

## 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



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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.