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Iran Urges BRICS to Help Stop Zionist Atrocities

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- Iran has called on the BRICS group of emerging economies to play a role in putting an immediate stop to Israeli crimes against the Palestinians.

The call by Iran's deputy foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani in Moscow on Thursday came as his counterparts and special representatives of BRICS nations met to discuss the latest developments in the West Asia and North Africa region.

"The manner and quality of role-playing of individual countries and international organizations in relation to the Israeli regime's crisis mongering and the position they adopt in this regard is effective and will be recorded in history," he said.

"Therefore, the members of the BRICS organization should show their political and practical will to completely stop attacks on people and civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip," he said.

Bagheri Kani called on the BRICS nations to help with the quick sending of humanitarian aid, especially food, medical equipment and medicine to the Gaza Strip and the complete withdrawal of the occupying forces and the reconstruction of the besieged territory.

"At the moment, our focus should be on achieving a complete and permanent halt to the attacks of the Zionist regime in order to reduce the humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip, expand the sending of international humanitarian aid to Gaza, and provide firm support to the activities of humanitarian organizations, especially UNRWA," he said.

"Only taking a position and making a statement is not enough, and effective and decisive operational measures must be put on the agenda for the Zionist regime to comply with the wishes of the international

community."

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has seen many of its top donor countries announce funding freezes after Israeli accusations without evidence that its members had participated in the October 7 operation against the occupying regime.

The senior Iranian diplomat thanked South Africa for taking Israel to the International Court of Justice for genocide in the Gaza Strip. He asked BRICS members to strongly support the case and provide necessary legal solutions to deal with the crimes.

"The experience of the past 200 days of crime and aggression by the Zionist regime has shown that the Palestinian nation cannot be destroyed and the people of Gaza have proven that it is the Palestinian child who wins against the Israeli bomb," he said.

Bagheri Kani said the "key to establishing stability and peace in the region from Lebanon to Iraq and the Red Sea is to stop the crimes of the Zionist regime against the defenseless and homeless people of Gaza".

He touched on the West's attempt to justify the Israeli crimes against humanity under the principle of the right of legitimate defense, saying "this justification of the supporters of the Zionist regime is completely invalid from a legal and international point of view".

Bagheri Kani also touched on the Israeli attack on Iran's consular building in Damascus and its assassination of some military commanders and staff in the premises.

"After the unprecedented and illegal crime, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserved the right of legitimate defense and the occupying regime received the response to its crime in Damascus in the occupied Palestinian territories."

Russia, Iran Sign Security Cooperation Document

China: Iran a 'Special Partner' in West Asia



Iran's delegation (L) led by deputy foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani attends a BRICS meeting to discuss the latest developments in the West Asia and North Africa region, in Moscow on April 25, 2024.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) -- China's special envoy to the Middle East said here Friday Iran is a "special partner" of Beijing in West Asia, appreciating Tehran's measures in the region.

Zhai Jun made the remarks during a meeting with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani on the sidelines of the Consultations of Deputy Foreign Ministers/Special Envoys of the BRICS group of emerging economies on the Middle East Affairs.

Zhai condemned the Zionist regime's recent terrorist attack against the Iranian diplomatic premises in Syria and thanked Tehran for its actions in defense of the Palestinians' rights, official news agency IRNA reported.

China is Iran's largest trade partner. Both countries are subject to different levels of illegal sanctions imposed by the U.S.

They have enjoyed close ties in

recent years, particularly after the United States reinstated sanctions on the Iranian economy in 2018 after unilaterally withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal.

The two countries signed the landmark 25-year partnership agreement in March 2021 in an attempt to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance.

The deal was announced during President Xi's visit to Tehran back in 2016. It sets the outlines of China-Iran cooperation in political, cultural, security, defense, regional, and international domains for the next 25 years.

Earlier on Friday, Bagheri Kani held talks with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Presidential Representative for the Middle East Mikhail Bogdanov.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations between Tehran and Moscow as well as regional issues.

On Wednesday, Iran and Russia signed a memorandum of under-

standing (MoU) to develop security cooperation.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Akbar Ahmadian and his Russian counterpart, Nikolai Patrushev, put their signatures on the document, during a meeting on the sidelines of the 12th International Meeting of High Representatives for Security Issues in St. Petersburg.

Under the MoU, Tehran and Moscow will work towards boosting their cooperation in various strategic areas.

Iran and Russia, as two close and strategic allies, have over the past years deepened their ties in different fields, including security and defense, despite being under heavy Western sanctions.

The 12th International Meeting of High Representatives for Security Issues was held in St. Petersburg through April 23-25, with the participation of delegates from 106 countries.

Army Chief: Iran to Give Crushing Response to Any Aggression

TEHRAN -- Iran's Army chief Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi says in any "war of wills" the Islamic Republic will respond to any act of aggression in a more crushing style than ever before.

Addressing a meeting with a number of Iranian Army commanders in Tehran on Thursday, Mousavi stressed the importance of remaining vigilant in the face of any possible threat

but reiterated at the same time that Iran has no intention to spread war.

He added that a series of Iran's retaliatory strikes against the Israeli-occupied territories earlier this month manifested unity among Iran's Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and Defense Ministry.

The successful strikes, dubbed Operation True Promise, made

the friends of the Islamic Revolution happy and surprised the foes with Iran's deterrent power, the senior commander emphasized.

Mousavi wished increasing dignity for the honorable Iranian nation and a final victory for the resistance axis, particularly the oppressed people of Palestine in Gaza, as well as acceleration of the Israeli regime's collapse.

Envoy Calls on Security Council to Address Zionist Menace

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations has denounced Israel's destabilizing activities in West Asia, urging the UN Security Council to hold the Israeli regime accountable for its atrocities in Gaza and elsewhere.

"Israel's ongoing destabilized and irresponsible actions and atrocities against the nations in the region are a real threat to regional and international peace and security," Amir Sa'ed Iravani told a UN Security Council session here Thursday.

He noted that Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu seeks to expand and escalate the conflict in the region to stay in power, em-

phasizing that the members of the Security Council must not allow the body to be held hostage to the ambitions of such a "belligerent regime."

"It is time for the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility and address the real threat to international peace and security. The Security Council must promptly fulfill its duty under Chapter 7 of the Charter in response to Israel's reckless defiance.

"It must take urgent and punitive measures to compel this regime to stop its genocide and massacre against the people of Gaza and uphold its obligations especially fully implement the UNSC resolutions and legally binding orders of the

International Court of Justice," the Iranian diplomat said.

Iravani underscored that Iran's retaliatory missile and drone strikes against the occupied territories were in response to the Israeli regime's terrorist attack of April 1 against the Islamic Republic's diplomatic premises in the Syrian capital Damascus.

"Iran's operation was entirely in the exercise of Iran's inherent right to self-defense as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and recognized by international law.

"This concluded action was necessary and proportionate. It was precise and only targeted military objectives, and carried out carefully

to minimize the potential for escalation and prevent civilian harm," he stated.

The Iranian UN envoy went on to condemn the tendency of certain Security Council members, including the United States, Britain and France, to once again turn a blind eye to reality and overlook the root causes of the current crisis.

"In hypocritical behavior, these three countries falsely blamed and accused Iran without considering their own failures to uphold their international commitments to peace and security in the region. They made unsuccessful attempts to use lies, manipulate the narrative, spread disinformation, and engage in a de-

structive blame game.

"All the while, they deliberately disregarded Iran's inherent right to respond to the violation of a fundamental principle of international law: the inviolability of diplomatic representatives and premises. Moreover, they ignored the underlying root causes of the current situation in the region," Iravani stated.

The Iranian UN ambassador finally stated that the Islamic Republic has no intention of engaging in conflict with the U.S. in the region; however, it will use its inherent right to respond proportionately if Washington initiates military operations against Iran, its citizens, or its security and interests.

The Holy Qur'an

O my Lord! Make me one who establishes regular Prayer, and also (raise such) among my offspring O our Lord! And accept Thou my Prayer.

The Holy Qur'an (14-40)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:02
Evening (Maghreb)	19:07
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:17
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:45

Iranian FM Slams U.S. Crackdown on Pro-Palestine Student Demos

TEHRAN -- Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian has condemned the ongoing crackdown on pro-Palestinian protests in U.S. universities, urging Washington to immediately stop support for Israel.

"The suppression and harsh treatment by the American police and security forces of professors and students protesting the genocide and war crimes of the Israeli regime in various universities has deeply worried and abhorred the public opinion of the world," Amir-Abdollahian wrote in a post published on social media platform X on Thursday.

"This repression is in line with the continuation of Washington's full-fledged support for the Israeli regime and clearly shows the double standard and contradictory behavior of the American government towards freedom of expression," he said.

Amir-Abdollahian touched on "the genocide of tens of thousands of Palestinian women and children, especially after the discovery of mass graves of the sick and injured and medical staff in the vicinity of Nasser Hospital in the Gaza Strip".

"The global wave of disgust towards the Israeli regime and its supporters cannot be concealed," he said.

"The White House must immediately stop supporting the Israeli regime's war crimes, and be held accountable," the top Iranian diplomat stated.

Police have arrested hundreds of protesters in locations across the U.S., as demonstrations against the war in Gaza intensify across university campuses.

In the latest crackdown, some 108 arrests were made at Emerson College in Boston. Earlier, 93 people at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles were taken into custody on trespassing charges.

Protesters and police also clashed at the University of Texas at Austin. Authorities said 34 people were arrested there too.

Universities across the U.S. have seen a growing number of students walk out of class or try to set up encampments to protest against Israel's military campaign in Gaza.

The United States has been providing Israel with maximal military and intelligence support since October 7, when the latter unleashed the war. Washington has also vetoed several United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for a ceasefire in the brutal military onslaught that has so far killed more than 34,300 Palestinians, most of them women and children.