

EU Sends High-Level Representative to Swearing-In of Raisi

by Hugh Fitzgerald

The newly-elected president of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, is infamous in his country as a murderer, responsible as a prosecutor for the deaths of 30,000 political prisoners in the 1980s, and since then, as a hanging judge, for thousands more. [Israel Hayom](#), August 3, 2021:

Israel is less than enthusiastic about the European Union's decision to send a high-level representative to attend the swearing-in of Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday.

On Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lior Hayat tweeted: "The decision of the European Union to send a senior representative to the swearing-in ceremony of the 'Butcher of Tehran' is puzzling and shows poor judgment."

Hayat said that EU Deputy Secretary General Enrique Mora would be attending the ceremony just a "few days after Iran killed two civilians," in "an act of state terrorism against civilian shipping," referring to a drone attack on an Israeli-managed ship off the coast of Oman last week, in which one British and one Romanian citizen were killed. Iran has denied responsibility for the attack, although the United States and the United Kingdom both pin the blame on Tehran.

And since that Iranian attack on the MV Mercer Street, the crews on six ships in the Gulf of Oman have reportedly lost "command" of their vessels; that is they can no longer steer

them. Iran is suspected of being responsible for what sounds like a cyberattack. And the Iranians are also believed to have just hijacked the Asphalt Princess, a cargo vessel owned by an Emirati company. This is hardly the time, when it is creating havoc in the Gulf, to placate the Islamic Republic.

According to Hayat, Raisi "has the blood of thousands of Iranian citizens on his hands," and the presence of an EU representative will lend legitimacy to his presidency.

Earlier on Monday, a spokesman for the Iranian parliament reported that 115 senior officials from 73 countries would be attending the swearing-in ceremony.

Ten presidents, 20 parliament speakers, 11 foreign ministers, 10 other ministers, as well as representatives of presidents, vice presidents, and parliamentary delegations will all come," the spokesperson said, adding that another 11 leaders of international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, OPEC and the European Union would also be in attendance.

All these representatives in attendance only help to legitimize Raisi, as if he were a reputable leader in a reputable country, and not a murderer assuming the presidency of a sinister despotism.

The American government, one assumes, will not be sending anyone to the Tehran ceremonies. It's too late to convince others who are intent on going to change their minds. But Washington can do a good deal after the fact. It can organize the decent nations of the world, including some that are members of the E.U. and deplored that organization's decision to send Deputy Secretary General Enrique Mora to Tehran, to issue a collective denunciation of Raisi. This would make clear both to Iranian dissidents in exile abroad, and to the long-suffering Iranian dissidents within the country, who have again begun to mobilize on the streets of Iran's cities and to

shout those words that terrify the Supreme Leader – “Death to Khamenei” – that we hear them, we support them, and we will not abandon them as Obama so shamefully did with Iran’s Green Revolution marchers in 2009.

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