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‘Modern Caligula’: Trump Renews Threat to ‘Annihilate’ Iran

TEHRAN – Iran on Thursday lashed out at U.S. President Donald Trump’s dismissal of the human cost of war, warning that the assertion “it doesn’t matter” because everyone dies “anyway” reflects a “modern nihilism” that risks turning death into a justification for indifference to human suffering.

In a post on his X account, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei was responding to comments by U.S. media personality and former Fox News host Tucker Carlson about a conversation he said he had with Trump in the Oval Office days before the war began.

Carlson said he warned Trump that the war was not about Iran’s nuclear program and that Israel was pushing the United States toward war.

“I said this to Trump to his face in the Oval Office, days before the war began. And he looked at me and said: ‘Yes, you’re right. But in the end, we all die anyway. So it doesn’t matter.’ That’s exactly what he said,” Carlson stressed.

Baghaei said the remark “echoes Albert Camus’s Caligula at the exact moment existential ‘absurdity’ curdles into tyranny — where the ‘inevitability of death’ is used to strip the living of their value.”

“The terrifying difference today is leverage. Caligula had only the primitive tools of Rome; modern nihilism commands vast stockpiles of mass destruction,” he stressed.

“The greatest geopolitical danger is not a leader confronting mortality. It is a system that uses the inevitability of death to justify indifference to human suffering. ‘We all die’ is a fact; ‘so it doesn’t matter’ is the leap where existential dread becomes a political weapon,” Baghaei wrote.

He also warned against attempts to appease such an approach. “Those who think they can appease Caligula forget that the absurd recognizes no rule or contract. Appeasement buys no safety — it merely negotiates the order of the victims,” he said.

In an interview with Time magazine published Thursday, Trump was directly confronted over his repeated threats to “annihilate” Iran and the contradiction with his self-description as a “president of peace.”

Asked how a president of peace could call for the annihilation of

an entire people, Trump said: “Because by annihilating Iran, we’ve created peace in the world. With Iran, I don’t think you could ever have peace.”

Trump’s remarks come despite Iran never having been found to be building a nuclear weapon. The International Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly confirmed the peaceful purposes of Iran’s nuclear facilities, and U.S. intelligence assessments have repeatedly found no evidence Iran had decided to build a nuclear weapon.

Acting Defense Minister Brigadier General Majid Ebn-e-Reza dismissed Trump’s new claim that Iran’s military has been obliterated, warning that his “imaginary war dramas” cannot conceal the reality that U.S. forces are exhausted.

“Do not hide the confusion in the White House behind imaginary war dramas,” Ebn-e-Reza wrote on X Thursday. “Public pressure, the exhaustion of U.S. forces, and the rising costs of war have thrown your calculations into disarray.”

Trump claimed in the Time interview that “their navy is gone. Their air force is gone. Everything’s gone,” adding that “159 ships are at the bottom of the sea.”

Iranian judicial authorities said the overwhelming majority of vessels destroyed were civilian fishing boats, not military targets.

“Claims of the destruction of the defense industry change nothing,” Ebn-e-Reza responded. “You will see Iranian capability and initiative on the battlefield and will feel its political impact.”

Putin: World ‘Amazed’ by Iranian Nation’s Heroism Against U.S., Israel



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to a plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club in Moscow, October 1, 2026.

MOSCOW -- Russian President Vladimir Putin has praised Iran’s response to U.S. and Israeli aggression, saying the whole world is “amazed” by the Iranian nation’s “courage, heroism and resilience.”

Speaking Thursday at the plenary session of the 23rd annual meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club in Moscow, Putin pointed to a deep “bench” of high-level figures in Iran’s administration, armed forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, “people ready for self-sacrifice in the name of their people.”

The remarks come months after the United States and Israel launched an unprovoked war of aggression against Iran, assassinating senior political and military leaders while Tehran was engaged in indirect talks with Washington.

Putin called the assassination of Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, a

tremendous mistake, saying Larijani was “ready to seek mutually acceptable compromises.”

He added Moscow’s offer to receive Iran’s enriched uranium remains on the table, and expressed hope the Strait of Hormuz would reopen and illegal sanctions lifted.

Separately, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh told Russia-1 television in Moscow that the world is moving away from U.S. hegemony and that independent countries must unite against Washington’s “blatant use of force.”

He pointed to BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as offering “hopes for creating a fairer world based on accepted rules,” adding that Washington “has even turned the dollar into a weapon against all of us.”

Iran, Russia and China, Khatibzadeh said, must stand together

against U.S. attempts to impose political and economic dictates on other countries through “blatant use of force.”

“The world is changing,” the Iranian diplomat said, adding that the world was moving away from “American hegemony and its lawlessness.”

He condemned Washington for attacking countries, violating international law, imposing sanctions and seeking to change the political structures of other states.

“We are in a new environment where independent countries have only one choice, and that is to unite against this defiance and lawlessness.”

Khatibzadeh said Tehran-Moscow ties are now pursued at the level of a strategic partnership, citing cooperation in economic, political, security, military and cultural fields.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION TRUE PROMISE II IRGC Declares Era of Cost-Free Threats Against Iran Over

TEHRAN -- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps declared on Friday that the era of cost-free threats against Iran has ended, warning that any aggression will draw a “painful and regret-inducing” response as it marked the second anniversary of Operation True Promise II.

In a statement, the IRGC called the 2024 operation a “historic and lasting epic,” saying the IRGC Aerospace Force demonstrated Iran’s resolve to avenge the assassinations of resistance commanders — including Ismail Haniyeh, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Brigadier

General Abbas Nilforoushan — by striking the heart of the occupied territories with waves of precision missiles and drones.

The operation, it said, exposed the “humiliating collapse” of the Israeli regime’s “hollow power” and delivered a clear message: “the era of cost-free threats is over and any aggression will be followed by a painful and regret-inducing response.”

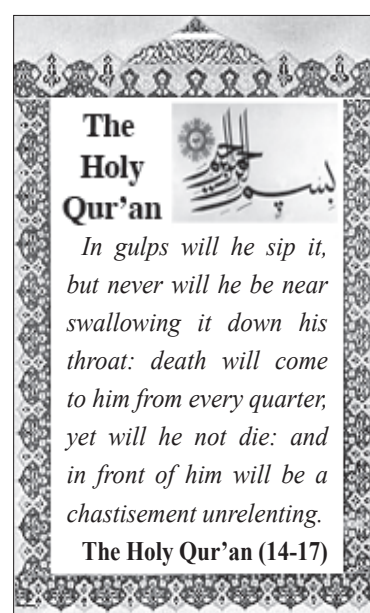
The IRGC credited the “astounding power” of Iran’s armed forces during the 12-day and 40-day imposed wars with forcing Wash-

ington to beg for a ceasefire. It pledged to remain “with its finger on the trigger,” ready to respond more lethally than Operation True Promise II to any miscalculation by the United States and its regional proxies.

Separately, Brigadier General Muhammad-Reza Naghdi, a senior advisor to the IRGC chief commander, said Washington has already deployed the full extent of its military capabilities against Iran without success.

“If the Americans act according

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PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	11:54
Evening (Maghreb)	18:03
Dawn (Fajr) “Tomorrow”	06:00
Sunrise “Tomorrow”	04:37

UK Ambassador Summoned Over ‘Contemptible’ Airbase Plot Claims

TEHRAN -- Iran on Thursday summoned Britain’s ambassador to Tehran to protest “baseless” accusations linking Tehran to an alleged incident at a British airbase and to demand London answer for its participation in military aggression against Iran, the foreign ministry said.

Hugo Shorter, Britain’s ambassador to Tehran, was summoned by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht-Ravanchi following accusations by British Prime Minister Andy Burnham against Iran, the ministry said in a statement.

Takht-Ravanchi said the recent propaganda campaign by the British government, which has made baseless accusations under the pretext of an alleged sabotage attempt at Fairford airbase, “cannot in any way overshadow Britain’s complicity in the military aggression against the Iranian people.”

He stressed Britain’s international responsibility for multiple unlawful actions against the Iranian people, particularly the provision of military bases and facilities under British jurisdiction for the preparation and implementation of U.S.-Israeli military aggression against Iran.

“The British government must be held accountable for its participation in the crime of aggression and the war crimes committed by the United States and the Zionist regime,” he added.

Takht-Ravanchi dismissed as “baseless and contemptible” the British officials’ claim linking the alleged sabotage plot to Iran, and underscored the need for an official explanation from the British government and a correction of its inappropriate approach toward Iran, IRNA reported.

The British ambassador said he would convey Iran’s protest to London.

The summon follows an alleged incident on Sunday near RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, after police received reports of three suspicious vehicles near the airbase. Five British nationals were allegedly arrested on suspicion of

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Iran Slams Canada’s Silence on Unmarked Graves of Indigenous Children

TEHRAN -- Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Friday slammed Canada’s observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, saying a commemorative occasion does not resolve outstanding questions about Indigenous children who were removed from their families and subjected to forced assimilation.

In a post on X, Baghaei said the fate of Canada’s Indigenous children continues to weigh on the world’s conscience. He said they were separated from their families, deprived of their names, languages, cultures and identities,

and placed in a system of forced assimilation in which many suffered abuse.

Canada marked the annual day on September 30 to honor residential school survivors and remember children who never returned home.

Baghaei said reconciliation cannot be confined to a single day or reduced to political rhetoric, writing that it remains incomplete while serious questions go unanswered and the history of residential schools is contested or obscured.

He said the suffering of Indig-

enous children should not be treated as a culture war, but as a question of historical truth and accountability.

Questions surrounding unmarked graves, he added, require evidence, transparency and an honest review of the historical record rather than denial or silence, concluding that there can be no reconciliation without truth and no justice without accountability.

The residential school system forcibly separated more than 150,000 First Nations, Inuit and Metis children from their families over more than a century. The

Truth and Reconciliation Commission heard testimony from more than 6,600 survivors and witnesses before concluding in 2015 that the system formed part of a state-supported policy of cultural genocide.

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation said in September 2025 that it had verified 1,143 additional names of children who died as a result of the residential school system, while updating information on more than 1,000 other students after examining historical records and survivor and family testimony.