

Who's Who of Iran-Backed Proxies Met on Sidelines of Raisi Funeral

Negar Mojtahedi / May 23, 2024

The who's who of Iran-backed terror groups met in Tehran on the sidelines of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's funeral Wednesday.

IRGC Chief Commander Hossein Salami and Quds Force Chief Esmail Qa'ani met with the leaders and representatives of Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, PFLP, Ansarullah (Houthis), and Iraqi Shia militant groups.

"Raisi's body was in the next room when they were talking," **Beni Sabti, a researcher in the Iran program at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** think tank, told Iran International. He also serves as Persian spokesman for the Israeli government on Iranian issues.

The timing of the meeting speaks volumes, according to Sabti who believes it was partly propaganda to save face.

"Even (Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad didn't come. Even (Russian President Vladimir) Putin didn't come. So they had to meet someone. They had to produce this picture that we are acceptable. We have legitimacy in the Middle East and who they had?...The head of terrorist organizations," said Sabti.

During the meeting, the participants "reviewed the latest regional developments and emphasized the continuation of jihad until victory in Gaza is achieved," according to IRGC-affiliated media outlets.

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