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Pezeshkian: Leader's Fatwa Guides Iran's Nuclear Policy

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian reiterated on Thursday Iran's opposition to nuclear weapons, citing religious and theological grounds, including a fatwa issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei prohibiting nuclear arms.

"When the religious leader explicitly states that we will not pursue nuclear weapons, this is a position rooted in theological and jurisprudential beliefs, not a political tactic that can be changed," Pezeshkian said during a visit to Mazandaran province in northern Iran.

Pezeshkian addressed claims by U.S. President Donald Trump that Iran is restarting its nuclear program following last year's Israeli-U.S. strikes on Iranian facilities.

Pezeshkian emphasized that "a politician may speak based on expediency, but a religious leader cannot speak against beliefs and a religious ruling," highlighting Iran's continued adherence to the decree.

The remarks coincided with the third round of Oman-mediated nuclear negotiations between Iran and the United States, taking place in Geneva.

Separately, Pezeshkian commented on reports regarding fatalities during recent foreign-backed riots in Iran.

"We have announced the death toll and even provided the national ID numbers of the people killed; anyone who says it's more than this should corroborate the claim with evidence," he said.

According to Iran's Founda-

tion of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, 3,117 people died during the unrest, including 2,427 civilians and security personnel.

"We have announced the death toll and even provided the national ID numbers of the people killed; anyone who says it's more than this, they should corroborate the claim with evidence," Pezeshkian said.

According to Iran's Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, 3,117 people died during recent foreign-backed riots, including 2,427 civilians and security personnel.

Pezeshkian said 300 to 400 of those killed were military personnel defending national security.

He said the riots were intended by external actors to pursue "regime change" and that violent acts, including attacks on mosques and the killing of security forces, should not be considered peaceful protests.

Pezeshkian added that Iran has faced decades of terrorism and that the aim of external enemies is to target the country's skilled human resources to undermine the state's capacity.

"We recognize protests and consider ourselves obliged to serve our people ... in the face of shortcomings and deficiencies. We are deeply saddened from the bottom of our hearts by what has happened to our beloved people," he said.

Pezeshkian said a distinction must be made between peaceful demonstrations and violent actions, echoing the position of Ayatollah Khamenei on the events.

Top General: U.S. Troops, Assets Within Firing Range



A hypersonic Fattah missile is launched from an undisclosed location in Iran.

Iraq's Kata'ib Hezbollah Warns U.S. of 'Massive Losses' if War Erupts

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – Iraq's Kata'ib Hezbollah, an anti-terror group and member of the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), warned on Thursday that the U.S. would face "massive losses" if it carries out military action in West Asia. In a statement, the group said Washington would encounter "losses that are impossible to contain or compensate for" should it "ignite the fuse of war in the region."

Kata'ib Hezbollah also called on its members to prepare for a "war of attrition" in the event of renewed U.S. military operations. "Amidst the American threats and military mobilization that portend a serious escalation in the

region, we stress the need for all fighters to prepare for a war of attrition that could be long-lasting, exceeding the estimates of the American administration," the statement said.

The group additionally cautioned the government of the Kurdistan Region against "collusion" with foreign forces, warning that such actions could threaten the security of the semi-autonomous Iraqi region.

Iran has stated it will deliver a "decisive" response to any U.S. aggression and that all American bases in the region would be considered legitimate targets.

Earlier this week, Abu Ali al-Askari, security chief of Kata'ib

Hezbollah, said the U.S. military buildup signals "a deliberate escalation rather than a defensive posture."

He warned that any attempt to use Iraqi territory as a corridor for attacks on Iran would constitute a "grave violation of regional sovereignty."

Ammar al-Hakim, leader of Iraq's National Wisdom Movement, also urged de-escalation through diplomacy, saying heightened tensions only benefit "the merchants of wars and crises."

He described Iran's stability as a "cornerstone of regional order" and called on the U.S. to refrain from rhetoric that could provoke further confrontation.

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, spokesman for the Iranian Armed Forces, said on Thursday that statements by U.S. President Donald Trump are "baseless, boastful, and delusional" and warned of consequences for any aggression against Iran.

Shekarchi said Iranian forces remain on high alert and are closely monitoring military movements by the United States and Israel.

"The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, relying on their defensive and offensive capabilities and the support of the country's

brave, united, and resilient people, are monitoring all movements of the U.S. army and the Zionist regime in the region with great care and full readiness," he said.

He described the U.S. military presence in West Asia as "psychological warfare, blackmail, and bullying" and said any provocative action would trigger a "decisive response and crushing blows from the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Shekarchi added that American personnel, equipment, and resources in the region would be within the firing range of Iranian forces if attacks

occur.

Shekarchi said Iran has historically demonstrated that it is prepared to defend the country and national interests and warned that U.S. officials should understand Iran's military capabilities.

Separately, Yadollah Javani, deputy commander for political affairs of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), said the West seeks to "swallow Iran again" and is using measures to disrupt societal calm and influence political and economic processes.

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Dutch Ambassador Summoned Over Smuggling of Banned Equipment

TEHRAN – Iran has lodged a formal protest with the Netherlands after a Dutch diplomat attempted to smuggle banned items into the country, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

The ministry summoned the Dutch ambassador to Tehran, Emiel Frederik Dupont, to convey "a strong protest" over the incident. Iranian officials said the seized cargo contained items prohibited under Iranian law.

"All procedures related to the

confiscated items were carried out in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, including Article 36(2), and all diplomatic protocols were observed," the ministry said.

Iran cited Article 41 of the 1961 Vienna Convention, which requires individuals enjoying diplomatic privileges and immunities to respect the laws of the host state and refrain from interfering in its internal affairs.

The ministry instructed the Dutch

ambassador to convey Tehran's protest to his government and to stress the need for Dutch diplomats to comply with international rules and respect Iran's laws.

Iranian media identified the first diplomat as Andre Van Feichen, describing him as a security and defense expert, and added he had past links to the United States, including providing reports on Iran to U.S. officials, according to documents published by WikiLeaks.

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Naval Flotilla Returns After 100-Day International Mission

TEHRAN -- Iran's 103rd naval flotilla has returned to the southeastern port city of Konarak after spending 100 days in international waters, the Iranian Navy said on Friday.

The flotilla included the Navy's Makran forward base ship, the Shahid Naqdi destroyer, and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' Shahid Mahdavi helicopter carrier.

It began its mission in early December to participate in the "Will for Peace" exercise in South Africa, covering roughly 13,000 nautical miles before docking in Konarak.

Flotilla commander Admiral Emad Nejad Moridi said nine countries took part in the South African drill. "Despite efforts to prevent Iran's participation, the flotilla maintained an effective and strong presence through active naval diplomacy," he said, adding that the main goal was to raise Iran's flag in international waters and convey the Islamic Republic's message of peace and friendship.

He added that Iranian naval forces would spare no effort to defend the country's maritime interests and borders "to the last breath."

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The Holy Qur'an

Among them are men who molest the Prophet and say, "He is (all) ear." Say, "He listens to what is best for you: he believes in Allah, has faith in the Believers, and is a Mercy to those of you who believe." But those who molest the Messenger will have a grievous penalty.

The Holy Qur'an (9:61)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:16
Evening (Maghreb)	18:16
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	06:35
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:12

Tehran Urges UN to Address Environmental Risks from U.S. Buildup

TEHRAN – Iran's vice president and head of the Department of Environment has raised concerns over the environmental consequences of U.S. military activities in the country's southern waters.

In a letter to UN chief Antonio Guterres on Friday, Shina Ansari warned that the U.S. military buildup and threats in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, a region dense with oil, gas, petrochemical, and marine infrastructure, endanger regional and global peace, security, and the environment.

"Experiences from previous military conflicts in the region — including attacks on oil and industrial facilities — have shown that the environmental consequences of such actions are not limited to a specific time or territory," Ansari said.

She highlighted that military confrontations can have long-term effects, including widespread oil pollution, the release of toxic substances, damage to coral ecosystems, and risks to the health of coastal communities.

Ansari cited international agreements including the 1972 Stockholm Declaration, the 1992 Rio Declaration, and the 1977 Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, noting that any military action causing widespread, severe, or long-term environmental damage may violate customary international obligations.

She also referred to the 1976 Environmental Modification Convention (ENMOD), which prohibits hostile use of environmental modification techniques with long-lasting or severe effects.

The vice president urged Guterres to prioritize environmental threats stemming from the intensified militarization of the region, citing his powers under Articles 99 and 34 of the UN Charter. She also called on UN agencies to assess potential environmental hazards and implement preventive measures.

Ramadhan Day-to-Day Supplications

10th day

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي فِيهِ مِنَ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ عَلَيْكَ، وَاجْعَلْنِي فِيهِ مِنَ الْبَائِضِينَ لِدَيْكَ، وَاجْعَلْنِي فِيهِ مِنَ الْمُقْرَبِينَ إِلَيْكَ، بِإِحْسَانِكَ يَا غَايَةَ الطَّالِبِينَ.

"O Allah, make me among those who trust You, successful in Your estimation, near to You. O Besought of the beseechers."