Meeting with Bakir Izetbegović head of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina - 26 /Oct/ 2016

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in a meeting with visiting chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Bakir Izetbegović on Tuesday underlined the need to fight against warmongering and terrorism-fostering policies of some Western states in the region, noting, “Independent countries must strengthen their relations and avoid being swayed by the policies of arrogant states in order to quench the flames of differences and conflicts.”

Pointing to the wave of Takfirism and terrorism “which has now spread to Europe and will probably create a worse situation in the future,” Ayatollah Khamenei said, “The birthplace of this phenomenon is apparently in the Arab region, but in reality, the American government and some European ones are the main factor behind the occurrence of these developments.”

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution said the military coalition formed by the Western governments against terrorism is not genuine, adding, “Although such coalitions may [even] engage terrorists in certain cases, neither in Iraq nor in Syria they seek to truly uproot terrorism and their evil and ominous policies worsen human problems on a daily basis.”

The Leader noted that understanding and recognition of factors that give rise to these problems and existence of a will to solve them constitute the main remedy to this situation. Explaining one of the factors behind the rise of terrorism, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “Humiliation of Muslim youths in some rich and powerful European countries provides the ground for them to join such deviated terrorist groups as Daesh and these humiliated youths embark on [carrying out bomb] blasts and massacres [of people] upon their return to Europe.”

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also pointed to the background of cordial relations between Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the bitter and difficult period of the war that was imposed on the country’s people, saying, “Peace and security are requisites for the materialization of all vital potentialities of a nation and its growth and prosperity.”

Ayatollah Khamenei then recalled the memory of his visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina during his term as Iran's president and the warm and sincere welcome accorded to him by Bosnian people. While lauding the personality of the late former chairman of the Bosnian presidency, Alija Izetbegović, the Leader added, “The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is completely ready to boost cooperation and contacts with the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in various political and economic sectors and [for] coordination [of the two countries’ positions] in world bodies.”

During the meeting, which was also attended by Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, Mr. Bakir Izetbegović, the chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, expressed satisfaction over his visit to Tehran. Describing his negotiations with Iranian officials as successful, Izetbegović expressed hope that friendly relations between the two countries would be translated into effective economic cooperation in favor of both sides.

Mr. Izetbegović said strengthening relations with all Muslim countries is the main policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and while underlining the need to boost cooperation in fighting the threat of terrorism, added, “This dangerous disease has even led to attacks on mosques and the killing of innocent people. Of course in Bosnia and Herzegovina, all prominent personalities categorically disavow the Takfiri way of thinking and oppose it.”

The chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina also expressed regret over sectarian skirmishes in the Islamic societies, saying that promoting the Islamic unity is a duty for all Muslims as division will weaken the Islamic societies.