

## Tehran Slams IAEA Resolution, Says Still Seeks 'Strong' Deal in Vienna



Iran Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said his country has not abandoned the negotiating table in spite of the recent IAEA resolution drafted by the West against Tehran.

TEHRAN - Iran on Tuesday once again criticized the Western-drafted resolution passed against Tehran's nuclear program during the recent meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s Board of Governors, saying the Islamic Republic still insists on reaching a "good, strong and lasting" deal with the P4+1 group of countries.

"We have put a new political package and a new initiative on the table. Although the American side accepted the initiative, it also insisted on passing the resolution," Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian said in a joint press conference with his visiting Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Tehran.

He added that Iran would never evade dialog with the P4+1 group of countries on the revival of the 2015 deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"Iran will not deviate from the logic of diplomacy and negotiations to reach a good, strong and lasting agreement and believes that diplomacy is the best way to reach a final point," he said.

The top Iranian diplomat emphasized that the U.S., along with its three European allies, submit-

ted the resolution in order to exert more pressure on Tehran and obtain concessions in indirect talks.

Since April last year, the Iranian negotiating team has been involved in marathon talks with the other remaining parties to the JCPOA – Britain, France, Germany, China, and Russia – with the aim of bringing the U.S. back into the deal and lifting its sanctions against Tehran.

However, the Vienna talks have been on hold since March as Washington insists on its refusal to undo its past wrongs through measures such as removing Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) from its list of foreign terrorist organizations.

In yet another blow to the bleak prospects of reviving the JCPOA, the U.S., France, Britain, and Germany spearheaded a resolution at the IAEA's Board of Governors on Wednesday, which accused Iran of not cooperating with the UN nuclear watchdog.

Iran has denounced the resolution and blamed the U.S. and its three European allies for the crisis created over its nuclear program, which was under an unprecedented level of inspections before Washington withdrew from the JCPOA.

In the presser, Amir-Abdollahian

said during the talks with the P4+1 group of countries in Vienna and exchanges of messages with Washington over the past months, Iran has proved that it supports dialog and rationale.

In response to the US-E3 resolution, the Islamic Republic has started to increase its nuclear activities and has informed the UN nuclear agency of the issue through the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, he added.

The Iranian foreign minister emphasized that the country would maintain its contacts with the European Union foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, and his envoy to Iran talks, Enrique Mora.

### 'Nuclear Talks Not Abandoned by Iran'

The spokesperson for the Iranian administration Ali Bahadori Jahromi said that his country has not bowed out of the negotiations on the removal of sanctions, although it believes that the nullification of the sanctions requires domestic solutions.

Speaking to reporters at a presser on Tuesday, Bahadori Jahromi said Iran has not left the negotiating table

(Continued on Page 7)

## Venezuela, Iran Push for Closer Energy Cooperation

TEHRAN – President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro and Iranian Petroleum Minister Javad Owji have weighed plans to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in various fields relating to the energy, oil and petrochemical industries. The two officials discussed a range of issues in the meeting, in-

cluding plans for supplying fuel, the export of oil and petrochemical products, and the export of petrochemical catalysts.

They also made a series of decisions about the export of technical and engineering services, renovation and reconstruction of refineries, and the development of oil and

gas fields.

The Venezuelan president visited Iran as part of an international tour that took him earlier to Turkey and Algeria.

In early May, Owji visited Venezuela to prepare the ground for closer cooperation between Tehran and Caracas in the energy industry.

## Labor Minister Abdolmaleki Quits

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki on Tuesday resigned from the administration after coming under mounting criticism for his handling of the labor market and a meager rise in the retirement

pensions.

Abdolmaleki sent his resignation letter to President Ebrahim Raisi, saying he has decided to step down for increased coordination in the cabinet.

Abdolmaleki, 41, won the Parliament's vote of confidence in August

2021.

His failure to create a planned number of jobs and the growing protests over insufficient raises in the retirement pensions had fueled speculations that the Parliament will impeach him.

## 3800 Iranian Hajj Pilgrims Arrive in Saudi Arabia

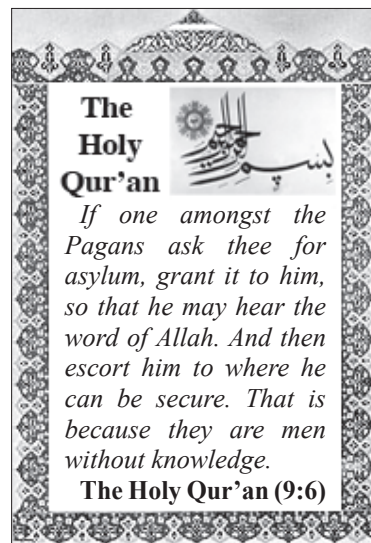
TEHRAN – Some 3,800 Iranian pilgrims have so far arrived in Saudi Arabia for performing their annual Hajj pilgrimage, according to a senior official with the country's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization.

Vahid Eskandari told media that the Iranian pilgrims have been sent to Saudi Arabia from Tabriz, Kerman and Tehran's Imam Khomeini airports.

Noting that the first flight took the Iranian pilgrims to Saudi Arabia on June 12, he said that the number of flights to the country will be increased to 8 or 9 flights a days as of Wednesday (June 15).

He said that the dispatch of the Iranian pilgrims to Saudi Arabia will continue until July 4.

As many as 39,630 Iranians will be dispatched for this year's annual Hajj pilgrimage.



The Holy Qur'an

If one amongst the Pagans ask thee for asylum, grant it to him, so that he may hear the word of Allah. And then escort him to where he can be secure. That is because they are men without knowledge.

The Holy Qur'an (9:6)

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	13:05
Evening (Maghreb)	20:43
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:48
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:01

## Official Blasts Germany, Belgium Over Violation of Jailed Diplomat's Rights

TEHRAN - The judiciary chief's deputy for international affairs Kazem Gharibabadi has censured Germany and Belgium over the "illegal" detention and trial of Assadollah Assadi, calling for a probe into human rights abuses against the Iranian diplomat.

In a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Gharibabadi urged the world body to hold the two European countries accountable for gross human rights abuses against Assadi.

Despite enjoying diplomatic immunity, the Iranian diplomat based in the Austrian capital of Vienna was arrested on bogus charges while visiting Germany in July 2018.

Nearly three months after his arrest, Assadi was extradited to Belgium where he is currently serving a 20-year prison sentence.

In the letter, Gharibabadi condemned the actions taken by the authorities in Germany and Belgium against Assadi and his family as "flagrant violation" of the country's international obligations.

The top rights official said Assadi had faced various forms of torture during his detention in Germany, including being kept in cold cells with insufficient clothing, deprived of proper food, as well as being incarcerated with dangerous criminals, and subjected to mistreatment by prison authorities.

The diplomat, he asserted, had been banned from contacting his family for 53 days during his incarceration in Germany in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Gharibabadi, who previously served as Iran's envoy to the Vienna-based organizations, termed the Belgian court's arrest warrant against Assadi baseless, adding that the Belgian authorities had subjected Assadi to "inhuman, humiliating and cruel" treatment.

Assadi, he hastened to add, has been denied the right of access to his children, and other relatives, amid wider restrictions, during his detention in Belgium.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Iran Underlines Full Commitment to Safeguards Agreements With IAEA

TEHRAN - The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) in a note on the recent report by the UN nuclear watchdog's chief on the country's nuclear activities reiterated Tehran's commitment to undertakings based on the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is complying completely with its obligations under its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (INFCIRC/214) through which the Agency continues to maintain its knowledge with a robust verification system that is unique in the Agency's verification system including C/S measures on Iran's nuclear material and activities," the AEOI said.

The full text of the note is as follows:

Explanatory note

The Islamic Republic of Iran comments and observations on Report by the Director General on NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran GOV/2022/26 of 30 May 2022

A: General comments:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran is complying completely with its obligations under its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (INFCIRC/214) through which the Agency continues to maintain its knowledge with a robust verification system that is unique in the Agency's verification system including C/S measures on Iran's nuclear material and activities.

2. Also, in light of further cooperation with the Agency, Iran agreed to conclude in two occasions the joint statements of 26 August 2020 and 5 March 2022, the provisions of which were fully implemented by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. The locations referred to in the current report of the DG is based upon allegations posed by an ill-intended third party- namely Zionist regime- which has no legal ground. It should be noted that pursuant to the principles of International Law "pacta tertiis nec nocent nec prosunt", that means "treaties neither obligate nor benefit third parties", also Article 34 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations that stipulates: "a treaty cannot create rights and obligations for a third party without its consent", a non-party of safeguards agreement without adhering to such instruments, cannot exploit some of the rights and benefits mentioned in the agreement and use it against any party in order to raise any allegation and involve the Agency in endless investigation.

B: Comments on the report, Background:

1. Regarding paragraph 3 of the report which states: "the Agency identified in 2019 a number of questions related to possible undeclared nuclear material and nuclear-related activities in Iran that had not been declared to the Agency and requested responses to these questions from Iran, pursuant to Article 69 of the Safeguards Agreement and Article 4.d. of the Additional Protocol". It should be mentioned that:

- It is a matter of concern that the Agency is intentionally, even politically, conflating a Member States obligations under the CSA with the ones under the AP.

- As explained by Iran frequently, there has never been any undeclared location in Iran which is required to be declared under the CSA. Iran's nuclear activities remain peaceful under Agency's full-scope safeguards. Therefore, mentioning these issues and expressing "concern" by the Agency in this regard is baseless.

- The Agency's requests were not initially considered by Iran, because:

• The Agency's requests were not supported by required authentic information, documents and evidences, in so far as relevant for the purpose of safeguards.

• Therefore, the Agency's statement in this paragraph which reads: "...the Agency's also provided Iran with detailed information..." is not accurate; because the Agency did not provide any authentic information for its request.

2. In paragraph 4, the Agency also states: "...Location 2 had undergone extensive sanitization and leveling in the past, the Agency assessed that there would be no verification value in conducting a complementary access at this location." It should be mentioned that:

- Access to Lavisian-Shian site had been granted to the Agency in 28 June 2004. The Agency took environmental samples including soil and plants at this location. Iran stated that "no nuclear material declarable in accordance with the Agency's safeguards was present" and that "no nuclear activities related to fuel cycle were carried out in Lavisian-Shian".

- The Agency found no contamination there, and pursuant to Iran's clarifications about the razing of the Lavisian-Shian, in August 2005, finally it was reported by the Agency in GOV/2005/67 that the information provided by Iran appeared to be coherent and consistent with its explanation of the razing of the Lavisian-Shian.

3. Paragraph 5 of the report states: "Director General had become deeply concerned that nuclear material had been present at undeclared locations in Iran and that the current location of this nuclear material was not known to the Agency." It should be mentioned that:

- The mere finding natural uranium particles in the collected environmental samples cannot be considered as an indication that a quantity of nuclear material had been present at these locations, while the Agency incorrectly concluded that nuclear material had been present at this location without taking into account other possible causes.

- As it was frequently explained to the Agency, its claims have no legal basis and are audacious accusations. In fact, there is no undeclared nuclear material in Iran, and the Agency assertion is merely based on false and fabricated information provided by illegitimate Zionist regime that itself possesses nuclear weapons.

- In its deliberations with the Agency, Iran has explained its assumptions about probable causes of the presence of uranium particles in the locations reported by the Agency. Iran has exhausted all its attempts so as to discover the origin of such particles. Given the fact that Iran could not yet find any technical reasons for the presence of such uranium particles, it would reasonably imply that possibly external elements

(Continued on Page 7)