



A truck is carrying the coffin of the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi during a funeral in downtown Tehran, Iran, on May 22, 2024.



sue of Palestine and highlighted its unifying force between the people of Iran and Azerbaijan, declaring that “the Palestinian cause stands as the foremost issue of the Islamic world.”

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (1964-2024)

Born in the city of Damghan, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian began his career by receiving a PhD in International Relations from The University of Tehran. He went on to build significant relationships throughout West Asia and would first take on government roles when Ali Larijani was the speaker of the Iranian Parliament.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian then became the Secretary-General of

the Permanent Secretariat of the International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Intifada, before becoming Managing Director of the ‘Palestine Strategic Dialogue Quarterly’, where he would serve as the lead editor.

He was also known for his close relationship with former leading Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’s elite Quds Force. This relationship is said to have stemmed from Amir-Abdollahian’s role at the Foreign Ministry as an Iraq expert, following the toppling of Saddam Hussein by the US military. When General Qassem Soleimani was designated the head of the Quds Force, it was said they would meet to discuss key regional

issues.

General Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated in Baghdad by a US drone strike in 2020, is credited with having helped the Palestinian resistance develop strategies in order to effectively fight the Israeli military, the most prominent of which is said to be his role in the construction of the elaborate system of tunnels under the Gaza Strip.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian was also a professor at the Iranian Foreign Ministry’s School of International Relations and had occupied the position of deputy foreign minister, during the government of former president Hassan Rouhani. He reportedly had a falling out with the serving foreign minister at the

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