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Pezeshkian's election could become a burden for Israel

By Raz Zimmt / July 18, 2024

The [letter](#) of support Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian sent to the secretary general of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, on July 8 was seen by Israelis as a reinforcement of their already strong conviction that the reformist president's election will not result in any change in the Islamic Republic. Responding to Nasrallah's congratulatory message, Pezeshkian pledged continued support to the Resistance Axis backed by Iran in the region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the resistance of the people in the region against the illegitimate Zionist regime," Pezeshkian wrote. "Supporting the resistance is rooted in the fundamental policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and will continue with strength."

In response to these comments, an Israeli researcher posted on her X account, "If anyone here dreamed that the new Iranian president Pezeshkian would bring about a change in the militant policy of the Iranian regime that strives to destroy Israel, this letter is for you."

While the Israeli response to Pezeshkian's election was understandably skeptical, the global reaction might differ. The international community, notably the West, is in no hurry to lay its trust and optimism in the incoming Iranian president, considering previous disappointments with Iranian behavior under earlier pragmatic presidents. For example, both the nuclear and ballistic missile programs saw significant progress under President Mohammad Khatami (1997–2005). Iran's supported regional network of non-state groups was also expanded under pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani (2013–2021). Nonetheless, the new president will likely be given a chance.

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