

For Martyr Raisi, Palestine was the primary issue of the Muslim world

By Ivan Kesic

As people around the world mourn the tragic death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, it is time to look back at his illustrious life and legacy and how he championed the cause of the oppressed. One of the causes he staunchly championed was that of Palestine. He minced no words in calling out the Israeli regime's genocidal war against Palestinians and urged the Muslim nations to unite.

Palestine figured prominently on his foreign policy agenda, which was reflected in his speeches.

During the 2021 presidential election, President Raisi would often refer to the issue of Palestine. After taking the helm, he walked the talk and dedicated himself to the cause, following in the footsteps of the founder of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini and Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei – the two personalities he greatly admired.

In his eloquent speeches, he would always mention the issue of Al-Aqsa mosque as the most important issue of the Muslim world and would urge the Muslim nations to keep alive the fight for its liberation.

At his swearing-in ceremony in August 2021, President Raisi termed Iran's support for the oppressed people of Palestine as a clear example of the true friendship of Iranian people for Palestine.

"Despite all the pressures and restrictions imposed against Iran, we are fulfilling our religious and humanitarian duty in defending the rights of Palestinian people

and we expect Muslim and Arab countries to play a leading role in this regard," he said at the time.

Only three days after taking the presidential office, President Raisi held an official meeting with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, Islamic Jihad leader Ziyad al-Nakhalah and leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Talal Naji.

In the meetings, he stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will always support the Palestinians.

"We have never had any doubt about this policy. In our view, Palestine has been, and will be, the first issue of the Islamic world," he was quoted as saying at the time.

He praised the two Palestinian resistance movements for bravely defending the rights of the Palestinian people and said the power to determine the fate of Palestine today lies in the hands of the resistance.

Reaction to the Al Aqsa operation

Two days after the start of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm in October last year, President Raisi held im-



Special Issue
on Passing of
President Seyyed
Ebrahim Raisi and
his companions