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Envoy: U.S., Israeli Strikes on Iran Hit at Heart of NPT

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) — The U.S. and Israel have carried out deliberate attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities, which are under the supervision of the United Nations nuclear agency, Iran's ambassador to the UN said on Thursday.

"These attacks strike at the very heart of the NPT," said Amir-Saeid Iravani, Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, referring to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Speaking during a meeting marking the International Day against Nuclear Tests, Iravani condemned "reckless attacks by the Israeli regime and the United States against Iran's nuclear facilities."

He emphasized that the targeted facilities were "devoted exclusively to peaceful purposes in accordance with Article IV of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty" and "placed under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)."

"These acts constitute a direct assault on the foundations of multilateralism, undermine the confidence in arms control and non-proliferation frameworks, and pose a grave threat to international peace and security," Iravani said.

The Iranian envoy also raised concerns over attacks on Iranian cities hosting International Monitoring System (IMS) stations, which sup-

port global verification efforts under the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

"These unlawful actions jeopardize the safety and integrity of IMS facilities, endanger the lives of their technical personnel, and strike at the very infrastructure that underpins the global verification regime," he said.

Iravani called on the international community to "unequivocally condemn these actions, demand accountability for those who violate international law, and strengthen legal protections for nuclear installations."

He warned that targeting peaceful nuclear facilities threatens the delicate balance of the NPT, where non-nuclear-weapon states agree not to pursue nuclear weapons in exchange for the right to peaceful nuclear energy and nuclear-weapon states' commitment to disarmament.

"If peaceful nuclear facilities can no longer be considered safe from threat or use of force, what meaning remains in the guarantees the Treaty promises?" Iravani asked.

He urged global efforts "to stand resolutely against all nuclear dangers—whether through tests, threats, or attacks—and work tirelessly for a world in which nuclear energy serves only the advancement and dignity of humanity, never its destruction."

Official: Risk of War With Israel Remains High

TEHRAN -- An Iranian deputy foreign minister says the Israeli regime has failed to achieve its objectives in the recent war against Iran, noting that the Zionist regime's acts of aggression and the assassination of Iranian commanders provoked strong responses from Tehran.

Saeed Khatibzadeh spoke in an interview with an Iraqi television program about regional issues and bilateral relations between Tehran and Baghdad.

Addressing recent regional developments and Israeli actions against Iran, Khatibzadeh said that for over two years, the Zionist regime has violated international laws and diplomatic norms. He described the assassination of Iranian commanders as a crime and said Israel's strategy is largely based on targeted killings.

Following Israel's aggression against Iran's sovereignty, Tehran responded forcefully, he added. Khatibzadeh also hit out at Israel for using major media lobbies to spread false narratives and distort the truth.

He emphasized that the Zionist regime failed to meet its goals in the 12-day war against Iran. While Iran aims to prevent another war in the region, Khatibza-

deh acknowledged that the risk of war between Iran and Israel remains high.

The deputy foreign minister further noted that the war altered the situation on the ground, particularly regarding Iran's nuclear program. He said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was unable to fully protect Iran's nuclear facilities.

The war began on June 13 when Israel launched an unprovoked 12-day aggression targeting military, nuclear, and residential sites in Iran. On June 22, the United States escalated the war by striking three Iranian nuclear sites in Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan.

Iran's Armed Forces responded immediately and decisively. The IRGC Aerospace Force conducted 22 waves of retaliatory missile strikes under Operation True Promise III, causing significant damage and heavy losses to cities across the occupied territories.

In retaliation for the U.S. strikes, Iranian forces targeted Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia, with a missile barrage.

The confrontation ended on June 24 when a ceasefire was enforced under Iran's powerful missile strikes.

Araghchi Warns EU to Keep Diplomacy on Track



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi leaves a meeting with his German, French, and British counterparts and the EU in Geneva, June 20, 2025.

TEHRAN/DOHA (Dispatches) — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called on the European Union to fulfill its obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorses the 2015 nuclear deal, and to counter actions that undermine diplomacy.

Speaking on Thursday at a meeting in Doha with EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, who coordinates the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Araghchi stressed the importance of the body's role in neutralizing moves against diplomacy.

"It is expected that this body will fulfill its responsibility under the JCPOA and UN Security Council Resolution 2231 by playing a role in carrying out its duties and neutralizing moves against diplomacy," he said.

Araghchi condemned the recent attempts by Britain, France,

and Germany to reinstate revoked UN Security Council resolutions against Iran, describing these efforts as "illegal and unjustified."

The Iranian diplomat reaffirmed Tehran's steadfast commitment to diplomacy, saying the Islamic Republic remains serious about resolving outstanding issues through dialogue.

Kallas responded by emphasizing that negotiations remain the only viable path forward and called for more time to allow diplomacy to work.

The discussions also covered Iran's ongoing engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the latest developments related to its nuclear program. Both sides agreed to continue consultations in the coming weeks.

Last week, the European trio triggered the JCPOA's "snapback" mechanism to restore UN sanc-

tions on Iran, giving the Security Council 30 days to decide whether to maintain sanctions relief or allow them to lapse.

Iran, along with Russia and China, denounced the move as "legally and procedurally flawed," arguing that the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and Europe's failure to mitigate the fallout bar any use of snapback sanctions.

Araghchi also highlighted joint initiatives with Russia and China to counter the snapback, stating, "We will take every necessary step to make the world understand that this European move is illegal and lacks legitimacy."

He further praised President Pezeshkian's recent visit to China, calling it "one of the most important ones in our history," and noted that participation in China's military parade demonstrated solidarity with Beijing and opposition to global warmongering.

Tehran Cuts Diplomatic Ties With Australia, Expels Ambassador

TEHRAN -- Iran has reduced the level of Australia's diplomatic presence in Tehran in response to Canberra's decision to downgrade diplomatic relations, the spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs says.

"We do not welcome the reduction of relations because we believe there was no reason or justification for this action, and it affects the relations between the two nations," Esmail Baghaei said Thursday.

Baghaei confirmed the departure of the Australian ambassador from Iran, noting that the reciprocal move follows established diplomatic norms and international law.

"According to diplomatic customs and international law, in response to Australia's action, the Islamic Republic of Iran has also reduced the level of Australia's diplomatic presence in Iran," Baghaei said.

He added that despite the diplomatic constraints, Iran's consular section in Canberra remains operational and efforts continue to provide necessary consular services to Iranian nationals living in Australia.

Baghaei dismissed accusations of anti-Semitism against Iran as "ri-

diculous and baseless."

On August 25, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese alleged that Tehran was involved in what he called two anti-Semitic attacks in his country, ordering that the Iranian ambassador in Canberra - Ahmad Sadeghi - and three other diplomats must leave Australia within seven days.

Albanese announced that Australian diplomats had departed Tehran and were conducting their duties from a third country, with diplomatic operations at Australia's embassy suspended. He also urged Australians living in Iran to leave the country as soon as possible.

Baghaei rejected the accusations at the time, calling them "baseless" and "ridiculous" while vowing a "reciprocal response".

Dismissing the existence of any anti-Semitic inclinations across Iran's time-honored cultural, historical, and religious background, the spokesman said, "This phenomenon is a Western and European one."

"If you look at history, persecution of Jews because of their religion is a matter rooted in Europe; and it is they who must be held accountable for their historical past,

which has continued to this day," he said.

Baghaei said Canberra's decision was an attempt to justify its anti-Iranian policies and compensate for the limited and infrequent criticism of Israel recently expressed by some Australian politicians, including Albanese himself.

Last month, Albanese and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu became embroiled in a diplomatic dispute after the Australian prime minister announced that Australia would formally recognize Palestinian statehood and decided to cancel a visa for a right-wing Israeli minister's visit to Australia.

In response, Israel canceled visas for Australian diplomats assigned to the Palestinian Authority, while Netanyahu launched a sharp attack on Albanese, calling him a "weak leader."

Australian Minister for Home Affairs Tony Burke countered, saying true strength is not measured "by how many people you can blow up or how many children you can leave hungry" and described Netanyahu's criticism as part of Israel's "lashing out" against countries.

The Holy Qur'an



They will excuse themselves to you when you go back to them. Say: Urge no excuse, by no means will we believe you; indeed Allah has informed us of matters relating to you; and now Allah and His Apostle will see your doings, then you shall be brought back to the Knower of the unseen and the seen, then He will inform you of what you did.

The Holy Qur'an (9.94)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:03
Evening (Maghreb)	18:43
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:40
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	04:14

Iran Urges Security Council Members to Stop European Instigation

TEHRAN -- Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held separate phone conversations on Friday with his counterparts from Greece, Slovenia, and Sierra Leone — countries currently holding seats on the United Nations Security Council — to discuss bilateral relations and regional and international developments, particularly the recent anti-Iran move by the UK, France, and Germany at the Security Council.

According to Iran's Foreign Ministry, Araghchi criticized the "unjustified and illegal" attempt by the three European nations to reinstate previously lifted UN Security Council resolutions, calling the move "irresponsible."

He reaffirmed Iran's commitment to diplomacy, stressing that the Islamic Republic remains firm in defending its legitimate rights.

Araghchi also underscored the need for diplomatic solutions to resolve issues over Iran's peaceful nuclear program and called on the Security Council to support diplomacy and prevent unlawful measures and further escalation.

Foreign ministers George Gerapetritis of Greece, Tanja Fajon of Slovenia, and Alhaji Musa Timothy Kabba of Sierra Leone each expressed support for diplomatic solutions as the primary means of resolving international issues, emphasizing the importance of continued dialogue.