

Kayhan Group of Newspapers

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Iran's Warning to West on Nuclear Doctrine Review



Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs Abbas Araghchi addresses the 10th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Global Forum in Lisbon, Portugal.

LIBSON (Dispatches) -- Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has warned about an ongoing debate in Iran over whether to change the nuclear doctrine in the face of the West's continued sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Last week, the EU and the UK announced fresh sanctions against Iran after a censure motion brought by Britain, France, Germany and the U.S. was passed at the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors.

In response, Iran began injecting uranium gas into several thousand advanced centrifuges, making good on its promise if the West did not choose "the path of engagement and instead pursue confrontation and issue a resolution".

Speaking here before a meeting between Iranian and European negotiators in Geneva on Friday, Araghchi said IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi had promised to prevent the censure motion after Iran proposed limiting its uranium enrichment to 60 percent purity and allowing four nuclear inspectors to visit its nuclear sites.

Grossi "failed because the Europeans had decided on the course of confrontation," Araghchi told reporters.

Iran subsequently "decided to introduce thousands of new,

highly advanced machines into the system. And now they have started to feed them with gas. So this is the result of their pressure", he added.

Araghchi reiterated that Iran has remained within the confines of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, however, and still seeks cooperation.

"We have no intention to go further than 60 percent for the time being, and this is our determination right now. I would like to re-emphasize that we have chosen the line of cooperation in order to come to a dignified resolution of this problem," he stressed.

However, Araghchi said, Iran's engagement with the West on its nuclear program is not guaranteed.

"There is a debate right now in Iran that it was perhaps a wrong policy. Why? Because it proved we did whatever they wanted and when it was their turn to lift sanctions, in practice, they didn't happen," he said. "So maybe something is wrong with our policy."

Araghchi stressed that Iran has already acquired the capability and knowledge to develop nuclear weapons, but they are not part of its security strategy.

"So I can tell you, quite frankly, that there is this debate going on in Iran, and mostly among the elites – even among the ordi-

nary people – whether we should change this policy or not, whether we should change our nuclear doctrine, as some say, or not, because it has proved insufficient in practice," he said.

Araghchi noted that if European countries were to reimpose sanctions on Iran through the UN Security Council, it would convince everyone in Iran that Tehran's current doctrine had been mistaken.

He then wondered what the purpose was of Iran spending 10 to 12 years on negotiations, implementation, and fulfilling its obligations if it was only to be ultimately placed back under Chapter Seven of the UN Charter. "If that happens, I think everybody will be convinced that we have gone in the wrong direction, so we have to change direction. So I think if the snapback happens we would have a crisis," Araghchi added.

For now, only Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei could revoke the fatwa prohibiting the possession of nuclear weapons, Araghchi said, stressing that "nuclear weapons have no place in our security calculations."

Iran had already warned that any resolution against its peaceful nuclear program would be met with a quick response.

Singapore Ignores Iran's Appeals to 'Reconsider' Hang

SINGAPORE (Dispatches) – Singapore hanged a 35-year-old Singaporean-Iranian man for drug trafficking on Friday, its fourth in less than a month, despite appeals from Tehran to "reconsider" his execution.

Masoud Rahimi Mehrzad, a Singaporean citizen born in the city-state to a Singaporean mother and an Iranian father, was convicted in 2013 for drug trafficking.

Appeals against his conviction and sentence, as well as

petitions for clemency from the president, had been dismissed. After he was informed of his impending hanging, Masoud filed an 11th-hour appeal to stay his execution, which was dismissed by the Court of Appeal on Thursday.

Calling him "an Iranian citizen", Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also appealed to his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan on Thursday to halt the execution.

"Araghchi expressed Iran's

respect for Singapore's legal framework but appealed to Singaporean authorities to reconsider the execution of Masoud Rahimi, emphasizing humanitarian considerations," Iran's foreign ministry said on X.

However, Singapore's Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) announced "the capital sentence of death imposed on Masoud Rahimi bin Mehrzad... was carried out on 29 November 2024".

His execution was the fourth in three weeks in Singapore.

The Holy Qur'an

And those who disbelieved said to their apostles: We will most certainly drive you forth from our land, or else you shall come back into our religion. So their Lord revealed to them: Most certainly We will destroy the unjust.

The Holy Qur'an (14.13)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:53
Evening (Maghreb)	17:11
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	06:55
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:26

Military Advisor Martyred in Fighting With Terrorists in Syria

TEHRAN -- A military advisor of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has been martyred in Syria after foreign-backed takfiri terrorists and anti-Damascus militants launched a major attack on the Syrian military positions in the northwestern province of Aleppo.

"Brigadier General Kioumars Pour Hashemi, known as Haj Hashem, one of the defenders of the [Sayyida Zaynab] Shrine and senior IRGC military advisers in Syria, was martyred in overnight attacks by Zionist Takfiri terrorists on the outskirts of Aleppo," the IRGC said in a statement Thursday.

The Iranian military advisors, who are present in Syria at the official invitation of the Syrian government have played an important role in helping the Syrians fight terrorism and establish peace, stability, and lasting security in the Arab country.

On Wednesday, members of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) terrorist outfit and their allied armed factions reportedly attacked at least 10 areas under the control of the Syrian military in the west of Aleppo city and the eastern countryside of Idlib.

Israel has been the principal supporter of terrorist groups that oppose the democratically-elected government of President Bashar al-Assad since the foreign-backed militancy erupted in Syria.

The Israeli regime has carried out hundreds of attacks against Syria since 2011, when the Arab nation found itself in the grip of rampant foreign-backed militancy and terrorism.

'Frank' Talks Held With Europeans in Geneva

TEHRAN – Iran on Friday urged the European Union to change its "self-centered and irresponsible" behavior toward Tehran ahead of talks between Iranian and European diplomats in Geneva.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, provided a briefing on the Iranian delegation's meeting with Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service Enrique Mora.

The Iranian delegation, he wrote on X, "had a frank discussion" with Mora on "a variety of issues, including the perspective of nuclear and sanctions lifting negotiations in light of recent developments."

"It was reaffirmed to him that EU should abandon its self-centered and irresponsible behavior towards issues and challenges of this continent and international matters," he stressed.

"Europe should not project its own problems and mistakes onto others, including with regard to the conflict in Ukraine," he added.

Gharibabadi added that Europe "lack any moral ground" to lecture others on human rights given the complicity of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany in the ongoing Israeli genocidal war on Gaza, where more than 44,300 Palestinians have been killed since October last year by Western-back Israeli regime.

Turning to Iran's nuclear program, the Iranian diplomat said "Europe has failed to be a serious player due to lack of self-confidence and responsibility. Europe is in need of self-recovery."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei reaffirmed Iran's principled stance on interaction and cooperation with other countries based on dignity, wisdom and interests.

Baghaei explained that the upcoming meeting with the three European countries will be a continuation of the talks held with the trio in September on the sidelines of the annual session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Mission Rejects West's Claims of Chemical Weapons Violation

NEW YORK (Dispatches) -- Iran's permanent mission to the UN has roundly dismissed allegations that Tehran has violated the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), stressing that the Islamic Republic is itself a main victim of such munitions.

In a statement published on its official X account late Thursday night, the mission described Iran as a victim of the chemical weapons that Western governments provided former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein with during its 1980s imposed war, emphasizing that the country stands fully committed to the CWC.

It added that not a single instance of Iranian violation of the treaty has been recorded over the past several decades.

"The current unfounded reports are merely an outgrowth of psychological warfare propagated by the Zionist regime in the wake of its recent defeat on the Lebanese front," the statement read.

The Institute for the Study of War (ISW), citing a November 26 report by the Institute for Science and International Security, alleged that Iran had been focusing on how to produce and deliver pharmaceutical-based chemical agents (PBAs) for use in military attacks.

The allegations come as the impacts of chemical attacks against Iranian civilians still can be felt among the affected.

During the 1980-88 war, the Iraqi army continuously employed chemical weapons against Ira-

nian combatants and civilians, leaving tens of thousands dead on the spot and many more suffering for years to come.

These attacks included the use of mustard gas and other chemical agents, provided by Western governments for former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's regime.

One of the most notable chemical attacks occurred in the Iranian city of Sardasht, a small city in Iran's West Azarbaijan Province. The attack killed at least 119 Iranian civilians and injured another 8,000, leaving some of them permanently disabled.

On Wednesday, Kazem Gharibabadi, who serves as head of the Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights, urged the United Nations Security Council to impose sanctions on Israel over its use of banned chemical weapons against "defenseless people" in Palestine and Lebanon.

"We condemn the Zionist regime's use of chemical weapons and other hazardous materials, including white phosphorus and depleted uranium, against the defenseless people of Palestine and Lebanon," Gharibabadi told the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CSP-29) held in The Hague.

Last month, Lebanon's official National News Agency reported that Israeli forces had used internationally banned phosphorus munitions during a series of strikes on the outskirts of the southeastern Lebanese border town of Kfar Shuba.