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IRGC Condemns Israeli Terrorism Over 1952 Kidnapping of Diplomats

TEHRAN -- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has once again held the Israeli regime accountable for the 1982 kidnapping of four Iranian diplomats in Lebanon, describing the act as a "terrorist" crime and demanding that international bodies take immediate action to clarify the fate of the missing diplomats.

In a statement marking the 43rd anniversary of the abduction, the IRGC emphasized that Israel bears "legal, political, and criminal" responsibility for the disappearance of the diplomats on July 4, 1982.

Ahmad Motovasselian, Iran's military attaché in Beirut, Mohsen Mousavi, the Iranian chargé d'affaires in Lebanon, Taqi Rastegar Moqaddam, an embassy staff member, and Kazem Akhavan, a photographer for the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), were abducted by Israeli-affiliated armed groups during Israel's military operations in Lebanon.

The IRGC once again asserted that the diplomats were handed over to Israeli forces and transferred to the occupied territories after their abduction. Iran has repeatedly called for the formation of a fact-finding mission by international organizations to determine their whereabouts and ensure justice.

The abduction took place amid Israel's invasion of southern Lebanon during the Lebanese Civil War. Iran's Foreign Ministry has consistently condemned the kidnapping as an "act of terrorism" and has urged the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other human rights bodies to take concrete steps to investigate the case, though Iran has voiced frustration with the lack of action over the past four decades.

The IRGC's statement also linked the anniversary to the broader regional context, referencing the recent military aggression and hitting out at Israel and the United States of initiating a "12-day war" against Iran. The statement argued that Iran's decisive response to the aggression exposed the "fragility" of the Israeli regime and its growing crisis of legitimacy.

The IRGC warned that Israel and its supporters would not escape responsibility for their past crimes, emphasizing that every act of aggression would further accelerate the collapse of the "fake" regime. It also commended Lebanon's efforts on the issue, urging the country to cooperate with international bodies to form a joint fact-finding committee to investigate the fate of the kidnapped diplomats.

Velayati: Iran Stands Firm on Nuclear, Technological Rights

TEHRAN -- Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, reaffirmed Iran's steadfast commitment to defending its legitimate rights in scientific development, particularly in the field of peaceful nuclear energy. His comments came in response to the recent 12-day military aggression led by the Israeli regime and supported by the United States.

Velayati emphasized that, despite Western and Israeli efforts to undermine the nation's progress, Iran would not relinquish its right to advance scientifically and technologically. The aggression, he noted, was justified by the Israeli-U.S. alliance under the guise of a resolution from the International Atom-

ic Energy Agency (IAEA), which had been formulated under intense Western pressure.

The senior advisor reaffirmed Iran's resolve, stating that the nation would continue its pursuit of scientific and technological independence, including its missile program and enrichment activities, within its borders. He declared that "no power can prevent the Iranian nation from achieving its legitimate rights."

Velayati underscored the Islamic Republic's intent to pursue legal and diplomatic avenues to address the crimes committed during the aggression, including through the United Nations.

He denounced the actions of Israel and the United States as clear

Pezeshkian Calls for Regional Solidarity at ECO Summit

President: Iran's Decisive Response Thwarted War Spread



President Pezeshkian addresses the 17th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit in Khankendi, Azerbaijan, June 4, 2025.

TEHRAN -- President Masoud Pezeshkian condemned Israel's recent 12-day military aggression against Iran during his speech at the 17th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit held in Khankendi, emphasizing that Iran's armed forces delivered a decisive response that thwarted the spread of war and firmly defended the nation's sovereignty.

Addressing heads of state and government officials from Central and South Asia, the Caucasus, and West Asia, Pezeshkian denounced Israel's criminal strikes, which targeted Iranian military commanders, university professors, civilians, peaceful nuclear facilities under international oversight, and critical public infrastructure.

The attacks, supported by the United States, flagrantly violated the United Nations Charter, including Article 2, paragraph 4, which prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, Pezeshkian said.

"In this war, the Iranian armed forces, acting in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, legitimately defended the country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty," Pezeshkian said. "They taught the aggressors a decisive lesson and prevented the con-

flict from spreading throughout the region."

Pezeshkian expressed gratitude to ECO member states and regional partners for their solidarity and support, noting that many international and regional organizations—including the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Islamic Countries—strongly condemned Israel's attacks.

"The 17th ECO Summit provides an important platform to highlight these recent aggressions and the wider regional and global threats they pose," he added.

Beyond condemning Israeli aggression, President Pezeshkian stressed ECO's critical role as a foundation for regional economic strength and cooperation. He called on member states to enhance trade, improve transit routes, and embrace new technologies to build a prosperous and resilient region.

Highlighting current challenges, Pezeshkian noted that intra-regional trade remains at only 8 percent, far below the organization's goals. He called for urgent efforts to revise and modernize the existing ECO trade agreement and launch negotiations to establish a free trade zone by 2035.

Improving transit infrastructure to benefit landlocked member states was another priority. "We must provide new privileges at en-

try and exit points to improve trade and transit efficiency," Pezeshkian said.

The president also proposed creating a regional center specializing in artificial intelligence within ECO to boost technological cooperation and competitiveness. Additionally, he highlighted tourism's potential as a growth sector, encouraging investments in the region's rich cultural and natural heritage.

Pezeshkian emphasized the need for resilience in facing crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, calling for both national and regional preparedness to ensure sustainable development. "Our 2035 Vision must seriously address these issues to secure stability and growth across member states," he said.

During the summit, Pezeshkian held bilateral meetings with several regional leaders, including Azerbaijan's Ilham Aliyev, Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Pakistan's Shehbaz Sharif, and Tajikistan's Emomali Rahmon. He emphasized that such diplomatic exchanges should extend beyond leaders to ministers and deputies to implement agreed understandings effectively.

Speaking with Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif, Pezeshkian reiterated

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'Israeli Strike on Evin Prison Unforgivable War Crime'

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, has condemned Israel's June 23 airstrike on Evin Prison, targeting the facility's hospital, which resulted in 79 deaths.

Baghaei labeled the attack a "flagrant atrocity" and hit out at Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for committing war crimes in Iran.

"With each passing day, new dimensions of Netanyahu's war crimes in Tehran and other Iranian cities targeted by the Israeli regime's aggression are displayed to the public," Baghaei wrote on X Saturday.

The airstrike, which occurred during visitation hours, killed prison staff, inmates, their families, and passersby, leaving victims "trapped and burned to death under the rubble."

Baghaei said "79 precious lives perished as the result of Israel's cruel war crime", adding the attack violated international law

and urged global condemnation of Israel.

"No person of good conscience can remain silent in the face of such cruelties that are grave violations of international humanitarian law and blatant war crimes," he said.

Judiciary spokesman Asghar Jahangiri described the airstrike as a "full-scale crime," highlighting the extensive physical and financial damage inflicted on the prison population and nearby residents.

The strike also hit the prison's medical center, causing further casualties during a critical time when inmates were meeting with their families and social workers.

The attack on Evin Prison is part of a broader pattern of Israeli aggression. On June 13, Israel targeted several high-ranking Iranian officials and key infrastructure, including nuclear sites and civilian facilities, causing over 900 civilian deaths.

The Holy Qur'an



Then did We raise up after him apostles to their people, so they came to them with clear arguments, but they would not believe in what they had rejected before; thus it is that We set seals upon the hearts of those who exceed the limits.

The Holy Qur'an (10.74)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:09
Evening (Maghreb)	19:44
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	04:55
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:00

Warning to Israel: U.S. Can't Save Netanyahu in Future Conflict

TEHRAN -- In a sharp warning to Israel and its allies, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Iran's Chief of Staff, declared that any future Israeli aggression would be met with a "paralyzing retaliation" so severe that even the United States would be unable to protect Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Addressing a ceremony in Tehran, Mousavi emphasized that Iran is prepared to implement retaliatory plans based on directives from Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

"If Israel attacks Iran again, they will witness what we are capable of. Even the U.S. won't be able to save Netanyahu," Mousavi stated, reaffirming Iran's readiness to respond decisively to any aggression.

The recent 12-day war began on June 13, when Israel launched a series of attacks against Iran. Despite U.S. military support, Iran's response was swift and overwhelming, targeting key Israeli infrastructure with hundreds of ballistic missiles and drones. Iran struck Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Be'er Sheva—Israel's economic hub, deep-water port, and tech center—forcing Israel to seek a ceasefire.

"By the end of the war, Israel was compelled to bow before us," Mousavi declared. "The resilience of our people and armed forces turned the tide in our favor, demonstrating the strength of Iran's resolve."

Iran's military officials, including IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Ali Muhammad Naeini, have made it clear that Iran will not observe any "red lines" in the event of a future Israeli attack. Naeini noted that Israel's aggression, which aimed to destroy Iran's capabilities, failed and that any further aggression would be met with crushing force.

"Iran's enemies miscalculated. We retaliated quickly and decisively, nullifying their plans," Naeini said Thursday. "If they strike again, we will respond without hesitation."

Mousavi emphasized that Iran's military actions are not just about retaliation, but about protecting the country's sovereignty and dignity. "Our people

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