

UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) -- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met with French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday in New York following his speech at the 80th United Nations General Assembly, marking their first bilateral talks.

They discussed continued cooperation between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the disputed "snapback" mechanism aimed at reimposing UN sanctions on Tehran.

TEHRAN —Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, warned that Europe's attempt to activate the "snapback mechanism" to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran will only deepen Europe's global isolation. Speaking to Al Mayadeen, Velayati said the move exposes the West's long-standing hostility toward Iran and violates UN Security Council Resolution 2231. He described the mechanism as ineffective and merely a political propaganda tool aimed at pressuring Iran's resistance front and hindering its scientific and defense progress.

Viewpoint

Yemen's Holy Defence Against Israel's Aggression

The School Year That Began Without 34 Young Lives



Futsal Team Advances to Final Stage of Asian Cup



Dozens Killed in Expanding Israeli Invasion of Gaza City



President: Iran Will Not Bow to Aggression

At UN, Pezeshkian Decries 'Grave Betrayal of Diplomacy'

Says U.S., Israeli Attacks Strengthened Iran's Unity

TEHRAN/UNITED NATIONS — President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday vehemently condemned the Israeli and U.S. military strikes against Iran in June, branding a "grave betrayal of diplomacy and a subversion of efforts" to bring peace and stability to the region.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly, Pezeshkian outlined Tehran's stance amid escalating hostilities, diplomatic impasses, and worsening humanitarian crises across West Asia.

Pezeshkian detailed the June 13 Israeli surprise aggression, which targeted and killed Iranian generals, scientists and civilians, alongside bombing Iran's nuclear enrichment sites and air defense infrastructure.

He described the offensive as a "savage aggression in flagrant contravention of the most elementary principles of international law," underscoring the blatant disregard for Iran's sovereignty.

Following the Israeli attacks, Iran launched retaliatory missile and drone strikes on Israel. On June 22, the U.S. struck Iran's nuclear sites at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, employing massive bunker-busting bombs in what Pezeshkian characterized as an unlawful assault on "internationally monitored facilities."

These actions, he said, came precisely when Iran was "treading the path of diplomatic negotiations," thereby dealing a severe blow to hopes for a peaceful resolution.

"This aggression was a grave betrayal of diplomacy and a direct attempt to undermine efforts toward establishing stability and peace in our region," Pezeshkian said, emphasizing that the attacks also targeted civilians, including women, children, and scientists — an affront to fundamental human rights and international law.

Drawing upon religious and ethical principles shared across cultures, Pezeshkian appealed to the assembly's moral conscience.

Quoting teachings from Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Eastern philosophy, he reminded delegates of the universal principle: "Do unto



President Pezeshkian holds up a book featuring images and names of martyrs from the 12-day U.S.-Israeli aggression in his UN General Assembly speech in New York on Wednesday.

others as you would have them do unto you." During his speech, Pezeshkian held up a book featuring images and names of martyrs from the 12-day Sacred Defense.

"The killings were carried out by Israel, who have sown insecurity and instability. They have continued this pattern by killing 35,000 innocent people in Gaza," he said, linking the violence in Gaza to broader regional instability caused by Israel.

He questioned whether the international community could accept a world where inno-

cent children and civilians were systematically killed, homes destroyed, and basic human rights violated under the guise of self-defense.

"Over the past two years, the world has witnessed genocide in Gaza, the destruction of homes, repeated violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity in Lebanon, the devastation of Syrian infrastructure, and assaults on the people of Yemen," he said.

"Forced starvation of weak children in the arms of their mothers, blatant breaches of national sovereignty, and the direct targeting

of peoples and nations have been carried out with the unconditional support of the most powerful armed government in the world."

He challenged the assembly: "Who disrupts the stability of the region and the world? Who poses a threat to international peace and security? Who violates the golden rule of human ethics?"

Pezeshkian criticized Britain, Germany, and France for attempting to restore UN sanctions on Iran through the "snapback" mechanism, despite the 2015 nuclear deal — the Joint

Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) — which lifted many of these sanctions.

He said these European powers are acting in "bad faith," falsely portraying themselves as committed parties to the agreement while dismissing Iran's "sincere efforts" as insufficient.

"This unlawful move by these countries, pressured and orchestrated by the United States, lacks legitimacy and international support," he said, reiterating that Iran has "never and will never seek to build a nuclear bomb," reaffirming the country's uranium enrichment activities as strictly for peaceful purposes.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, meanwhile, rejected any direct talks with the U.S. on nuclear matters, calling them a "dead end" and vowing not to "surrender to pressure," as Tehran braces for the potential reimposition of UN sanctions.

Pezeshkian reflected on Iran's historical resilience, describing the country as one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations that has withstood centuries of turmoil and invasion.

"Iran, the oldest continuous civilization in the world, has always stood firm against the storms of history. This nation, with a great spirit and eternal will, has repeatedly proven that it does not bow before invaders; and today, relying on the power of faith and national unity, it stands proudly against the aggressors."

He emphasized that the recent 12-day war in June, despite Israel's surprise military aggression and the U.S.-led strikes, only strengthened Iran's national unity and resolve.

"In the face of the harshest economic sanctions, psychological warfare, and sustained efforts to sow division, the Iranian people stood united with their brave armed forces from the very first bullet fired on their soil," he said. "The sacrifices of our martyrs will never be forgotten."

He expressed gratitude to nations and international

(Continued on Page 7)

Iran, Russia Sign Landmark Nuclear Power Plant Deal

MOSCOW/TEHRAN — Russia and Iran on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the construction of small nuclear power plants in Iran, marking a significant step in Tehran's efforts to develop its peaceful nuclear energy sector.

The agreement was finalized in Moscow by Rosatom CEO Alexei Likhachev and Iran's Vice President and head of the Atomic Energy Organization, Muhammad Eslami.

Rosatom described the initiative as a "strategic project" that will enhance Iran's energy infrastructure and support its sustainable development goals.

Speaking to Iranian media earlier this week, Eslami outlined plans to build eight new nuclear power plants, aiming to increase Iran's nuclear energy capacity to 20 gigawatts (GW) by 2040. Currently, Iran operates a single nuclear power plant in Bushehr, built with Russian assistance, with a capacity of approximately 1 GW.

Iran faces chronic electricity shortages during peak demand periods, and the expansion of nuclear energy is seen as vital to meeting the country's growing energy needs while advancing environmental sustainability.

The new cooperation comes at a critical juncture as Iran faces renewed economic sanctions following the United Nations Security Council's recent decision not to permanently lift sanctions related to its nuclear program.

Russia, alongside China and others, voted against the reimposition of sanctions, emphasizing diplomatic engagement and respect for Iran's sovereign right to peaceful nuclear technology.

Tehran has consistently maintained that its nuclear program is exclusively for peaceful purposes, reaffirming its commitment to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) framework, despite challenges posed by unilateral sanctions and withdrawal from the deal by the United States in 2018.

Iranian officials have criticized the "snapback" mechanism activated

(Continued on Page 7)

Yemen's Drone Penetrates Israeli Defenses, Strikes Eilat

SANA'A (Dispatches) — At least 23 people were wounded after a drone crashed and exploded in the southern occupied port city of Eilat, Israeli media reported, citing Israel's ambulance service. Two of the injured were reported to be in critical condition.

The Israeli Army Radio said the drone flew at a low altitude, making it difficult for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system to intercept it. According to Israel Hayom, initial investigations revealed that multiple air defense systems failed to prevent the drone's penetration.

Videos circulated on social media showed the drone flying over Eilat before a loud explosion was heard, followed by rising smoke columns.

Israel's military stated that the drone was launched by Yemen's Ansarullah, marking the latest escalation in the resistance movement's retaliatory operations.

Ansarullah has launched numerous drones and missiles at Israeli targets since late 2023,

expressing solidarity with Palestinians under siege in Gaza.

In a recent incident days earlier, Ansarullah fired a drone that crashed in Eilat's hotel zone, causing material damage but no casualties.

Ansarullah and allied Yemeni forces have also targeted Israeli-linked vessels in the Red Sea since November 2023, condemning the blockade and bombardment of Gaza and Israeli military actions.

Despite a ceasefire agreed in May following weeks of U.S.-led bombardment in Yemen, Ansarullah stated it would continue attacks on Israeli-linked ships and Israeli territory.

The operations have intensified after Israel airstrikes targeting Yemeni territory, including assassinating senior members of the Sana'a-based administration, including the prime minister.

The latest drone attack demonstrates the continued resolve of Yemeni forces in their campaign of resistance and solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

Italy Dispatches Frigate to Support Humanitarian Mission Israeli Drones Attack Gaza-Bound Sumud Flotilla

ROME (Dispatches) — Italy's Defense Minister Guido Crosetto has taken a bold step to support the Global Sumud Flotilla, dispatching a navy frigate to assist the humanitarian mission after several flotilla vessels were reportedly attacked by drones off the coast of Greece.

The flotilla, composed of activists from over 45 countries, including notable figures such as Swedish environmentalist Greta Thunberg, is on a peaceful mission to break Israel's illegal naval blockade of Gaza and deliver desperately needed humanitarian aid.

Late Tuesday, activists aboard the flotilla reported hearing more than a dozen explosions around their boats, caused by unidentified objects dropped onto the decks. The attacks severely damaged some vessels and disrupted their communications, endangering more than 500 unarmed civilians aboard.

Crosetto expressed "the strongest condemnation" of the at-

tacks, calling for immediate action to protect the activists. He authorized the deployment of the Italian Navy's multi-purpose frigate Fasan, which was already near Crete as part of Operation Safe Sea, to the area for possible rescue and assistance.

The Global Sumud Flotilla set sail earlier this month from Barcelona with the clear humanitarian goal of challenging the suffocating Israeli blockade on Gaza — a blockade condemned by international human rights organizations as a form of collective punishment against millions of Palestinians trapped in Gaza.

Israel has a long history of forcibly intercepting and preventing aid flotillas from reaching Gaza, including violent raids on ships in international waters. It claims that allowing any vessels to approach Gaza is dangerous due to ongoing hostilities, dismissing the pleas of activists who emphasize the urgent need to deliver

(Continued on Page 7)