

The Praiseworthy Criticism of Pope Leo XIV

Question:

Why is Pope Leo XIV's position in condemning Trump's threats against Iran a praiseworthy act, and should the Islamic world welcome it?



The recent U.S. war against Iran, which began with the martyrdom of 168 students of the Minab school and the martyrdom of the highest political and religious leader of the Islamic world and Iran, has encompassed many dimensions: the military dimension, the economic dimension, the media dimension, and so on.

One of the important dimensions of this war is its social and cultural consequences. These consequences affect not only Iranian society, but the entire world. The people of Iran, through their presence in the streets day and night, have demonstrated the high level of national and social solidarity within Iranian society. Yet at the international level, this war has had such cultural and social effects and repercussions that even the greatest leader of the Christian world, Pope Leo XIV, has reacted to it. He, who is himself the first American pope in the history of the Catholic Church, adopted a different approach and drew a moral red line against Trump's bullying and insane threats against Iran.

In explicit remarks, the Pope described the recent threat by the U.S. president to "destroy

Iranian civilization" if Tehran failed to comply in the nuclear negotiations and on the issue of the Strait of Hormuz as "completely unacceptable," and called on all Catholics around the world to urge their political leaders to "work for peace." In his criticism of Trump and his associates, he acknowledged that "the world is being ruined by a handful of tyrants, but what keeps it standing is a great multitude of brothers and sisters bound together in solidarity."

In reality, this position is a manifestation of the cultural and moral dimension of this war and a firm response to the excessive demands of an individual who has dragged the ethical and human principles of foreign policy and the military field into destruction and collapse. Trump's response to the Pope's remarks was itself another sign of the decline and degeneration of the ethics of governance in the United States, and showed that the current president of the United States is the greatest threat to civilizations, collective security, and human dignity in the present age.

What took place in recent days between the Vatican and the White House is beyond a

passing political disagreement. This confrontation is a historical encounter between the "voice of conscience" and the "instinct of absolute power." It is clear that any action or reaction that reveals the oppression suffered by the Iranian people and the malice and savagery of our enemies is praiseworthy and worthy of attention, especially when such a position is taken by influential global figures. It is in light of such circumstances and status that even the honorable director of the Islamic seminaries, in a letter to Pope Leo XIV, praised his moral positions, described him as "faithful to the true mission of Christianity" and a "voice crying out for justice," and expressed hope that one day "the voice of justice will prevail over the clamor of bombs and demons."

In this letter, Ayatollah Arafati wrote: "Jesus Christ was the messenger of peace, mercy, and the defense of the oppressed. What you speak today is the manifestation of the very mission that Christ embodied." Emphasizing that Pope Leo XIV had shown that "the chair of the Vatican can be a place for the cry of justice, not an altar of silence in the face of oppression," the director of the

Islamic seminaries added: "The firm expectation of academic, seminary, and university centers, and of all monotheists and the oppressed of the world, from Your Excellency is the continuation and pursuit of these positions and the defense of the oppressed of the world."

In another part of his letter, he pointed to the great challenge of the present age and stated: "In an age when many are trying to push religion to the margins of human moral life and portray it as a personal and ineffective matter, your position in defense of the lives of innocent human beings is living testimony that the religious conscience can still be the strongest moral voice in the world."

In conclusion, Pope Leo's cry in condemning Trump's warmongering is worthy of praise. War is what the U.S. president wants, but peace cannot be achieved merely through letters or words. It requires enlightenment in the Christian world for the elimination of injustice, oppression, and aggression. In this regard, synergy between the Christian world and the Islamic world is necessary.