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At UN, Iran FM Castigates Security Council's Incompetence



Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian speaks during a UN Security Council meeting at UN headquarters in New York City on April 18, 2024.

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) — Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian has called on the UN Security Council to force Israel to stop any further military action against Iran or face the Islamic Republic's "decisive" response to any aggression.

"I emphasize again: Iran's legitimate defense and countermeasures have been concluded. Therefore, the Israeli regime must be compelled to stop any further military adventurism against our centers, assets and interests," he told the council in New York on Thursday.

"In case of any illegal use of force by the Israeli regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not hesitate a bit to assert its inherent right to give a decisive and proper response to it to make the regime regret its actions. This is an unchangeable decision," he added.

Amir-Abdollahian said the Israeli attack on April 1 on the Iranian diplomatic premises in Damascus showed yet again that the regime does not hesitate to violate the fundamental principle of the immunity of such places and people as well as the Vienna Conventions.

"As the majority of the members of the Security Council declared at the April 2 meeting here, the attack was a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, and thus is strongly condemned,"

he said.

Officials have said the "imperative for Iran" to retaliate for the attack on its embassy compound in Damascus might have been avoided had the UN Security Council condemned the strike at its April 2 meeting.

At the meeting, the Iranian minister said, the council failed even to issue a mere statement containing a simple condemnation "due to the unfortunate and completely irresponsible behavior of the United States, the UK and France in response to this illegal attack".

"No member state will remain silent in the face of such a brazen and serious military attack on its embassy, which is considered a symbol of its sovereignty as well as the killing of its legal, official and diplomat agents," he said.

Iran, Amir-Abdollahian said, had until recently "shown considerable restraint against other terrorist missile attacks bearing in mind the dire situation in the region and willing to give the role of the United Nations a chance to prevent the escalation of the conflict".

But it "was faced with the continuation of the White House's green light granted to the Israeli regime as well as the continued inaction of the Security Council in preventing these attacks".

"Therefore it could no longer be patient against the attack on its embassy and the attack on its sov-

eignty," he added.

Iran's military attack on April 13, he said, "was first and foremost, necessary because Iran had no other option".

"Secondly, it was carried out in response to a series of attacks and recurring aggressions by the Israeli regime on Iran's interests, especially on our embassy in Syria.

"Thirdly, it took place in the fulfillment of Iran's right to legitimate defense under international law; fourthly, it was conducted by observing the criterion of non-aggression to civilian people and places.

"And fifthly, it focused solely on the two military bases of the Israeli regime which had been used in the attack on our Embassy, and therefore it was completely limited and proportionate in terms of scope and military requirements," Amir-Abdollahian summed up.

Moreover, the minister said, "since it was clear that the supporters of the Israeli regime, who are unrelenting partners in its carnage in Gaza, would assist the regime in neutralizing the Iranian attack, a wide variety of weapons were used to ensure the achievement of the attack's goal i.e. legitimate defense".

"The attack by my country's armed forces was limited and minimal, targeting only military bases and was in line with international law and the principle of non-aggression against civilian areas to

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Iran Condemns G7 Statement on Punishment of Israel

TEHRAN — Iran has condemned the G7 statement regarding Iran's retaliation of Israel's attack on its consulate in Syria, pledging that it will not hesitate for a second in responding to aggressors.

Leaders of the G7 nations claimed in their joint statement that "With its actions, Iran has further stepped toward the destabilization of the region and risks provoking an uncontrollable regional escalation".

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani shot back Thursday, saying the statement is "in line with the well-known approach of these circles based on double and contradictory standards and behaviors".

Kanaani touched on the group's "passive and encouraging position toward the aggressor regime" following Israel's attack on Iran's diplomatic headquarters in Damascus in gross violation of the UN Charter and international conventions, while condemning the Islamic Republic's "legitimate action and proportionate and deterrent response against the source of armed aggression".

"The government and the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while remaining responsible toward regional and global peace and security and adhering to international laws and regulations, will not hesitate an iota to defend national security and interests and they will give a decisive, regretful and deterrent response to the aggressors.

"They are not affected by the political and propaganda hype of the founders of the existing conditions in the region and the world," Kanaani said.

He called the U.S. and some Europe-

an countries as the sponsors of the biggest wars, occupations and insecurities in West Asia for more than half a century, which have "put the occupying, apartheid and criminal regime of Israel under protection and immunity above all international laws and resolutions".

"Expressing concern for peace and security stability in the region and the world by such governments is ridiculous," Kanaani said.

The G7, which calls itself the Group of Seven industrial democracies, groups the United States, Canada, Italy, Britain, France, Germany and Japan, as well as the European Union.

Kanaani said, "Instead of blindly supporting the Zionist regime, the leaders of the European Union and members of the Group of Seven should stop supporting the regime that threatens regional and international peace and security."

Instead, they should "appreciate the Islamic Republic of Iran for taking proportionate and legitimate action in punishing the aggressor", he added.

"European and G7 authorities know very well that the main root of the crisis and instability in West Asia and, of course, on a wider scale in the world, is the occupation of Palestine and the crimes of the Zionist regime in the occupied territories for several decades and depriving the oppressed Palestinian people of their basic and obvious rights," Kanaani said.

"There is no doubt that turning a blind eye to the obvious facts and baseless accusations against others by the U.S. and Europe will not solve the problem of regional and international security."

Ground Force Commander: Iran Has Upper Hand in the Region

TEHRAN — Ground Force commander Brigadier General Kioumars Haydari said here Friday Iran's recent retaliatory operation against Israel had historic achievements which changed the balance of power in the region.

Addressing worshipers at the weekly Friday Prayers, Haydari said the operation showed in a practical and decisive way that the Zionist regime is weaker than a spider's web after Iranian drones and precision-strike missiles beat Israel's air defense systems.

The operation was also in line with the order of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei that the Zionist regime has to be punished, after which the Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) jointly punished Israel, Haydari said.

The operation also shattered the Zionist regime's invincibility myth and changed the balance of power in the region in favor of

the Islamic Republic of Iran, and established the superior prowess of Iranian armed forces, he said.

Gen. Haydari said the Zionist regime should know that if it commits a new mistake, it will be punished much harder and more severely.

He said regional countries have been told many times that the presence of foreigners cannot ensure their security and national interests, and that unity and focus on convergent issues can best help security across the region.

"Operation True Promise showed that the Islamic Republic has the upper hand in the region, and can provide security without the interference of any foreign power."

Commenting on Iranian air defense systems firing at suspicious objects on Friday, the commander said defense will not hesitate to shoot down any hostile flying object.

Iranian air defenses "repelled the threat," he said.

U.S., UK, EU Intensify Sanctions on Iran After Op True Promise

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) — The United States and United Kingdom in a coordinated move have imposed new widespread sanctions on Iran's drone and missile programs after Tehran's recent retaliatory operation against Israel.

UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron announced the sanctions at a meeting of the Group of Seven (G7) foreign ministers in Italy on Thursday, four days after Iran launched hundreds of missiles and drones at the occupied territories in response to Israel's attack on the Islamic Republic's diplomatic premises in Syria.

The sanctions target Iran's defense minister and other military figures and organizations including the Armed Forces General Staff and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy.

Britain's sanctions, amounting to 13 in total, also target individuals whom it described as key actors

within Iran's drone and missile industries.

Washington's sanctions target 16 people and two companies involved in Iran's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) program, as well as components for the drones used in the Saturday attack, according to the Treasury Department.

Alongside its sanctions against Iran's UAV program, the U.S. also targeted five companies providing parts for Iran's steel industry, and an automaker involved in providing "material support" to the IRGC.

In a coordinated package with the U.S., the European Union has also sanctioned leading Iranian military figures in response to Iran's direct attack on Israel.

During the weekend, Iran exercised its right of self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter and conducted a retaliatory operation that involved firing over 300 missiles and drones at military sites in

the occupied lands.

Iran hit a large intelligence base in the occupied lands and Israel's Nevatim Airbase, from where an F-35 jet took off to target Iran's consulate in Damascus.

Some European countries made irresponsible statements regarding Iran's legitimate response to the Israeli crime in Syria that violated all international obligations and conventions.

Toeing the U.S.'s sanction line against Iran, the EU has over the past years imposed several packages of illegal bans on Iranian individuals and entities under different guises.

This adds to the 400-plus sanctions already imposed on Iran. In 2023 alone, the UK made 154 new designations.

They consist of an asset freeze, a travel ban to the EU and a prohibition to make funds or economic resources available to those listed.

The Holy Qur'an



Hast thou not turned thy vision to those who have changed the favor of Allah. Into blasphemy and caused their people to descend to the House of Perdition?

The Holy Qur'an (14-28)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:03
Evening (Maghreb)	19:01
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:25
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:55

Foreign Ministers of Iran, Jordan Meet in New York

NEW YORK (Dispatches) — Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian and his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi have underlined the need for an end to Israel's months-long aggression against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Amir-Abdollahian and Safadi met on the sidelines of a United Nations Security Council's meeting here on Thursday as the two exchanged views on the latest developments in Gaza and across the region.

The top Iranian diplomat described the U.S. administration's continued support of the Israeli regime and Washington's lack of determination to end the war in Gaza as well as Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's warmongering as the main reason for the continuation of genocide against the Palestinians.

Amir-Abdollahian emphasized the need for continued efforts of the international community, especially the Islamic countries, to end the Israeli aggression against the besieged territory.

Pointing to the critical situation in the Gaza Strip, he called for decisive action by the international community and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and its member countries to confront the occupying entity's crimes.

Amir-Abdollahian touched on the necessity and dimensions of Iran's retaliation against Israel within the framework of legitimate defense.

He said Iran's military action against Israel was "very precise and calculated".

"Iran's military response to Israel's attack was only a limited and minimal operation, and in case of any further adventurism by the Israeli regime, our response will be decisive, immediate and maximum," he said.

Safadi, for his part, expressed gratitude to the Islamic Republic for its diplomatic efforts to stop the Israeli war against Palestinians in Gaza.

He described the situation in Palestine as tough and complicated, stressing that Jordan will continue its efforts to stop the war against Gaza through all possible means.

The Jordanian foreign minister also pointed to his country's views on the political solution to the Palestinian crisis and stressed Amman's firm opposition to any

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