholar of International Relations

Praising the path and views of Martyr Lieutenant General Qasem Soleimani, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei stated on 27/1/2009: "Martyr Haaj Qasem Soleimani should not be viewed as an individual; he should be looked at as a school of thought".

The theory of "regional security", one of the most important views of General Soleimani, was

rooted in his school of thought, the practical dimensions of which should be examined by the elites of Iran and the region. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Western countries, led by the United States, began the process of "reengineering of the West Asian region to ensure security for the Zionist regime. As per this outlook, the countries of the region

must become prey to insecurity, must be weakened, and must be subjected to a rift among them. Creating border disputes in the region, causing religious rivalries between Shiite and Sunni governments and nations, fanning ethnic prejudices such as Pan-Kurdism and Pan-Arabism, and providing support to the regional reactionaries and terrorist groups were some of the strategies resorted to for creating insecurity in the West Asian region.

To weaken security in West Asia, the multilateral project of "creating takfiri terrorist groups" such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS was launched to re-engineer the situation in the region; the project that was pursued with the help of Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime. One of the aspects of this project was the change of geographical borders through the disintegration of Islamic countries, for the materialization of which national sovereignty of the countries should be weakened and their territorial integrity should be put in danger. According to Western theorists, the disintegration of Iraq and Syria and the division of these countries into smaller territories was necessary to ensure the security of Israel, and a number of Western measures had to be taken in this regard.

As a man of insight and by having the perfect knowledge of Western policies, General Qasem Soleimani had come up with the theory of "regional security" to prevent the implementation of the said project. According to this theory, the security of Islamic countries in West Asia is interconnected and

affects each other. In other words, insecurity in Syria undermines security in Iraq, and insecurity in Iraq would affect Iran's security and so on and so forth.

General Soleimani came up with the idea of forming "resistance" to provide security in West Asia and to confront Western tricks and laid the foundation of struggle against extremism and terrorism on the basis of the strategy of "resistance". Haaj Qasem had, as a matter of fact, countervailed the strategy of Westerners - who sought to divide the anti-Zionist front - by uniting the countries of the region in the form of an "axis of resistance". Martyr Soleimani's miracle was that he brought together the six nations of Syrians, Lebanese, Iranians, Pakistanis, Afghans, and Iraqis under the flag of resistance.

He formed the axis of resistance by using the indigenous identity and culture of each country (and not by imposing the Iranian version of it). Hezbollah with Lebanese identity, Hashad al-Sha'bi with Iraqi identity, and Zainebiyoun, Fatemiyoun, and Haidariyoun were created and developed according to the national identity, tradition, and culture of their respective countries. This is the reason that no factor has the ability to eliminate these forces, and their influence is increasingly growing.

By coming up with the theory of regional security, General Soleimani made every country sensitive towards its national security and that of its friendly neighbors, and, as a result, the axis of resistance defeated the plots of Western powers for changing the geography of the region and ensuring

Israel's security.

As a leading figure of resistance and a symbol of the confrontation with terrorism, he sided with the Sunni Palestinians in their 51-day war with Israel and made the defeat of the Zionist regime possible in the 33-day war with Shiite Hezbollah forces. At the height of the Syrian crisis, he personally went to the aid of Bashar al-Assad, and when Baghdad was about to fall to ISIS, he reached the city by crossing over the ISIL forces and led the anti-terrorist operation until the desired result was achieved.

General Soleimani was a diplomat, a politician, and a theorist. He believed that the national security of no country could not be ensured in the absence of security for the whole region. He was a theorist who believed that Iran's security depended on the security of its external borders and believed that Iran's national security could not be ensured unless the entire region was secure.

In order to ensure the security of the West Asian region and to make sure that the global arrogant powers cannot threaten the stability and security of the region, Martyr Soleimani stressed the following several points.

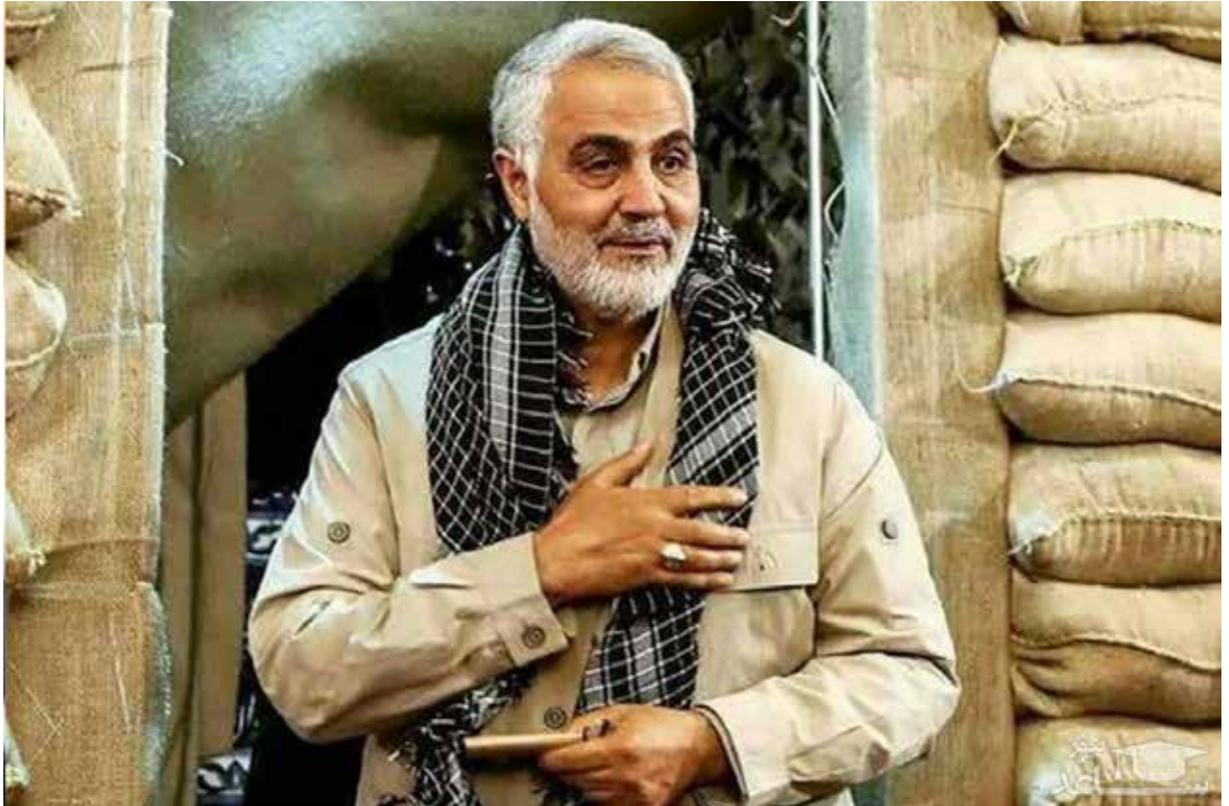
First, the national sovereignty of countries must be respected. For example, when the United States refuses to recognize a government formed by the votes of the people of Syria and acts against the will of the Syrian people, it is definitely against the security and stability of that country. This is the reason that made General Soleimani defend the national sovereignty of Syria and make sure that it is

stabilized.

The second point that Martyr Soleimani stressed upon was defending the territorial integrity of West Asian countries. The United States had a plan to divide Iraq into three parts: Kurds, Shiites, and Sunnis. Ever since the US invasion of Iraq, there had been some talks about the secession and violation of that country's territorial integrity, and Martyr Soleimani believed that this regional threat must be confronted.

The third characteristic of General Soleimani's theory was to unite all the countries of the region in one axis, and this is what he successfully made possible through the formation of the axis of resistance.

On the anniversary of the cowardly and unfair assassination and martyrdom of General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, one should ponder upon the importance of the strong regional alliance against the United States and the Zionist regime and the security of West Asian countries. General Soleimani's ultimate goal was the expulsion of American forces from the region, which began with the withdrawal of these forces from Afghanistan, and this goal will be achieved after the expulsion of the United States from Iraq and Syria. And what the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to as strong revenge meant the expulsion of the United States from the region and the liberation of Al-Quds. This goal is not unachievable and with its realization, the path will be paved for the realization of the new Islamic civilization.



Testament of Martyr Major-General **Qasem** **Soleimani**

The following is the full text of the will and testament of Martyr General Qasem Soleimani, the Commander of the IRGC's Quds Forces who formerly led many operations during Saddam's eight-year U.S.-backed war on Iran and accomplished numerous other valorous achievements during his blessed life. His life was characterized by extraordinary

faith, exemplary courage, and passionate adherence to Wilayat. May his soul rest in peace and drink from the fountain of eternal bliss.

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

I testify to the main principles of Islam.

I testify that there is no god but Allah. I testify that Muham-

mad is the Messenger of God. I testify that Ali bin Abi Talib and his immaculate children – the twelve Imams – are our Infallible Imams and that they are "Hujjat of Allah" (God's proofs).

I testify that the Day of Judgment is true, the Holy Qur'an is true, Heaven and Hell are true, the questioning and answering (on the Day of Judgment) are true, and that Resurrection,

God's Justice, Imamate, and Prophethood are true.

Oh God, I thank You for Your blessings

Oh God, thank You for transferring me from one loin to the next, from one century to the next, and from one family to the next, until You bestowed on me the blessing to live during a time when I could see one of your most prominent Friends who are close to and a companion of the Infallibles, Your righteous servant – the Great Khomeini. And, I thank you for letting me be his soldier. If I did not have the blessing to be the companion of Your Great Messenger, Muhammad al-Mustafa (pbuh), and if I did not live during the period of the oppression of Ali bin Abi Talib and his immaculate and wronged children, You helped me tread the same path on which they laid down their lives – which is worth all the universe and its creatures.

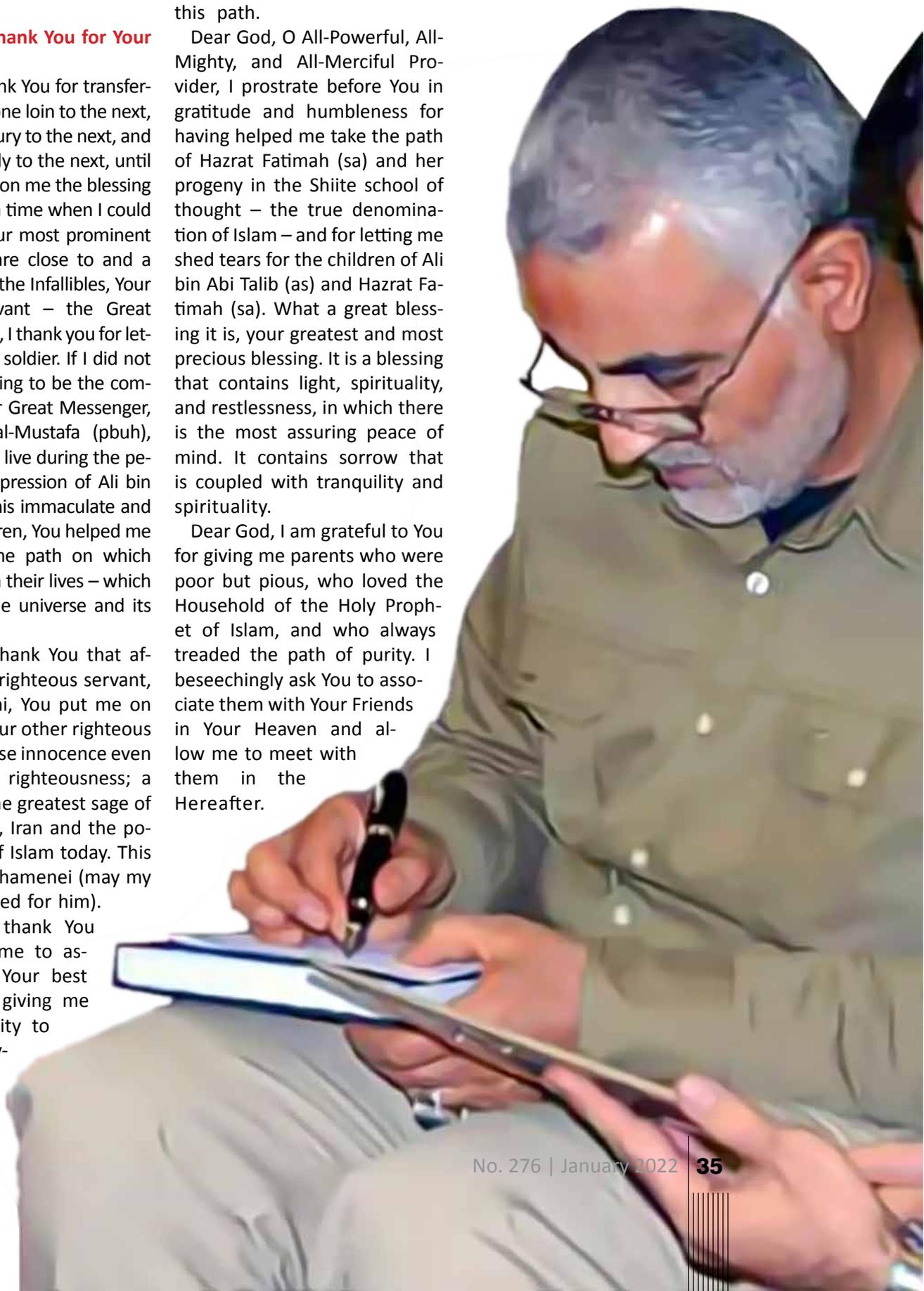
Oh God, I thank You that after your very righteous servant, dear Khomeini, You put me on the path of Your other righteous servant – whose innocence even surpasses his righteousness; a man who is the greatest sage of Islam, Shi'ism, Iran and the political world of Islam today. This man is dear Khamenei (may my life be sacrificed for him).

Dear God, thank You for allowing me to associate with Your best servants, for giving me the opportunity to kiss their heavenly faces, and for let-

ting me smell their divine scent – the mujahidin and martyrs on this path.

Dear God, O All-Powerful, All-Mighty, and All-Merciful Provider, I prostrate before You in gratitude and humbleness for having helped me take the path of Hazrat Fatimah (sa) and her progeny in the Shiite school of thought – the true denomination of Islam – and for letting me shed tears for the children of Ali bin Abi Talib (as) and Hazrat Fatimah (sa). What a great blessing it is, your greatest and most precious blessing. It is a blessing that contains light, spirituality, and restlessness, in which there is the most assuring peace of mind. It contains sorrow that is coupled with tranquility and spirituality.

Dear God, I am grateful to You for giving me parents who were poor but pious, who loved the Household of the Holy Prophet of Islam, and who always treaded the path of purity. I beseechingly ask You to associate them with Your Friends in Your Heaven and allow me to meet with them in the Hereafter.



Oh God, I have Hopes in Your Pardon

Oh Dear God, Oh Wise and Unique Creator, my hands are empty, and so is my backpack. I rush to you without any provisions, hoping that You will treat me to Your banquet of pardon and generosity. I do not have any provisions with me, for what provisions does a poor man need in the presence of a generous Lord?

My shoes are filled with the hope of Your Grace and Your Generosity. I have brought with me two closed eyes, which contain a treasure in addition to their impurities. That jewel is tears shed for Fatimah's Hussein, tears shed for the Household, and tears shed in defense of the oppressed, the orphans, and the innocent who were caught in the claws of oppressors.

Oh God, I have nothing in my hands. They have nothing to present, nor do they have the power to defend. However, I have stored something in my hands, which I am hopeful about, that is a continuous movement towards You. When I reached out my hands towards you, when I put them on the ground and on my knees for Your sake, and when I carried weapons in order to defend Your religion, these are the wealth that I carry in my hands and I hope that you have accepted them.

Oh God, my legs are frail and have no stamina. They do not have the courage to cross the bridge that crosses over Hell. My legs tremble even when crossing

an ordinary bridge. Woe to me, as Your path (the bridge over Hell), is thinner than a hair and sharper than a sword. Nonetheless, I harbor some hope that I may not tremble and that I may find salvation. I set foot in Your sanctuary and circumambulated Your House (the circumambulation of the Holy Ka'bah). I ran bare-footed in the shrines of Your Friends and between the shrines of Hussein and Abbas. I bent and hugged my knees in long trenches. And, I ran, jumped, crept, wept, laughed and made others laugh, cried and made others cry, and fell and picked myself up in defense of your religion. I hope that you will pardon them (my legs) because of these jumping, crawling, and these holy shrines.

Oh God, my head, my wisdom, my lips, my nose, my ears, my heart, and all parts of my body harbor the same hope. Oh most Merciful, Compassionate God, accept me and accept me in

purity. Accept me in a way that I will be worthy of seeing You. I do not want anything other than meeting You. Heaven for me is being next to You, Oh Allah.

Oh God, I have Been Left Behind the Caravan of My Friends

Oh dear God, it is many years now that I have been left behind a caravan. I have constantly sent others towards it, but I myself have been left behind it. You Yourself know that I have never been able to forget them. Their memory and their names always echo, not in my mind, but in my heart and in my eyes with tears and sighs.

My dear God, my body is becoming infirm. How could You possibly not accept someone who has been waiting at Your door for 40 years? My Creator, my Beloved and my Love, I have always asked You to fill my heart and my soul with the love of You. Let me burn and die in being apart from You.

My dear One, I have wandered into deserts feeling restless and ashamed of being left behind. I go from one city to another and from this desert to the next in winters and summers, because I harbor hope. Generous God, my Beloved God, I have fixed my hopes on Your Generosity. You know that I love You. You know that I do not want anyone other than You. Help me join You.

Oh God, terror has engulfed my whole existence. I am not capable of controlling my will. Do not disgrace me. I ask You, for the sake of those whose sanctity You have vowed to preserve, to

▶ **Oh most Merciful, Compassionate God, accept me and accept me in purity. Accept me in a way that I will be worthy of seeing You. I do not want anything other than meeting You. Heaven for me is being next to You, Oh Allah.**

join me to the caravan that has come towards You before I see the sanctity of these shrines being disrespected.

You, Whom I worship, my Love and my Beloved, I love You. I have seen and felt You many times. I cannot remain separate from You any longer. It is enough. It is enough. Accept me, but only when I am worthy of You.

A Word with My Mujahid Brothers and Sisters

My mujahid sisters and brothers in this world, you who have offered your lives for the sake of God, risking your lives and putting them on sale in the bazaar of love, please pay attention. The Islamic Republic is the center of Islam and Shi'ism. Today, Husain bin Ali's base is Iran. You should know that the Islamic Republic is a sanctuary, and if this sanctuary is preserved, others will be preserved as well. If the enemy destroys this sanctuary, no sanctuary – neither the sanctuaries belonging to Ibrahim nor Muhammad – will remain.

My brothers and sisters, the world of Islam is constantly in need of leadership, one that is connected to and endorsed by the Infallibles in terms of Islamic law and jurisprudence. You know perfectly well that the purest religious scholar who shook the whole world and revived Islam – our great and pure Khomeini – stated that “Wilayat-e Faqih” is the only prescription for the salvation of this nation. Therefore, those of you who believe in it as Shi'a Muslims and based

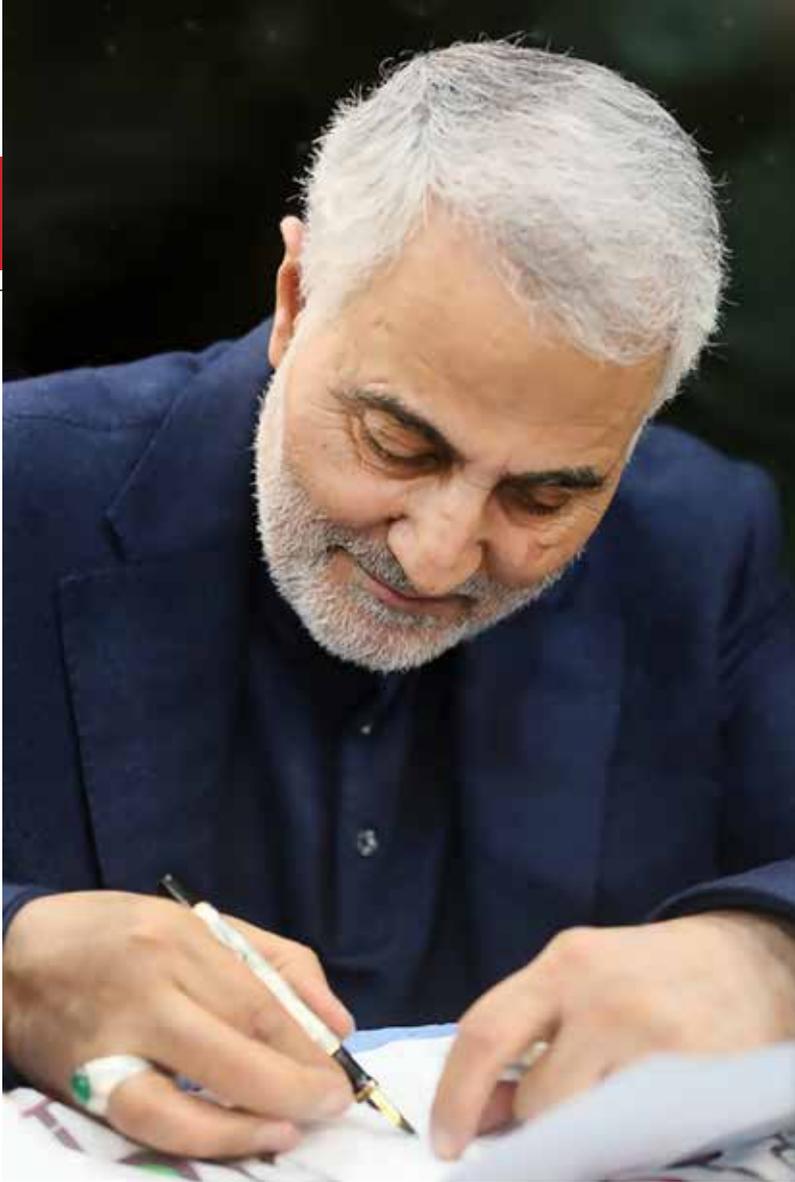


on religion, and those of you who believe in it as Sunni Muslims and based on logic, should know that you must refuse to abandon the tent of Wilayat, and without any discord among yourselves. This tent is the tent of the Messenger of God. The basis of the enmity against the Islamic Republic throughout the world is for burning and destroying this tent. You should go around it (like the circumambulation of the Ka'bah). I swear to Allah, I swear to Allah, I swear to Allah, if this tent is harmed, there will be no sign of God's House (Ka'bah), Madinah - where the shrine of the Holy Prophet is located – Najaf, Karbala, Kadhimiya, Samarra or

Mashhad, and the Holy Qur'an will be damaged as well.

A Word with My Iranian Brothers and Sisters

My dear Iranian brothers and sisters, you honorable and glorious people for whom I, and individuals like me, wish to sacrifice our lives thousands of times – as you sacrificed hundreds of thousands of lives for the sake of Islam and Iran – you should take care of the “Principles.” The Principles means “Wali-e Faqih” (Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist), in particular, that sage and that oppressed man who is imbued with religious piety, jurisprudence, spirituality, and religious understanding. Dear



Khamenei should be very dear to you. You should know that respecting him is like respecting the sanctities.

Brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, my dear ones! The Islamic Republic is experiencing its most glorious period today. You should know that it does not matter what the enemy thinks about you. What did the enemy think about your Prophet? How did the enemies behave towards the Messenger of God and his children? What accusations did they make about him, and how did they treat his immaculate children? The enemies' reproach, censure, and pressure should not divide you.

You should know – and you do know – that the most important

achievement of dear Khomeini was that firstly, he applied Islam to help Iran, and then, he put Iran at the service of Islam. If it were not for Islam, and if an Islamic spirit had not ruled over our nation, Saddam would have torn apart our country to pieces like a wild wolf, and the U.S. would have acted in the same manner as a rabid dog. However, Imam Khomeini's accomplishment was that he brought Islam to the help of this nation. He brought forth Ashura, the month of Muharram, the month of Safar, and Fatimiyah (the period of mourning for Hazrat Fatimah (sa)) to help this nation. He created revolutions within the revolution. It is for this reason that in every period, thousands

of self-sacrificing individuals laid down their lives to shield you, the Iranian nation, Iranian soil, and Islam. They humbled the biggest worldly powers. My dear ones, do not become divided over the "Principles."

Martyrs are the axis of dignity and respect for all of us. They have joined the vast ocean of God, the Pure, not only for today but for eternity. You should regard them as great in your eyes, hearts, and on your tongues, as they truly are great. You should familiarize your children with their names and their photographs. You should look with respect at the children of Martyrs who are the orphaned children of all of you. You should respect their wives and their parents. In the same way that you treat your own children with leniency, pay special attention to them in the absence of their fathers, mothers, wives, and children.

You should respect your Armed Forces which are headed by the Wali-e-Faqih for the sake of defending yourselves, your religion, Islam, and the country. Likewise, the Armed Forces should respect, protect and support the nation, its honor, and its soil, in the same way that they defend their own homes. As the Commander of the Faithful – the Leader of the Pious – said, "The Armed Forces should be a source of dignity for their nation. They should be the castle and the refuge for the oppressed and the people, and they should adorn their country.

A Word with the Dear People

of Kerman

I have a point to raise with the dear people of Kerman, a lovely people who made the greatest sacrifices throughout the period of the 8-year Holy Defense and sacrificed great generals and honorable mujahidin for the sake of Islam. I always feel humble before them. They trusted me for eight years for the sake of Islam. They sent their children to deadly battlefields and difficult wars such as operations Karbala-5, Valfajr-8, Tariqul-Quds, Fath al-Mobin, Bayt al-Moqaddas, and other operations. And, they founded a great and valuable army in the name of and for the love of our Infallible Imam, Hussein bin Ali – the Tharallah Division. That Division frequently made the hearts of our nation and of the Muslims happy, working like a sharp sword and erasing grief from their hearts.

My dear ones! Today, I am no longer among you due to divine destiny. I love you more than my father, my mother, my children, my sisters, and my brothers because I spent more time with you than I did with them, while they were my flesh and blood, and I was theirs. They accepted for me to dedicate my life and my existence to you and to the Iranian nation.

I would like Kerman to remain with Wilayat till the end. This Wilayat is the Wilayat of Ali bin Abi Talib, and its tent is the tent of Fatimah's Husain. You should sacrifice yourself for it. I am with all of you. You know that I paid more attention to humanity, to

affection, and to innate nature than to political colors. I am addressing all of you who consider me to be a part of you and as your brother and your child.

I ask you in this will to not leave Islam alone in this period of time when it has been manifested in the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic. Defending Islam requires intelligence and special attention. When it comes to Islam, the Islamic Republic, sanctities, and Wilayat-e-Faqih in political matters know that these are the colors of God; therefore, you should prefer the colors of God to any other color.

A Word with the Families of the Martyrs

My children, my daughters and sons, children of the Martyrs, fathers, and mothers of the Martyrs, you shining lights of our country, and brothers, sisters, and loyal and pious wives of the Martyrs! The voice that I

▶ **I ask you in this will to not leave Islam alone in this period of time when it has been manifested in the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic. Defending Islam requires intelligence and special attention.**

heard every day, to which I was so attached, that gave me so much tranquility like the voice of the Quran did, and that I considered being the greatest source of spiritual support for me was the voice of the children of the Martyrs, which I would listen to almost every day, and also, that of the Martyrs' fathers and mothers in whom I felt the presence of my own parents.

My dear ones, as long as you are the mentors of this nation, you should appreciate your value. Reflect and manifest your Martyrs in yourselves in such a way that whenever someone sees you, they feel as though the fathers and children of Martyrs are the living images of the Martyrs with the same degree of spirituality, power, and qualities.

I beseechingly ask you to forgive and to pardon me. I was not able to do what was necessary for many of you, or even for your martyred children. I ask for forgiveness and for you to pardon me.

I would like my body to be carried by the Martyrs' children in the hope of receiving God's attention, thanks to the touch of their pure hands on my body.

A Word with the Politicians of the Country

I have a short point to make to the politicians of the country, both to those who refer to themselves as "Reformists" and to the "Conservatives." What made me suffer the most was that we usually forget – or sacrifice – God, the Quran, and values under two circumstances. My dear ones, no matter what rivalry and conten-

tion you have with each other, if your actions, words, and debates weaken religion and the Revolution in one way or another, you should know that you will receive the wrath of the Holy Prophet of Islam and the Martyrs on this path. You should set limits. If you want to stand together, the condition for being together is agreement over the Principles and expressing them in an outspoken manner. The Principles are not lengthy or detailed (and therefore not open to interpretation). The Principles are comprised of a few important tenets:

1. The first is believing in Wilayat-e-Faqih in practice. This means that you should listen to his advice and act on his recommendations and warnings as the true physician of religious laws and science. A person who wishes to undertake a certain responsibility in the Islamic Republic should know that the main condition is having a true belief in Wilayat-e-Faqih and acting on Wali-e-Faqih's words. I am not speaking about a "Burning Furnace Wilayat" (This refers to a narration from Imam Sadiq (as) where he asked one of his followers to sit in a burning furnace, and the follower immediately submitted to his order without hesitation.), nor a Wilayat due to law. Neither of these two will solve the problem of unity. Wilayat due to law is particular to people in general – including Muslims and non-Muslims - but Wilayat in practice is particular to officials who wish to undertake the important affairs of the country, an Islamic country with all these Martyrs.

2. Having true faith in the Islam-

ic Republic and what it has been founded on. This includes morals, values, and responsibilities, whether responsibilities towards the nation or towards Islam.

3. Employing pure individuals who believe in the nation and who are the servants of it, not individuals who evoke the memory of former Khans, even if they are elected as a chairman in a very small village.

4. They should establish a method, which includes confronting corruption and refraining from it, and also includes avoiding a luxurious lifestyle.

5. During their term of office in any position of responsibility, they should consider respecting the people and rendering services to them to be acts of worship. And, they themselves should promote values, not boycotting them over vain excuses.

Acting as the fathers of the society, they should pay attention to their responsibility in the area of cultivating and protecting the so-

▶ **Another point is that you should gain a timely understanding of the enemy, his goals, and his policies, and then, you must make decisions and act promptly. If any of these is carried out belatedly, it will have a major impact on your victory.**

ciety, rather than supporting behavior - driven by negligence and emotions and for the sake of winning the votes of people who have a transient feeling - that would promote divorce and corruption in society and would cause families to break apart. Governments are the main factor in both strengthening families as well as in causing families to break apart. If the Principles are acted on, everyone will be on the path of the Leader, the Revolution, and the Islamic Republic. Then, there will be a proper competition based on these principles for the sake of electing the most eligible person.

A Word with My Brothers in the Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Army

I wish to address a brief word in my dear, self-sacrificing brothers in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and in the IRGC-like Army. You should set courage and the power to manage crises as the main criteria for appointing commanders. Naturally, I do not mention Wilayat, because Wilayat is not a part or a component of the Armed Forces, rather it is the basis for the survival of the Armed Forces. This condition is inviolable.

Another point is that you should gain a timely understanding of the enemy, his goals, and his policies, and then, you must make decisions and act promptly. If any of these is carried out belatedly, it will have a major impact on your victory.

A Word with the Religious Scholars and Honorable Reli-

gious Authorities

I, a 40-year soldier in the field, would like to have a brief word with the honorable religious scholars and great Religious Authorities who cast light on society and eradicate darkness, in particular Grand Religious Authorities. Your soldier saw from a watchtower that if the Islamic Republic is harmed, religion and what you have endeavored hard to preserve and for which you have made every effort to develop expertise in will be destroyed. This period is different from all other periods. If they take control this time, nothing will remain of Islam. The correct path to take is to support the Revolution, the Islamic Republic, and Wali-Faqih without any reservation. You – who are the source of hope for Islam - should not allow others to make you hesitate.

All of you loved Imam and believed in his path. Imam's path was the path of fighting against the U.S. and supporting the Islamic Republic and the Muslims, who are oppressed by the Arrogant Powers, under the flag of Wali-e-Faqih. Even with my flawed mind, I could see that some vicious individuals tried and continue to try to persuade influential Religious Authorities and religious scholars in society into silence and hesitation through the use of self-righteous gestures and words. It is clear what the truth is. The Islamic Republic, values, and Wilayat-e-Faqih are the legacies of Imam Khomeini (may God bestow mercy on him). Therefore, they should be earnestly supported.

I see Hazrat Grand Ayatollah

Khamenei greatly wronged and alone. He needs your cooperation and assistance, and you great personages should direct the society with your statements, meetings, and support. If this Revolution is harmed, then the situation will not even be like the time of the cursed Shah. Even worse than that, the Front of Arrogance will do its best to promote sheer disbelief and deep deviation, which cannot be reversed.

I kiss your blessed hands (in humbleness) and apologize for these words. I would have liked to make these statements in my meetings with you in person, but it was not meant to be.

Your soldier who kisses your hands.

I Ask Everyone to Pardon Me

I ask my neighbors, my friends, and my colleagues to forgive and to pardon me. I ask the soldiers of the Tharallah Division and the great Quds Force, who are a thorn in the eye of the enemy and a strong fortification against it, to forgive and to pardon me, in particular those who helped me in a brotherly manner.

I cannot avoid mentioning Hossein Poor-Ja'fari who helped me well-intentionally, like a brother, and whom I loved in the same way that I love my own brother. I apologize to his family and to all my revolutionary and mujahid brothers who were bothered because of me. Of course, all the brothers in the Quds Force showed me brotherly love and helped me, including my dear friend General Qa'ani, who tolerated me with patience and dignity.



The Assassination of Martyr General Soleimani Was a Clear Violation of International Laws and Principles

Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini

Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Present Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan



In an article published by local media, Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini said that the anti-human action committed by the US was not compatible with any of the established legal provisions and was a clear violation of international laws and principles. What follows are excerpts from his article.

The people of Iran are grieved over the loss of a man, who was highly acclaimed by the people of the region as a “liberator, hero, and symbol of the fight against terrorism.

Today, we are approaching the martyrdom anniversary of General

Qasem Soleimani who was cowardly assassinated by the US government in a blatant terrorist act. The people of our region do not forget the days when the black flag of Daesh (ISIS) were each day hoisting somewhere in one of their cities and their vicious acts here and there were shuddering the hearts of people.

General Soleimani, who rightly played the most effective role in suppressing criminal groups, augured well in clearing terrorist embodiments like ISIS and Al-Nusra Front, and brought security and peace to the nations from our region to Europe, was martyred through a craven operation that was directly ordered by the President of the United States of America.

Although in the Islamic school of thought, martyrdom in the way of God is a wish for any Muslim, and General Soleimani and his companions had a long-lasting fervor for it, the nature of the terror was preposterous.

The criminal act of the United States in depriving people of the region of a determined and anti-ter-

rorism force is strongly condemned by the freedom-seeking and peace-loving people of the region. This act was a clear confrontation with the true wishes of the people of the region in striving for peace and the fight against terrorism.

The apparent opposition of the United States to the wishes of the people of the region, which manifested itself in the assassination of Martyr Soleimani, is condemned from a legal and international point of view. In this regard, I would draw esteemed readers’ attention to some points.

Article II of the United Nations Charter explicitly prohibits the use of force as well as threatening to use force. In addition to being a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, the martyrdom of Commander Soleimani was also against the values of human rights and international human rights provisions.

Violation of the right to life is prohibited under Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 6 of the Charter of Civil and Political Rights Covenant. Therefore, the commanders and the agents of this operation and the perpetrators of violation of this right should be brought to justice and punished.

In this terrorist act, the United States also violated the rules of diplomatic and consular laws. Martyr

Soleimani was a high-ranking Iranian military official who was assuming diplomatic responsibility during his last journey and was carrying a political message for the officials of the Republic of Iraq.

Therefore, within the framework of the Vienna Convention about diplomatic relations and “Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons 1971”, in particular, the trial and punishment of the perpetrator of this violation is necessary.

The second point that needs to be elaborated on is related to the collective responsibility of all countries of the region and the world to work as hard as possible to fight ISIS. Abdication of responsibilities or support to terrorists by some countries not only doesn't decrease the responsibility of others but even adds to it requiring those countries to shoulder a heavier burden.

Following the emergence of ISIS in the region, a huge wave of insecurity, instability, destruction, terror, and shameful crimes, rose by this group in some parts of West Asia and scattered districts of Iraq and Syria that could lead to territorial segregation of these countries. This heinous intention concerned the general public in the region who urged international organizations to issue resolutions calling for collective efforts on the part of regional countries against the atrocities created by ISIS.

Martyr Commander Soleimani swiftly planned and made vigorous and intelligent endeavors to firstly, suppress the criminals of ISIS and Al-Nusra Front and secondly, provide security to the countries that were brutally attacked by these

groups. He also moved forward a tireless diplomacy to construct a true consensus on sincere counter-terrorism efforts. This is what made him a unique anti-ISIS and anti-terrorist commander to the people of Iran as well as the people of other countries.

This, of course, was not tolerable for the United States that, per se, was involved in the production, nourishment, and support of ISIS. In such a situation, the “Grand Patron” of terrorists was expected (by the terrorist groups) to do something! This was the reason that the desperate US decided to physically eliminate the invincible commander Qasem Soleimani; the Supreme Command who played a decisive and key role in fighting against terrorism, defeating and suppressing ISIS, strengthening the security of the region and even Europe, and preserving the territorial integrity of involved countries.

The third and most important point is about the legality of General Soleimani's presence in the respective countries. The presence that was of a political and defensive nature and was defined and agreed upon with the host countries.

The brutal and brazen assassination of this great martyr of Islam took place at a time when Commander Soleimani was visiting Iraq at the official invitation and request of the Iraqi government and was considered as a guest of their officials.

By taking the responsibility for the assassination of Martyr Soleimani, the former President of the United States of America, Donald Trump, revealed the hypocritical nature of the US stance towards terrorists; proving that it favors them rather

than being against them.

The basic question that arises is that, which international rule or law immunizes the former US President, who explicitly took the responsibility of the assassination, from prosecution and punishment? The fact is that exemption of the person who gave the order of killing and those who implemented or facilitate it receive from punishment is a serious threat to peace and security, both in the region and the world, provides a safe haven for the terrorists. In fact, the United States intends to threaten any potential movement that could possibly crop up in the future against ISIS and frighten any robust force trying to make regional consensus to fight against terrorism.

The important and final point relates to the responsibility, role, and duty of the governments and relevant organizations in showing timely, appropriate and effective response against such acts of terrorism. Indifferent and unresponsive reactions of governments to such acts of aggression would encourage the aggressors and will make terrorist acts appear to be normal. This routine, in addition to undermining and neutralizing the principles of the United Nations Charter and the role of international institutions, will further endanger and even scorn the peace and stability of the world.

Thus, the path and memory of Commander Soleimani will always remain in our minds and hearts. For sure, future generations will be stronger and more vigilant, and American actions will have a reverse impact. Soleimani followers will continue to defend the path of truth and struggle against falsehood. and struggle is not finished by a physical omission.

Martyr Soleimani is More Alive than Ever

Aleksandr Gelyevich Dugin

(Russian Philosopher, Sociologist, and Political Analyst)¹



We should offer our condolences to the relatives of Martyr Soleimani and the people of Iran, but I want to express my joy that Iran has raised such sons. Not only in words but in his action, Soleimani testified about eternal life and one who testifies this cannot be dead and annihilated. He is rather more alive than ever. Martyr Soleimani sacrificed his life for his religious beliefs and his homeland and left this world beautifully. I do not agree with making a comparison between life and death. Martyr Soleimani lived an exalted life and sacrificed his life for his beliefs, Imam, and the interests of his country and people.

Dear Iranian friends, I would

like to share a few words about General Soleimani. He was not a hero who fought only for his country, his homeland, and his motherland. He was not a human hero; he was loftier than that. He was a great personality who sacrificed himself for the sake of his people. He sacrificed himself for his leader.

He was a very amazing personality. He was at the forefront of the struggle and resistance against the Zionist regime. He fought against modern and post-modern Western civilization. He fought against the Western version of globalization advocated by the United States and its friends. He was a friend of the Palestinians, the Yemenis, the Syrians, the Iraqis, but that is not all.

Who was he (Martyr Soleimani)? He was a person who did not give up his struggle against oppression until the end. He was concerned about the poor and needy. His enemies are the enemies of the poor people. They are the people who fight for darkness. He was a person who fought against the darkness. He was the true representative of the justice-seeking people of the world.

He had prepared himself for the

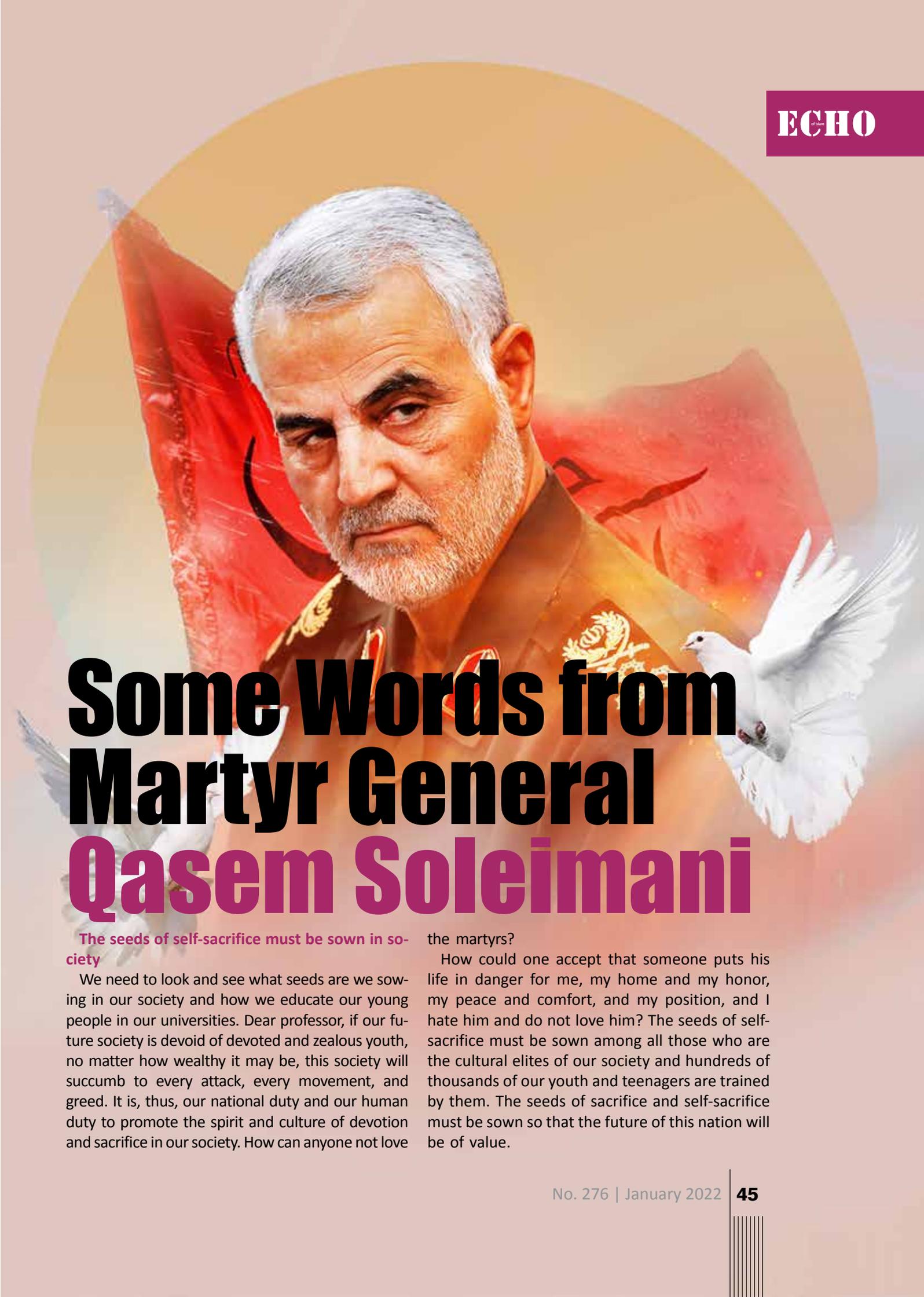
battle alongside the last Imam and the last son of the Prophet of Islam (pbuh); who will come and fights with the enemies of humanity.

His struggle had different dimensions: political dimension, social dimension, military dimension, and geopolitical dimension. He sought great jihad, but not merely military and defensive jihad. He did not fight for worldly affairs and rather, his jihad was a spiritual one. His goal was a spiritual one in essence. He fought for spiritual and metaphysical objectives and that is what made him a role model for many.

He was a religious and a divine man. Spirituality cannot be destroyed. He had a spiritual identity. Both he and Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis and their other martyred friends were engaged in a spiritual battle. They were struggling for the reappearance (of the Imam of Time). They are alive and they will remain immortal in our minds, hearts, and souls. He was a Muslim, but we Christians consider him one of our own.

We, the true Christians, and we, the true Muslims, are all on the battlefield and are fighting a common enemy. We consider him (Martyr Soleimani) our spiritual hero. Human history is approaching that crucial moment (of reappearance of the awaited savior) and the enemies must be destroyed. And it is through spiritual power that victory can be achieved and General Soleimani paved the way for it.

1. Second International Conference on Martyr Soleimani's School of Thought, February 2021.



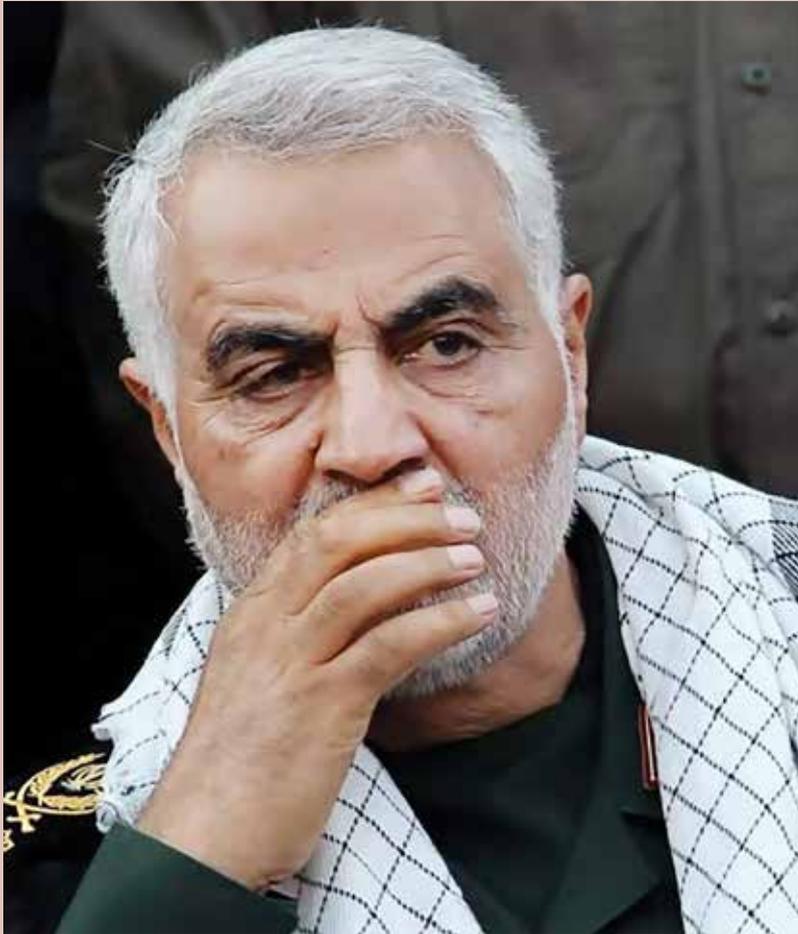
Some Words from Martyr General Qasem Soleimani

The seeds of self-sacrifice must be sown in society

We need to look and see what seeds are we sowing in our society and how we educate our young people in our universities. Dear professor, if our future society is devoid of devoted and zealous youth, no matter how wealthy it may be, this society will succumb to every attack, every movement, and greed. It is, thus, our national duty and our human duty to promote the spirit and culture of devotion and sacrifice in our society. How can anyone not love

the martyrs?

How could one accept that someone puts his life in danger for me, my home and my honor, my peace and comfort, and my position, and I hate him and do not love him? The seeds of self-sacrifice must be sown among all those who are the cultural elites of our society and hundreds of thousands of our youth and teenagers are trained by them. The seeds of sacrifice and self-sacrifice must be sown so that the future of this nation will be of value.



My good brother, if you do not want to be in pain, be in pain!

Excerpts from Martyr Soleimani's letter to Martyr Hossein Pourjafari

Dear Hossein, it is only on the day of judgment that the truth of the value of one's deeds is revealed and how beautiful it is when everyone is astonished and you are happy and smiling. You will receive the reward for this tiredness when your family and relatives need you and turn to you.

May God Almighty give you the reward of martyrdom to you my good brother for your jihad. I promise you that if I have any

respect and honor (on that day), I will not enter heaven without you.

Dear Hossein, do not allow any other love to overcome the love of God Almighty and any other pleasure to overcome the pleasure of God Almighty under any circumstances. My good brother, if you do not want to be in pain, be in pain! The pain that makes the coolness of your being into scorching heat, the pain that makes the warmth of one's being defeat the inner cold. My dear brother, not all pains are real pain and not all wings are real wing. There many pains that cure real pain. Entrust yourself to Him and consider his

satisfaction as grace, blessing.

Excerpts from Martyr Soleimani's Speeches on Different Occasions

One of the most important things that have an effect on the purification of society is the attitude and code of conduct of its managers. If a manager's thoughts and behavior are reflected in his actions, i.e., they are the practical manifestation of the principles he states, then they would be effective. If I speak about something in public but do the opposite in private, I can never be effective.

A society, which is devoid of self-sacrifice is a lifeless society. Self-sacrifice does not merely apply to giving one's life, rather self-sacrifice finds meaning and value in all levels of society in various dimensions, which gives true meaning to the concept of society.

The main cause of America's failures in our region is the lack of wise leadership and being ruled by ignorant leaders. The main factor of the success of our nation during these 40 years and the great progress that has made today's Iran the center and the main pole of the Islamic world, is its leadership. The same Iranian nation was there 50-60 years ago. It was there during the Qajar era, it was there at the beginning of the Pahlavi period, but because there was no Imam Khomeini, this nation could not succeed.

The role of a manager is higher than that of a speaker on the pulpit. If a manager becomes

God-oriented, he is not selfish, he forgets himself. He considers himself a servant of the nation. That is the reason that Imam Khomeini (ra) said: "Do not call him a leader, it is better to call me a servant. He did not exaggerate by making such a statement. This was what Imam (ra) expected from the management of an Islamic society.

The code of conduct of a manager has an effect on society. In one way, a manager is the leader of a community. A governor is not an ordinary person, the respected Friday prayer leader is not an ordinary person, the commander of the corps is not an ordinary person, the chief of the police force is not an ordinary person. They have effects on society. Their management is the same as the management of the sacred defense. How was Martyr Bakri was martyred? Where did he become a martyr? How many people were martyred by his side? Well, when the approach to management is like this, the entire society will become like the society we had during the sacred defense, and spiritually will spread in it. How can I, as a commander, be devoid of spirituality and expect society to have spirituality?

Leadership is not just confined to the top leader. We all have a leadership role in our community and if we want our society to become a resilient society, the condition is that managers must be compatible with such an ideal society.

It has been narrated that if someone has not participated

in jihad and dies, he will die in one of the branches of hypocrisy. And when asked how is it possible the response was that: "Well, jihad may not be available to everyone but man must keep this feeling alive in his being." In one of the supplications, we address Imam Husain (as) and say we wish we were in Karbala and helped you. By making such a statement we really preserve this truth in our being. Brothers, Jihad is very important. It is the quality that polishes the human soul.

If a nation lacks an intelligent leader, a wise, insightful, knowledgeable, and pious leader, it is bound to fail. Why did the Islamic awakening in the Arab countries not succeed? The people of Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, etc. came on the scene, it was an Islamic awakening, but why could this Islamic awakening not turn into another Islamic revolution? The main reason was that the masses were miles ahead of their leaders. In other words, the nations lacked leadership. Why did the Muslim Brotherhood collapse in Egypt? They had a government, they established a government, and they formed a parliament. But why did Egypt not succeed? It was due to lack of effective Leadership. If a nation lacks this factor, it will fail to succeed even if it has a world of wealth at its disposal.

The factors that make a person build his personality are the ideals and goals he defines for himself. They include desire and willpower. Desire and willpower are two important fac-

tors that constantly affect the human personality. The root of one's endurance or hesitation goes back to these two factors. If one's desires and ideals are limited to the worldly ones they would hold him trapped in worldly affairs. However, if his wishes and ideals are transcendental they will elevate his soul and this is very important for human personality.

Human willpower is a function of human attachments, which plays a pivotal role in willpower. If you want to understand human beings and gauge the strength of their willpower, you have to look at their worldly attachments and see if the level of their attachments is high or limited Attachment to transcendental subjects elevates man. If you look at the lives and personalities of influential people, you will see that quality. If you see a person like Imam Khomeini (ra) could make the impossible possible, it is because he had no worldly attachments. The Imam's desires and ideals were not worldly and low in essence and that is what made him succeed.



Source: Islamic World Peace Forum

The Aftermath of General Soleimani's Martyrdom

By: Ralitsa Trifonova & Marian Karagyozov

Friday, January 3, 2020, Iran's Major General Qasem Soleimani was assassinated near Baghdad's international airport by weapons launched by US drones. General Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds force, is known for masterminding the defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). He was feared by all Islamist terrorist groups, not just ISIS but also al-Qaeda, al-Nusra, and others.

Without offering any evidence, the (former) US President, Donald Trump, said that he ordered the attack to prevent plots to endanger the US troops and officials. "It was a stunningly stupid and counterproductive move on the part of the United States," said Barbara Slavin, director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, a think tank, on CBS (January 4, 2010). "And we are going to pay the price of this for years to come and it makes it untenable for American forces to stay in Iraq", she added.

"We are waking up in a more dangerous world", said Amelie de Montchalin, France's deputy minister for foreign affairs, on RTL radio. China expressed high concerns and Russia condemned the assassination and warned that "retaliatory strikes will certainly

follow".

"Trump promised to end endless wars", said the US Senator, Bernie Sanders, "but this action puts us on the path to another one." Other US Senators fear an escalation of hostility due to the US action. "I do not see any avenue or any way that talks could begin again," said the US Senator Rand Paul "And I have been one in favor of talks. But I think, unfortunately, diplomacy is dead now in the Middle East with Iran."

After 10 years of negotiation, the 2015 nuclear accord was reached between Iran and the P5+1 (the US, the UK, Russia, France, and China - plus Germany), known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPA). In 2018, the former US President, Trump, unilaterally withdrew from it against the advice of his Secretary of State, his Secretary of Defense, and the European allies. He began economic sanctions to dry out the Iranian exports and force Iranians into a new negotiation. To the Iranians, his actions were an economic war against the nation. So, the tension escalated and led to shooting down one another's drones in the Persian Gulf.

Now, the tension between Iran

and the US has peaked with the US assassinating Iran's top general in Iraq without the US getting clearance for the fly over Iraq and discussing the assassination plans with Iraq's officials. Trump did not even consult his plans with his top officials or the US Congress. He reportedly consulted with Israel, the archenemy of Iran. "Donald Trump started this cycle of escalation," Slavin said. "If there is a war, it is Donald Trump's war."

Terrorism in any form or shape, by individuals or states, is morally wrong and against international law. Iraq's Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi said the men martyred were "major symbols in achieving victory against ISIS and other Islamist terrorist groups". He called the US attack that killed General Soleimani and Iraqi Military Commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, an "aggression against Iraq." Unfortunately, the UN Security Council is impotent in this case for the US would veto any decisions condemning the US aggression.

Historically, the US involvement in the Middle East has been disastrous for the people in the region. The penetration of the US, accompanied by the British and the Russians, into Iran in 1941, resulted in the starvation of thousands of Iranians. The US also masterminded the 1953 coup against the first-ever democratically elected government in Iran - to install back the Shah - causing the deaths and tortures of thousands of Iranians.

Furthermore, bringing the deposed Shah into the US in 1979 made Iranians feel that another US coup was underway and triggered

the move to take over the US Embassy. The US supported Saddam's war against Iran. It provided Saddam's forces with the element for chemical weapons and offered intelligence to Saddam's forces. The use of chemicals on the Iranians was a clear violation of international law. For the last 40 years, the US has used every means to depose the Islamic government of Iran. As a sovereign state, it is surprising how cleverly Iran has exerted its independence in the face of continuous US threats.

As for the Arabs, the US has continuously worked against them. It has supported the brutal Saudi regime since 1945 that keeps secret trials, regularly beheads in public, commits crimes against humanity, and is responsible for the growth of the Wahhabi sect that has been terrorizing the world through Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Al-Nusra, Boko Haram, and other terrorist groups. The US has collaborated with the Saudis in bombarding the poor people of Yemen, producing the "worst humanitarian crisis".

Against the Arab interests, the US was the first state that recognized Israel and has been supporting it ever since with billions of dollars in arms that has made Israel the most aggressive and oppressive regime in the region. Israel has invaded neighboring Lebanon three times, attacked Gaza repeatedly, and kept the Palestinians oppressed. In some of its strikes against Gaza, the UN evidence suggests it may have committed crimes against humanity. With so much aid from the US, Israel has little incentive to stop the bloodshed, negotiate with the oppressed Palestinians, and pursue peace with its Arab neighbors.

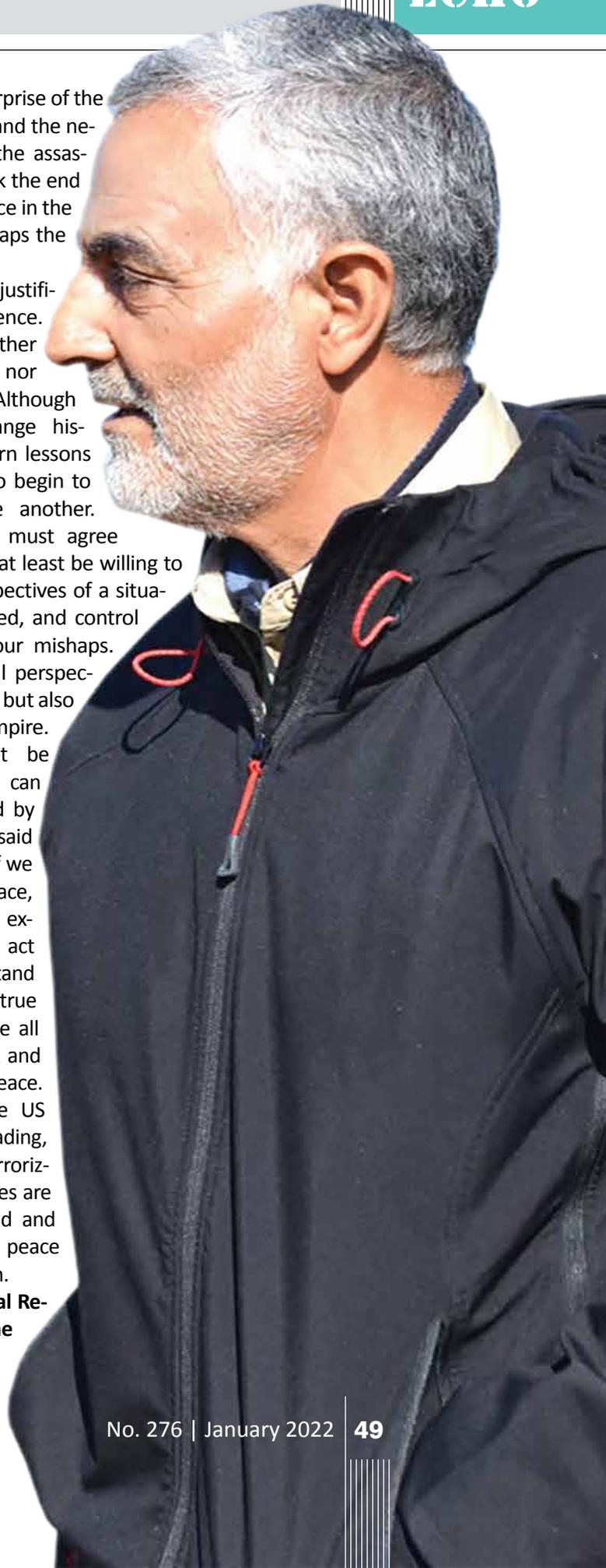
The assassination of General Soleimani appeared satisfying to Donald Trump's insatiable ego, trying to distract the attention from his impeachment. To keep some respect, it is time for the US to take its forces and calmly exit the region. Oth-

erwise, to the surprise of the US government and the neoconservatives, the assassination will mark the end of the US influence in the region, and perhaps the world.

There is no justification for violence. There is neither peace in war nor war in peace. Although we cannot change history, we can learn lessons and be willing to begin to understand one another. Sometimes, we must agree to disagree, but at least be willing to hear other perspectives of a situation. Power, greed, and control are behind all our mishaps. From a historical perspective, what made, but also broke every empire.

"Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding," said Albert Einstein. If we truly want peace, we must lead by example. We must act responsibly, stand for freedom, true democracy where all can have a voice, and promote global peace. These deplorable US examples of invading, attacking, and terrorizing other countries are leading the world and any prospects of peace into annihilation.

Source: Political Reflection Magazine





The Role of Haaj Qasem Soleimani and **Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis** in Saving Iraq from ISIS

Excerpts from the Memoires of Nouri al-Maliki, the former Prime Minister of Iraq

When Al-Hashd al-Sha'bi (Popular Mobilization Forces) was formed and when ISIS emerged and occupied Mosul and Al-Anbar provinces - of course, Al-Anbar was not fully occupied and only some parts of it had come under their occupation - America forces were present in Iraq with all their helicopters, cannons, tanks, arms and ammunition, and the so-called set up to fight terrorism. This was when their stand towards us became absolutely clear. They refused to equip our forces and they refused to

supply us with helicopters and tanks. They even stopped giving us Hummer vehicles and refused to provide us with the equipment required to fight terrorism; while they (the terrorists) were equipped when certain special arms. We could not even get the arms and the equipment we had paid them for. For example, instead of giving us M1 Abrams tanks, they would give us such tanks the range of the bullets of which was only 600 meters. This was the stand of Americans towards us.

They removed all their support and stopped everything and instead began to provide support to terrorist groups affiliated with ISIS. We were stuck and did not know who to turn to. We sent different commissions to Poland and Bulgaria and bought arms and equipment from them. But would not give us the arms we needed on purchase and while we were engaged in a confrontation with ISIS they were just wanting to start the arms they had sold us. On the other hand, ISIS had emerged much more

equipped than our forces. We had tanks but it was not a war of tanks.

ISIS forces had managed to get their hands on parts of our arms in Mosul but most of those arms had fallen into the hands of Kurds. The same was the case in Kirkuk. However, even though Kurds had taken those arms when ISIS forces headed towards them the Kurds could not confront them. It was when the Islamic Republic and our forces simultaneously entered the scene. Americans had a strongly negative stand and we were severely under pressure. I realized that I had no option but to go to Russia and meet with Putin. I asked him to give us arms and advanced fighter planes like Mig-29 and Mig-35 and other required arms and the Russians equipped us very quickly.

But the one who really helped us and met our need for weapons was Haaj Qasem (may God bless his soul). We would reach an agreement about the type of weapons and the next day they would arrive in Iraq. We were not given them for free, we paid for them. But the difference was that even though we bought weaponry from other countries, we would not get them in time and in bulk. It was only Haaj Qasem who would supply us from the Iranian Army and Revolutionary Guards Corps whenever we were in need and it was what he did that saved the situation. He provided us with the required weaponry and equipment and at the same time help us with his military experience and strategies as well as the equipment that he and his commanders

would provide us with. Besides, there were some military experts that accompanied our forces and Al-Hashd al-Sha'bi forces.

We bought many different weapons, equipment, devices, and drones that were used during the war, and Iran attended to our needs. We even found ourselves in urgent need of Sukhoi warplanes and asked Haaj Qasem to sell us Iranian Sukhoi warplanes and we were sold 8 Iranian Sukhoi warplanes with the help of which we could stop many sabotage activities of ISIS.

With the help of Haaj Qasem and Abu Mahdi (may their souls be blessed) we could draw plans and strategies. Abu Mahdi undertook to clear the roads from ISIS force and ensure the safety of the road leading to Samarra. It was a very challenging and dangerous task because the Samarra road was controlled by hardliners. I must say that it was not only ISIS we were fighting with. There were also some local tribes, which were being used by ISIS. As a matter of fact, ISIS took advantage of the existing situation and instigated these tribes.

The tribal rebels were the same Sunni tribal sheikhs and political figures who claimed they did not know ISIS. In fact, our people were fighting us, and that too in a sectarian movement. Some of them told me: In 1991, you launched an intifada against us, and we will launch an intifada against you in 2014.

Haaj Abu Mahdi (may God bless his soul) reopened this road with great difficulty because all the cities on the road to Samarra were

under the control of these tribal forces and many battles took place on this road. Abu Mahdi had to open another way through gardens and orchards and pass the tanks through them; the tanks that were able to reach Samarra and besiege the bands that controlled the road.

In this way, the road was opened and traffic began to flow through it. Then, with the support and planning of Haaj Abu Mahdi and Haaj Qasem, we went to Amerli, which was under siege for 90 days. The Al-Hash al-Sha'bi groups went to Amerli and managed to drive away the hardline tribal forces who had this city under their siege. The Amerli inhabitants are Shiite Turkmens, and the inhabitants of the surrounding villages were all Sunni extremists, known for their extremist history. We finally managed to break the siege of Amerli and make normal life return to the people of this town. In short, it was through direct help and support provided by Haaj Qasem and Haaj Abu Mahdi that we could make something important happen and get rid of ISIS.

Source: Jahanmard Periodical, February 2020



Source: Islamic World Peace Forum



People's Status in Martyr Soleimani's School of Thought

By: Dr. Sa'dollah Zarei, Faculty Member of Allameh Tabatab'ei University¹

He (Sardar Soleimani) had several beliefs with regard to people. His first belief was that people are not counter-revolutionaries and cannot even be counter-revolutionaries. He spoke very comfortably and very firmly and with

conviction about this issue. He firmly believed that the people of Iran are religious and revolutionary and that it was not as if they were going to leave their revolution under pressure.

Sardar Soleimani believed that

very few people were anti-revolutionary and he evaluated the rest of the people within the context of loyalty to the Islamic Revolution. You have probably heard the famous sentence of this Martyr who said: Unveiled girls are our



own girls, we should be warm and compassionate towards them and distinguish between them and the corrupt counter-revolutionary girls. He would also say in our private meetings that we are at fault, we are not attending to our responsibilities the way we should, we are not among people and this is the result. This is how

he would criticize ourselves. He believed in people and would repeatedly say that our people are very good and would, therefore, not feel ashamed if we went to his room and see that a young boy wearing tight jean pants had come to see the Sardar. He would receive them warmly, hug them and talk to them without feeling

ashamed. Haaj Qasem was such a personality with such characteristics and this is how he encountered people.

Thus, he strongly believed that our people are good and believe in the Revolution and the ruling system and he, therefore, did not politically categorize people.



The Principle of Serving People in Martyr Soleimani’s School of Thought

Sardar Soleimani believed that these people would go to heaven before us and will have a loftier place. He had a spiritual outlook towards people. There is a hadith, which says: “People are Allah’s family”.² There is also a verse in the Holy Quran in which God Almighty says: “Who is it that will lend Allah a good loan that He may multiply it for him several-fold?”³ This verse does refer to God Almighty but to the people. God wants to make clear that He is close to His servants. Based on such verses and hadiths, our Martyr Soleimani had a spiritual outlook towards people and believed that people are closer to God Almighty than us and, therefore, it would be an honor to serve them.

He believed that serving people was serving oneself and if we want to get closer to God we should be at the service of our people. He considered the road to closeness to God is through serving people and through the path of humanity and, thus, he felt closeness to

other human beings.

While appointing Malik al-Ashtar as the governor of Egypt, Imam Ali (as) described people in these words: “they are either your brothers in religion or just like you in creation”⁴. This is how Martyr Soleimani viewed people and, of course, one has to kneel before this martyr to understand the concept of humanitarianism.

In the course of Abu Kamal operation, which lasted for about two months, Sardar Soleimani managed the affairs of the operation from a house in a region that had been occupied by the terrorists. Most parts of the house had been destroyed and it did not actually look like a house any more. After the operation he wrote a letter to the owner of the house explaining why he had to use this house and requested him to forgive him. He then placed the letter in between the pages of a copy of the Holy Qur’an and placed it on a niche and then asked his Syrian men to find the owner. They told him that being opposed to Bashar al-Assad he had left for Turkey long back. He manages to find his telephone

number and calls him and after introducing himself he requests him for his consent for the prayers he had offered when in his house during the course of the operation. This man was very impressed by this move that such a commander had called him personally and requested him for forgiveness.

Some people wonder about the cause of Iran’s influence in Syria. Well such a move would surely have such an effect on those who hear about it. As a matter of fact, it reflects upon the belief that people are God Almighty’s creation and, thus, it is important to have respect for them and be at their service. This stand of Martyr Soleimani was rooted in the belief that serving people is an honor and in his view closeness to God Almighty is only possible through being close to human beings.

Source: Islamic World Peace Forum



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1. Delivered at Imam Hossein University in August 2020.
2. “الناس عيال الله”
3. مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يُقْرِضُ اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا فَيُضَاعِفَهُ لَهُ. ”أَسْتَعَاظُ كَثِيرَةً“، Surah Al-Baqarah, Verse 245.
4. ”إِنَّمَا أَخْلَقْتُكَ فِي الدِّينِ وَإِنَّمَا نَظَيْتُكَ فِي الْخَلْقِ“، See Nahj al-Balaghah of Imam Ali (as), Letter No. 53.

