

Beat: Politics

## **MACRON CALLS ON IRAN TO AVOID MILITARY ESCALATION & WORSEN REGIONAL INSTABILITY**

**MIN LE DRIAN TAKS ON THE PHONE WITH IRAK**

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**USPA NEWS** - The French president assured his American counterpart Donald Trump of "his complete solidarity with the allies" President Emmanuel Macron has assured his American counterpart Donald Trump of "its full solidarity with the allies" and called on Iran to refrain from "any military escalation likely to further aggravate regional instability". "Faced with rising tensions in Iraq and the region", Emmanuel Macron also "expressed concern about the destabilizing activities of the Al Quds force under the authority of General Qassem Soleimani", killed on Friday by the United States, and "recalled the need for Iran to put an end to it now," according to a statement from the Elysee. As regards of Iran-USA tensions, President Macron calls on Iran to avoid any "military escalation likely to aggravate" regional instability.

WORK TO « EASE TENSIONS »-----

The president noted "France's determination to work alongside its regional and international partners to ease tensions." He reaffirmed that, according to him, "priority should go to the pursuit of the action of the International Coalition against Daesh, with full respect for the sovereignty of Iraq, for its security and for regional stability". The Iraqi parliament called on the government on Sunday to expel American troops from the country, where a pro-Iran faction called on Iraqi soldiers to move away from bases where US forces are located, raising the fear of further violence. Since the assassination in an American raid Friday in Iraq of Qassem Soleimani, architect of the Iranian strategy in the Middle East, and Abu Mehdi al-Mouhandis, the man of Iran in Iraq and number two of Hashd al- Chaabi, a coalition of pro-Iran paramilitaries integrated into the security forces, the whole world fears a blast.-----

The Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Yves Le Drian, had a telephone interview with the Prime Minister of Iraq, Adel Abdel-Mahdi. He stressed the importance of continuing the fight against Daesh in Iraq and Syria as part of the International Coalition against Daesh, with full respect for Iraqi sovereignty. It has agreed with the Iraqi Prime Minister to continue the dialogue on this matter. Source : French Presidency and Foreign Affairs Ministry

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