

## Iran promises revenge after assassination of Soleimani

6th January, 2020



Iran's President Rouhani has promised it will get revenge for the assassination of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani on Friday. In a strongly-worded statement, President Rouhani said: "The Americans do not realise what grave error they have committed. Revenge

for his blood will be secured, and the filthy hands of America will be cut off forever from this region." Iran's religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei offered similarly vengeful comments. He said: "Severe retaliation awaits murderers who have the blood of Mr Soleimani and that of other martyrs on their wicked hands." He said Soleimani's death would intensify Iran's hostility towards the United States and Israel.

Qassem Soleimani, 62, was regarded as the second most powerful figure in Iran. He was Iran's pre-eminent military leader and was viewed as the architect of Iran's spreading influence in the Middle East. Such was his popularity with many Iranians, he was dubbed the "rock star general". U.S. President Donald Trump said he ordered the assassination of Soleimani after the death of an American in attacks on the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. Mr Trump said the assassination was to prevent war in the region. He called Mr Soleimani a terrorist responsible for thousands of deaths. The world is now on tenterhooks to see how Iran retaliates. "World War III" was the top-trending hashtag on social media on Saturday.

Sources: [aljazeera.com](http://aljazeera.com) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [bloomberg.com](http://bloomberg.com)

### Writing

The assassination of Qassem Soleimani will start a new war. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

promised / revenge / assassination / grave / error / blood / filthy / martyrs / hostility / powerful / architect / influence / rock star / attacks / embassy / war / on tenterhooks

### True / False

- a) Iran's President said he has got revenge for the killing of a general. T / F
- b) Iran's President said Americans will go to a grave. T / F
- c) Iran's religious leader disagreed with his president. T / F
- d) The religious leader wants to reduce hostilities between the USA and Iran. T / F
- e) Qassem Soleimani was 62 years old when he died. T / F
- f) Some in the media called Qassem Soleimani a rock star general. T / F
- g) Donald Trump called Qassem Soleimani a terrorist. T / F
- h) The world is now hooked on a game called World War III. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b>promised</b>        | a. considered  |
| 2. <b>statement</b>       | b. escalate    |
| 3. <b>filthy</b>          | c. anxious     |
| 4. <b>retaliation</b>     | d. vowed       |
| 5. <b>intensify</b>       | e. nicknamed   |
| 6. <b>regarded</b>        | f. reprisals   |
| 7. <b>pre-eminent</b>     | g. accountable |
| 8. <b>dubbed</b>          | h. declaration |
| 9. <b>responsible</b>     | i. greatest    |
| 10. <b>on tenterhooks</b> | j. dirty       |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about Qassem Soleimani?
- c) What influence does Iran have in the Middle East?
- d) Why have some media called Soleimani a 'rock star general'?
- e) What options did the US have after the Baghdad embassy attack?
- f) What do you think will unfold in the next few years?
- g) What do you think of World War III?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Iran's President Rouhani?

## Phrase Match

- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. get revenge                | a. error                      |
| 2. In a strongly-             | b. Iran's spreading influence |
| 3. grave                      | c. towards the United States  |
| 4. filthy                     | d. worded statement           |
| 5. intensify Iran's hostility | e. on social media            |
| 6. He was Iran's pre-         | f. for the assassination      |
| 7. the architect of           | g. tenterhooks                |
| 8. he was dubbed the          | h. hands                      |
| 9. The world is now on        | i. "rock star general"        |
| 10. the top-trending hashtag  | j. eminent military leader    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of the concept of revenge?
- What do you think of the assassination?
- What kind of revenge do you think Iran will enact?
- Do you think the assassination was a 'grave error'?
- What role will the USA play in the Middle East in the next decade?
- What do you think of the concept of martyrdom?
- What advice do you have for Donald Trump?
- What advice do you have for Iran's leader?

## Spelling

- a strongly-worded aettmsnet
- what grave error they have immcttoed
- Khamenei offered similarly egvfenu comments
- severe etlraiaon awaits murderers
- that of other atmyrs
- nteisiny Iran's hostility
- Iran's rep-mineent military leader
- the ichaterct of Iran's spreading influence
- dubbed the "rock star ngreeal"
- The world is now on etehrtonkos
- see how Iran earailttes
- the top-trending athhsag on social media

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. j	4. f	5. b
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. g	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – The U.N.

You think the U.N. is best-suited to solve the crisis in Iran. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their players. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Saudi Arabia, Russia or India .

### Role B – Saudi Arabia

You think Saudi Arabia is best-suited to solve the crisis in Iran. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their players. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the U.N., Russia or India .

### Role C – Russia

You think Russia is best-suited to solve the crisis in Iran. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their players. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Saudi Arabia, the U.N. or India .

### Role D – India

You think India is best-suited to solve the crisis in Iran. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their players. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Saudi Arabia, Russia or the U.N..

## Speaking – Resolution

Rank these with your partner. Put the best to diffuse this situation at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| • Russia            | • The U.N.     |
| • President Rouhani | • Saudi Arabia |
| • Xi Jinping        | • The Pope     |
| • President Trump   | • China        |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.