

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iran has put some of its defense equipment on display at the 13th edition of the Iraq Defense Exhibition (IQDEX 2025) in Baghdad.

The Iranian Defense Ministry has taken part in the exhibition in Iraq. Iran's homegrown weaponry used for ground, naval and aerial combat operations, air defense, and electronic warfare are on display at the event.


TEHRAN -- Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Alireza Enayati said Sunday the recent visit of Saudi Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud to Tehran was a step toward deepening relations between the two countries.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA, Enayati said Prince Khalid's visit to Iran, including his meeting with top officials, particularly the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, could offer a broad framework and a new horizon for bilateral ties.

Viewpoint

Unprovoked US War on Yemen Takes a Dangerous Turn

Iran Applies for UNESCO Listing of Mirrorwork, Falak-ol-Aflak



Ali Meskini Wins Bronze Medal in Karate 1-Premier League



Thousands Rally in Tel Aviv to Demand Return of Captives



Israeli Report: Hamas Gaining 'Tactical Advantage' in Gaza

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Hamas's armed wing the Qassam Brigades has turned its "military disadvantage into an advantage" and is working to "throw the [Israeli] army off balance," Maariv newspaper's Avi Ashkenazi reported on Sunday, one day after an Israeli soldier was killed by resistance fighters for the first time in months.

"The serious incident that occurred yesterday afternoon in the northern Gaza Strip – in which a soldier was killed and five other soldiers were seriously injured – illustrates Hamas's fighting doctrine ... Hamas is currently trying to preserve what remains of its military power. It is not working to engage face-to-face battles against our forces," he wrote, adding that Hamas is using guerilla tactics and its complex tunnel system instead.

"Hamas understands that the army is operating at partial strength, sometimes even less, and therefore chooses to wait for the main confrontation, the big battle," he went on to say.

"Hamas is seizing territory, digging tunnels, and creating [booby] traps ... At the same time, its men are ... observing the forces' activity and the routine of fighting, and waiting for an opportunity. When it comes, they ... tail the forces," and "hit them with anti-tank fire," before escaping into tunnels, the Israeli journalist explains.

The resistance fighters "using guerrilla tactics, turn their military disadvantage into a tactical advantage: firing from a distance, planting charges, and quickly escaping – this is the method by which they try to throw the army off balance," he added.

One Israeli soldier was killed and five others wounded in an ambush by the Qassam Brigades in Gaza's northern city of Beit Hanoun on Saturday. According to an Israeli army probe, resistance fighters emerged from a tunnel and struck a vehicle carrying a group of soldiers. An explosive device was then detonated nearby the rescue forces who arrived at the scene.

"Our fighters targeted a Storm military jeep belonging to the command of the combat information gathering battalion in the Gaza Division with an anti-tank missile, inflicting confirmed injuries on them. Immediately after the arrival of the support force that rushed to the rescue,

it was targeted with a TV 3 anti-personnel explosive device, killing and wounding its members," the Qassam Brigades said in a statement released on Sunday afternoon.

The fighters also "targeted a newly established position for the enemy forces in the area with four "RPG" missiles and showered it with a number of mortar shells," it added.

Hamas's armed wing also announced other ambushes via its media page on Telegram.

"Qassam fighters managed to carry out a complex ambush against a Zionist force that had penetrated east of the Al-Tuffah neighborhood, east of Gaza City, killing and wounding its members," the group said in a statement, also announcing another operation targeting a Merkava 4 tank and a D9 military bulldozer with two Al-Yassin 105 missiles, setting them on fire in the Jabal al-Surani area, east of the Al-Tuffah neighborhood."

The Qassam Brigades have reportedly launched a large recruitment campaign in Gaza aimed at enlisting tens of thousands of new fighters, according to a report by the Saudi channel Al-Hadath.

Earlier this month, Hebrew reports said that the Israeli army has only destroyed 25 percent of Hamas's tunnel system in Rafah, highlighting that the resistance group retains tens of thousands of fighters, contradicting previous claims by the military.

A military source cited by Maariv last week said Qassam Brigades fighters are refraining from fully engaging Zionists troops in order to save their strength, in preparation for a major escalation.

The Israeli army said recently that, for now, it is holding off on a large-scale onslaught and is currently working to pressure Hamas in the ceasefire negotiations. No date has been set for the 'big assault,' which will be decided by the political establishment and is being prepared for on the ground by the military.

However, Israel faces a crisis with its reserve forces. Many are fatigued and have lost the will to serve. According to sources who spoke to Ynet in April, only 60 to 70 percent of reservists being called up are actually reporting for duty, and there are fears that these numbers will not increase if a full offensive on Gaza is ordered.

Senior Negotiator Assures Iranian MPs: Enrichment Right a 'Red Line' in Talks



Iran's FM Abbas Araghchi, second left, with his delegation including deputy FM Kazem Gharibabadi, second right, after indirect talks with the U.S. in Muscat, Oman, on April 12, 2025.

TEHRAN -- Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said Sunday Tehran has firmly dismissed negotiating over its fundamental right to enrich uranium, declaring it a "red line."

Speaking at a meeting of the Parliament's National Security Commission, Gharibabadi

provided updates on the ongoing talks with the United States on the nuclear issue and the removal of sanctions.

The commission's spokesperson, Ebrahim Rezaei, recounted Gharibabadi's remarks, saying that during the talks in Rome, the two sides reached a mutual understanding on the broad framework of

the negotiations.

Gharibabadi assured lawmakers that Iran's uranium enrichment is intended solely for peaceful purposes, emphasizing that the country has no intention of pursuing nuclear weapons, he said.

The deputy minister stressed that Iran remains committed to the negotiation process

and expects the other side to demonstrate genuine willingness and resist pressure from the Zionist regime, which is attempting to derail the talks, Rezaei added.

The second round of negotiations between Iran and the United States concluded on Saturday in Rome, with both sides agreeing to reconvene next week.

The Iranian delegation was led by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, while the U.S. team was headed by President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff.

Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi once again acted as mediator, shuttling between the two delegations to relay messages.

Government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani said Sunday welcomes any initiative leading to the lifting of sanctions and guaranteeing national rights.

Speaking to IRNA, Mohajerani said the talks between Iran and the U.S. have been positive so far.

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Israeli Bomb Aqsa Mosque Talk Draws Strong Warning

DUBAI (Dispatches) -- The UAE on Sunday strongly condemned the Israeli settler organizations' call to bomb Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in Al-Quds.

In a statement posted on national news agency Wam, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) also warned of "serious repercussions" after Israel denied Christians in Al-Quds access to churches during Holy Saturday.

The ministry condemned "physical assaults" on Christians, adding that such actions "threaten to further escalate tensions in the region".

The ministry also reiterated the UAE's firm position on the need to protect Islamic and Christian holy sites from serious violations. It emphasized the importance of respecting the custodial role of the Hash-

emite Kingdom of Jordan over the holy sites, as per international law and historical agreements. It called for the preservation of the authority of the Al-Quds Endowment Administration, which oversees the affairs of Al-Aqsa Mosque and its surrounding areas, including the Dome of the Rock.

The UAE urged Israeli authorities to avoid actions that could destabilize the region and reaffirmed its rejection of any practices that contravene international resolutions and threaten peace.

Earlier, Qatar condemned in the strongest terms plans by platforms affiliated with Israeli occupation organizations to bomb and demolish Al-Aqsa Mosque and construct a temple in its place, describing them as a dangerous provocation

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Iraqi MPs Seek to Block Jolani's Visit to Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -- Iraqi lawmakers are seeking to block Syria's self-proclaimed leader Abu Muhammad al-Jolani from visiting Baghdad next month for the Arab League Summit, citing his past role as a commander in Al-Qaeda, which carried out hundreds of terror attacks against Iraqi civilians following the 2003 U.S. invasion.

The Media Line published a leaked document on Sunday showing a request from Iraq's parliament to arrest Jolani for terrorism and document forgery should he enter Iraq for the summit.

The letter was issued by Iraq's Council of Representatives and sent to the Office of the Public Prosecutor in Baghdad. It urges an investigation and potential arrest of Jolani

should he enter Iraqi territory.

An invitation to attend the 17 May summit was recently extended to Jolani by Iraqi Prime Minister Muhammad Shia al-Sudani.

"Yes, a formal invitation has been delivered to him, and he is welcome to attend and participate in the Arab Summit," Sudani told The National's Editor-in-Chief Mina al-Oraibi during a discussion at the Sulaymaniyah Forum on Wednesday.

Following the event, a picture leaked of an unannounced meeting between Sudani and Jolani that took place in Qatar on Tuesday, sparking anger among Iraqi political factions and resistance groups.

Over 50 Iraqi politicians also signed a request Saturday asking

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