

Editorial Dept. Tel.: 33911561, 33110251-9

Ext.: 2334, 2336, 2337

Advertising Dept.: 33110251-9 Ext. 2336

Subscription Ext.: 2322

Facsimile: 33114228 & 33111120

Website: www.kayhan.ir/en

E-mail: kayhanintl@yahoo.com

P.O. Box: 11365/9631

Address: Martyr Shah Cheraghi Street, Ferdowsi Avenue, Tehran – Islamic Republic of Iran

# Iran Rejects IAEA's 'Political' Report



Iran's Ambassador to the IAEA Kazem Gharibabadi addresses the agency's session in this file photo.

TEHRAN – Iran has responded to a critical report by the United Nations' nuclear agency, signaling a difficult path ahead as countries continue to try to restore the country's 2015 nuclear deal.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said in two confidential reports on Tuesday that Iran has continued to increase production of high-enriched uranium.

It said the agency was "deeply concerned" about the issue of the presence of nuclear materials at several undeclared locations, something it says Iran has yet to adequately explain.

The circulation of the report prompted Iran's IAEA envoy, Kazem Gharibabadi, to say no one can tell Iran to stop its nuclear activities, which he said are in line with its non-prolif-

eration commitments, as long as unilateral United States sanctions remain in place.

The U.S. withdrew from Iran's nuclear deal in 2018, imposing harsh sanctions that continue being enforced by President Joe Biden as all signatories, including China, Russia and European powers, try to restore the accord.

Iran is now enriching uranium to 60 percent in response to the sanctions, in addition to attacks on its nuclear sites and the assassination of one of its top nuclear scientists. The agency said Iran's stockpile of 60 percent enriched uranium has now reached 10 kilograms.

On Tuesday, Gharibabadi said a temporary three-month agreement struck in late February to prevent partial re-

striction of IAEA monitoring activities – which was previously extended for another month – has expired and Iran is under no obligation to further extend it.

On the issue of nuclear particles being discovered at undeclared sites, the Iranian envoy said the issue dates back to about two decades ago, and Iran has offered sufficient cooperation.

"The agency must maintain its independence and professionalism and agency members must seriously refrain from trying to use it to achieve their political goals," Gharibabadi said, pointing out that Iran accounts for more than one-fifth of all IAEA monitoring while the agency conducts no inspections into Zionist atomic ac-

## IRGC Chief Warns of U.S. Plot to Stir Shia-Sunni Conflict

TEHRAN -- The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force has warned of an American plot to pit Shia-majority Iran against Sunni Muslims, stressing the need for a peaceful solution to the crisis in neighboring Afghanistan with the participation of different groups in running the country, according to lawmakers.

Brigadier Gen. Esmail Qa'ani attended a closed-door briefing session at the Iranian parliament on the situation in Afghanistan, which has been suffering from a power vacuum since the collapse of the Kabul government and the Taliban militant group's takeover of the country.

Briefing reporters after the session, the spokesperson for the presiding board of the parliament, MP Nizamuddin Mousavi, said the Quds Force chief provided pre-

cise and documented information with sharp analysis on the developments unfolding in Afghanistan.

The lawmaker, sharing details about the meeting, said Iran's stance is clear, based on what Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has repeatedly emphasized, that it cannot remain indifferent to what is happening in its eastern neighbor.

Qa'ani's remarks, he stressed, made it clear that the Islamic Republic is "not surprised" by the dramatic developments in Afghanistan and "is in contact" with the Taliban.

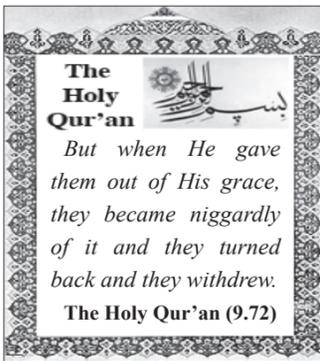
Quoting from the speech of the IRGC Quds Force commander, Mousavi said Iran's main interest in Afghanistan is to "ensure security and rights" of Afghans themselves, while not allowing security at its borders with the

country to be disrupted.

Gen. Qa'ani, who took over from Gen. Qassem Soleimani as the head of IRGC's Quds Force after the latter's assassination in January 2020, is a seasoned observer of Afghanistan.

Ahmad Alireza Beigi, a lawmaker from northern Tabriz province, told reporters that Gen. Qa'ani emphasized the people of Afghanistan, including Afghan Shia Muslims, are important to Iran, and that Tehran wanted an inclusive government in Kabul with the participation of different political and ethnic groups.

"What we understood from General Qa'ani's comments was that the Islamic Republic was fully aware of the developments in this country, and Iran, besides standing ready to face any incident, seeks the fulfillment of the interests of the Iranian and Afghan na-



The Holy Qur'an  
 But when He gave them out of His grace, they became niggardly of it and they turned back and they withdrew.  
 The Holy Qur'an (9.72)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:02
Evening (Maghreb)	19:39
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:16
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	06:42

tivities.

Tuesday's report was the first quarterly IAEA report released during the presidency of Ebrahim Raisi.

Raisi and his foreign minister, Hussein Amirabdollahian, have said they are in favor of negotiations that will lead to the removal of sanctions, but denounce U.S. efforts to conduct talks under "pressure".

Since April, six rounds of talks have been held in Vienna to restore the nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). While progress has been made, significant issues remain unsolved and the talks were paused in late July to allow Raisi to form his administration.

No date has been set for a return to Vienna, but the IAEA's next conference on September 21 could prove significant.

The U.S., backed by European powers, may once more consider pushing for a censure against Iran, something Iran has warned could make achieving an agreement on the nuclear deal significantly more complicated.

## Army Chief Gen. Mousavi: Zionist Regime's Threat Amounts to Committing Suicide

TEHRAN -- Iran's Army chief said Wednesday the Israeli military's claims that it had sped up alleged Iran strike plans is serving as a death march for the regime's rulers.

"It looks like the heads of the Zionist regime have sensed the speed with which their lives are waning," Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said. "Maybe, they want to commit suicide for fear of death," he added.

The comments came a day after the occupying regime's chief of general staff Aviv Kohavi alleged in an interview that Israel had "greatly accelerated" preparations for action against Iran's nuclear energy program. He also claimed that the Zionist regime had "greatly diminished Iran's presence" to the north of the occupied territories.

Mousavi said, "They (the Zionists) have many areas of vulnerability," adding, "They have so far experienced many heavy defeats."

Tel Aviv's claim of being able to reduce the Iranian presence in the region also comes while the Islamic Republic has been maintaining a robust military advisory campaign throughout the region, especially in Iraq and Syria.

The campaign has been successfully seeking to invigorate the Arab countries and others against Takfiri terrorists. Iranian officials have not only dismissed down-sizing the campaign as a result of constant military strikes by the Zionist regime and its allies, but also they have been reporting constant increase in the Islamic Republic's regional influence and activities.

## Ambassador to Baghdad: Saudi-Iran Talks to Continue Until Progress Made

TEHRAN -- Iran's Ambassador to Iraq Iraj Masjedi says the Islamic Republic and Saudi Arabia have yet to mutually agree on the time and location of their next round of negotiations.

"The time and venue of the fourth round of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia have not been decided yet, and we will make a decision on that by mutual agreement," Iraqi news outlets quoted him as saying on a TV program.

Masjedi reiterated that the Islamic Republic wants brotherly friendship with Saudi Arabia in political, economic and cultural fields.

Pointing to three rounds of negotiations held between Iranian and Saudi delegations in the Iraqi capital, the envoy said the negotiations are ongoing and the two sides are adamant to continue until progress is made.

"Despite three rounds of dialogue, the talks are still continuing and when we reach definite results, we will announce them," he said.

Masjedi said, "We held the three rounds of talks in a very friendly and fraternal atmosphere in Baghdad, because

we are Muslim countries and all major issues between us have to be resolved through negotiation and consultation."

Masjedi also thanked the Iraqi government for hosting negotiations between Tehran and Riyadh and the "important" role which Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has played in arranging them.

Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Iran in January 2016 after Iranian protesters, enraged by the Saudi execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, stormed its embassy in Tehran.

For years, the kingdom pursued a confrontational foreign policy toward Iran, but an Iranian deputy foreign minister said on Saturday Saudi Arabia appeared to have changed tack and was serious about dialogue with the Islamic Republic.

Alireza Enayati also said the fourth round of negotiations has been postponed to a time convenient to both sides because a new government is still taking office in Iran and Saudi Arabia is hosting pilgrims for the annual Hajj.