Khamenei killing a violation international law – Putin

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday slammed the US and Israel's killing of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as a "cynical violation" of morality and law.

Tehran has stood by as one of Russia's closest allies throughout Moscow's Ukraine offensive and the Kremlin had earlier called for restraint in the run-up to the US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

Yesterday, the Kremlin published a message that Putin sent to Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian in which the Russian leader expressed his "deepest condolences for the assassination of" Khamenei.

He said Khamenei "will be remembered as an outstanding statesman who made an enormous personal contribution to the development of friendly Russian-Iranian relations".

He asked Pezeshkian to "convey my most sincere sympathy and support to the relatives and loved ones of the Supreme Leader, to the government and to the entire people of Iran".

Russian foreign ministry yesterday said Khamenei's death, as well as other top Iranian officials, was "met with outrage and deep regret in Moscow".

Russia "resolutely and consistently condemns the practice of political assassinations and the 'hunting' of leaders of sovereign states", the ministry added.

It called for "an immediate de-escalation, a cessation of hostilities and a return to the political and diplomatic process".

AFP