

## Shouldn't the Presidents of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan Have Stood by Their Muslim Brothers in Iran!?

### News:

On 5 March, the news agency INTERFAX.RU reported: *“During a telephone conversation with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev strongly condemned Iran’s drone attack on the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.”*

*On 5 March, the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, telephoned the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev. Mirziyoyev strongly condemned Iran’s attacks against Azerbaijan using unmanned aerial vehicles, expressed Uzbekistan’s full support for Azerbaijan, and emphasized that his country always stands by Azerbaijan, the press service of the Azerbaijani president reported.*

### Comment:

The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry and President Ilham Aliyev have openly accused Iran of carrying out drone attacks. Uzbek media reported that Sh. Mirziyoyev had condemned the drone attacks in measured terms and had not openly accused Iran, stating: “drone attacks on Azerbaijani territory.”

On 8 March, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a telephone conversation with Ilham Aliyev, denied Tehran’s involvement in the attack and promised to conduct an internal investigation. In other words, this incident raises more questions than it provides answers. At the same time, however, the Presidents of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan refrained from condemning the blatant attack by the US and Jewish entity on Iran.

The Jewish intelligence services, having received information on the whereabouts of Iran’s leaders, carried out a precision strike, killing Iran’s spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several other high-ranking state officials. The US launched a Patriot missile strike on a school full of children, resulting in numerous civilian casualties, including children. The leaders of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan did not condemn these acts of terrorism, but limited themselves to cautious statements about halting the escalation.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has aligned itself with American interests; it is therefore not surprising that it has sided with the US against its neighbor, Iran, a fellow Muslim nation.

The stance of Uzbekistan’s President Sh. Mirziyoyev is even more humiliating. As a representative of the Muslims of Uzbekistan, a people once renowned for their scholars and Islamic military leaders, Sh. Mirziyoyev has sided with the enemy of Muslims – the US and the Jewish entity.

Iran has been Muslim territory since the conquests under the righteous Khaleefah (Caliph) Umar ibn al-Khattab (ra) and the peoples of these lands are Muslims. Attacks by the US and the Jewish entity on Iran are regarded as an assault on Muslim lands, and it is the duty of Muslims to defend themselves against the aggression of the disbelievers.

The absence of a Khaleefah is allowing disbelieving colonizers to attack our lands with impunity. Until we reestablish the Islamic state, the Khilafah (Caliphate), and until we elect the righteous ruler, the Khaleefah, these attacks will continue. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) spoke the truth when he said: « إِنَّمَا الْإِمَامُ جُنَّةٌ يُقَاتَلُ مِنْ وَرَائِهِ وَيَتَّقَى بِهِ » **“The Imam is a shield behind which Muslims take refuge, and with which they go into battle!”**

**Written for the Central Media Office of Hizb ut Tahrir by**

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