

TEHRAN -- Iran's top security official Ali Larijani expressed gratitude to Russia for its support at the United Nations Security Council against Western efforts to reimpose economic sanctions on Tehran.

Speaking here during a meeting with Russian presidential envoy Alexander Lavrentiev, Larijani praised Russia's consistent cooperation, particularly its rejection of the so-called "snapback" mechanism to restore nuclear-related sanctions. Russia and China have jointly denounced and refused to recognize the sanctions reinstated by the UK, France, and Germany in August, backing Iran's position amid ongoing tensions over the 2015 nuclear deal.

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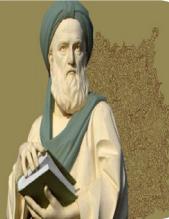
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**Viewpoint**

**The Unbreakable Bond of the Iranian & Iraqi People**

**Beyhaqi, Father of Persian Prose, Celebrated in Sabzevar**



**U-23 Greco-Roman Wrestlers Take Two Golds at World Championships**



**Hamas Moves to Eradicate Gangs Aiding Israeli Forces in Gaza**



## Mossad Network Behind Anti-Iran Media War Exposed

TEHRAN -- Iranian intelligence officials have disclosed the results of an operation that identified the residences of several individuals linked to Israel's intelligence agency Mossad and associated with the London-based Persian-language channel "Iran International," waging an information war against the Islamic Republic.

The disclosure, broadcast widely on Iranian media, included footage revealing the homes of several journalists and commentators working for or regularly appearing on the "Iran International" network. Many of these residences are located in the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel.

Among those named was Babak Es'haghi, a reporter for Iran International, whose residence was identified on Fabregat Street in the occupied city of Holon near Tel Aviv. Also named was Meir Javedanfar, a regular guest on the channel known for defending Israeli policies, whose home was located in Tel Aviv.

Another individual identified was Menashe Amir, born Manouchehr Sachmehchi in Tehran prior to Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Amir, who has resided in the occupied territories for decades, is a broadcaster linked

to Israeli regime media and the foreign ministry, and has openly acknowledged ties to Mossad.

The broadcast also named Israeli military spokesperson Kamal Penhasi, known for his public declarations supporting Israeli military aggression, with his residence also located in Holon. Iranian intelligence said his movements are under close surveillance.

In addition to naming individuals, Iranian media released images of a building on Degania Street in Holon that reportedly houses staff affiliated with Iran International.

Following the October 2023 Israeli military campaign in Gaza, which resulted in an estimated 20,000 Palestinian deaths, Menashe Amir sparked outrage by dismissing the violence as falling short of genocide. The remarks drew condemnation even from some Iranian opposition figures abroad, who called for a boycott of the channel, labeling it a "terrorist entity" and accusing it of spreading disinformation.

Barak Ravid, a journalist with American news site Axios, previously asserted on social media that Mossad regularly uses Iran International to advance its information warfare objectives.

## Israel Passes Annexation as Vance Lands



**U.S. vice-president JD Vance and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu look at a proclamation made by Donald Trump recognizing Al-Quds as the so-called capital of Israel, Oct. 22, 2025 in Occupied Al-Quds.**

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- As U.S. Vice President JD Vance landed in Tel Aviv, ostensibly to advance a Gaza ceasefire agreement brokered by the Trump administration, the Israeli Knesset was quietly taking a monumental step: passing a preliminary reading of a bill to annex large parts of the occupied West Bank.

The timing could hardly have been more telling — while Washington touts peace and de-escalation, Tel Aviv is fast-tracking a

formal annexation that could extinguish any remaining hope for Palestinian sovereignty and deepen the decades-long occupation.

The bill, introduced by Avi Maoz of the far-right Noam party and supported by Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beiteinu faction, passed by the narrowest margin: 25 votes in favor, 24 against. It aims to apply Israeli law and control over settlements in "Judea and Samaria," the illegal entity's preferred terminology for the

West Bank — territory internationally recognized as occupied Palestinian land since 1967.

A parallel bill proposing to annex Maale Adumim, a large settlement near Al-Quds, also cleared a preliminary vote. Despite strong objections from prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's own Likud party, the legislative momentum for annexation is undeniable.

Last month, Israel's finance minister and de facto West Bank governor Bezalel Smotrich laid bare the regime's ambitions with a plan to annex virtually the entire territory, sparing only six isolated Palestinian enclaves that include major cities like Ramallah, Nablus, and Hebron.

Smotrich's chilling formula is to seize "maximum land with minimum [Palestinian] population," effectively dismantling the Palestinian Authority and replacing it with "regional civilian management alternatives" that would serve Israeli interests. Resistance from the Palestinian Authority (PA), he warned, would be "destroyed."

It is in this context that Vice President JD Vance's visit exposes Washington's contradictory and complicit role. Officially, Vance's mission is to "advance the ceasefire" between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, a fragile truce that took effect just weeks ago after brutal Israeli airstrikes killed nearly 90 Palestinians and assassinated top Hamas commanders.

Yet Vance's rhetoric and actions betray a far more cynical reality. Speaking alongside Netanyahu, Vance claimed U.S. officials were not "monitoring a toddler" but "working at something historic" — yet he made no serious effort to hold Israel accountable for violations of the ceasefire, including

assassinations and severe restrictions on humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Since the truce, less than 15 percent of the promised 6,600 aid trucks have been allowed into the blockaded territory, exacerbating a dire humanitarian crisis.

Further undermining claims of U.S. impartiality, Vance repeated Trump-era threats against Hamas, declaring that if the group did not cooperate, it would be "obliterated." This threatening posture essentially endorses ongoing Israeli military aggression under the guise of ceasefire maintenance.

Even more striking was Vance's dismissal of Israel's critics as "hogwash," including assertions that Israel acts as a U.S. client state — an allegation with considerable merit given the scale and nature of American military, diplomatic, and financial support to Israel.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu bragged of "putting the knife to Hamas's throat" and praised the U.S. for isolating Hamas in the Arab and Muslim world.

The contrast between Washington's stated commitment to peace and the realities on the ground could not be starker. As The New York Times reports, there is internal concern within the Trump administration that Netanyahu might renege on the ceasefire agreement altogether.

Given the parallel push for annexation — which would formally codify Israel's control over vast swaths of Palestinian land and further entrench the occupation — such fears are well-founded.

Washington's dual track — public calls for calm and behind-the-scenes enabling of Israeli expansionism — exposes the U.S. role as not a neutral broker but an enabler of settler-colonialism.

The timing of the annexation bill's passage during Vance's visit serves as a brazen signal to Palestinians and the international community that Israel intends to move ahead with its colonial ambitions regardless of diplomatic overtures.

The annexation plan would deal a death blow to the Palestinian quest for statehood. By absorbing the settlements and most surrounding territory into illegal Israel proper, it would isolate Palestinian population centers into disconnected enclaves — a fragmentation that makes any viable, contiguous Palestinian state impossible.

Moreover, Smotrich's plan to dismantle the Palestinian Authority threatens to destabilize an already fragile political order. The "regional civilian management alternatives" he proposes would likely amount to direct Israeli rule

## Trump Expands Colonial War to Venezuela

scores of those on board. These strikes, however, raise serious questions about their legality and underlying motivations.

Trump has labeled Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro as a narco-terrorist and head of the notorious "Cartel de los Soles," a group accused by the U.S. government of drug trafficking and corruption.

By designating Maduro as a terrorist leader, Trump has justified covert CIA operations authorized by a classified "finding" that enables aggressive actions against the Venezuelan regime.

Yet, as The Washington Post highlights, the vast majority of fentanyl and other illicit drugs entering the United States actually come through Mexico and the Pacific coast — not through the Caribbean or Venezuela.

Experts argue that the U.S. strikes on Venezuelan vessels are less about cutting off drug supplies and more about exerting political pressure to topple Maduro's government.

According to Juan Gonzalez, former National Security Council senior director for Western Hemisphere affairs, the possibility of

full-scale military intervention looms ominously.

Critics of Trump's policy denounce these moves as a dangerous form of colonial adventurism, reminiscent of earlier U.S. interventions throughout Latin America under the guise of protecting American interests.

Historian and Latin America analyst Andrei Serbin Pont observes that Venezuela's military purchases from Russia, China, and Iran are largely symbolic and incapable of deterring a U.S. incursion, highlighting the asymmetrical nature of the conflict.

Yet, the Trump administration's public silence and lack of transparency surrounding these operations stoke fears of mission creep — a gradual expansion from alleged drug interdiction into regime change.

This opaque approach has unsettled even senior military leaders. Admiral Alvin Holsey resigned abruptly as head of the U.S. Southern Command, reportedly in protest of the Caribbean operations, raising concerns about potential violations of international law.

Observers fear the Trump ad-

ministration has unleashed a military campaign lacking clear objectives and legal justification, endangering regional stability for dubious political gains.

The Washington Post notes that Trump's intensifying focus on Latin America comes amid a broader attempt to pivot U.S. foreign policy toward the Western Hemisphere.

However, this shift is marred by contradictions: while military actions escalate in the Caribbean, Trump simultaneously courts authoritarian allies in the region, such as Argentine President Javier Milei, whose election prospects have been linked by Trump to promises of billions in U.S. aid.

Meanwhile, relations with leftist leaders like Colombia's Gustavo Petro deteriorate, with Trump threatening to cut military aid and impose tariffs, further destabilizing longstanding alliances.

Venezuela's response has been resolute. Maduro's government has mobilized millions into civilian militias and reinforced coastal defenses.

Public statements by Maduro and Defense Minister Vladimir

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## Snapback 'Fabricated' by West, Says Iran

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Wednesday dismissed Western claims about the "snapback" mechanism in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) as "fabricated," saying the term does not appear in the agreement's text.

Baghaei said Iran fulfilled its JCPOA commitments in good faith despite distrust from other parties. He criticized the U.S. and its allies for triggering the snapback to reinstate UN sanctions, calling Washington's unilateral actions "bullying" that threaten international peace and security. Iran declared the JCPOA and related UN restrictions over after the expiration of Resolution 2231.

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