

'Right to self-defense': Netanyahu threatens Iran

The embattled premier did not stop there, warning that Israel is entitled to defend itself and that nothing will stop it. There are several issues worth mentioning in Netanyahu's direct threat against Iran. First of all, Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog arrived at agreements that could pave the way for resolving long-running Safeguards disputes. Obviously, the agreements would incense those who do not want the relations between Iran and the IAEA to improve.



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Secondly, Bibi Netanyahu is posing a direct threat against a sovereign nation, which is a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter. It is time for international organizations, especially the UN Security Council, to put an end to Israel's extremism and threats against an independent country. While Tel Aviv is responsible for assassinating several Iranian nuclear scientists and sabotaging its nuclear sites, international organizations have scarcely condemned such barbaric acts. Grossi has taken a fair, balanced, and logical position, while Netanyahu is slaughtering the world's top nuclear official.

Thirdly, Netanyahu has taken it upon himself to ridicule a UN official by calling Grossi's remarks "unworthy". There would be a lot to discuss if the UN does not take a stand against such mockeries.

Another issue worth noting is that Israel, which is not an IAEA member, possesses hundreds of nuclear warheads and is not a member of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), is threatening Iran. Israel has made countless accusations against Iran's nuclear program – a program that the IAEA has verified as peaceful time and again. Yet, no international organization dares to inspect Israel's nuclear activities. Sheer hypocrisy. It is high time Netanyahu learned a lesson.



● IRNA

The spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) elaborated on the issues agreed between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) during a visit by the agency chief to Tehran. Behrouz Kamalvandi provided the details in an interview with IRNA published on Sunday, saying the latest agreements reached between Tehran and the IAEA during Rafael Grossi's visit comply with the strategic law passed by the Iranian Parliament in December 2020, Press TV reported. Issuing a statement on Saturday, the AEOI and

the IAEA affirmed they had agreed to take steps to enhance cooperation and expedite the resolution of outstanding safeguards issues between the two sides. The statement was released at the end of Grossi's two-day visit to Iran, during which he met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and AEOI President Mohammad Eslami. The two sides agreed that bilateral interactions will be carried out in a spirit of collaboration, with Iran expressing readiness to continue its cooperation and provide further infor-

AEOI expounds on agreements with IAEA

mation to the agency to address the outstanding safeguards issues.

Kamalvandi said, "These agreements [with the IAEA] are in no way in contravention of the Parliament's strategic law and will be followed up on in total conformity with this law."

The law, dubbed the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions, was adopted by Iranian lawmakers to counter sanctions imposed on Iran by the United States and its Western allies, and promote the country's peaceful nuclear program.

Under the Parliament's law, the Iranian administration is required to restrict the IAEA's inspections and accelerate the development of the country's nuclear program beyond the limits set under the 2015 nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), such as ending the volun-

tary implementation of the Additional Protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The AEOI spokesman rejected allegations that Iran has agreed to give the agency access to certain people, saying, "During the two days that Mr. Grossi and his accompanying delegation were in Iran, no discussion was made of access to people and no text was drawn up on this issue."

"Of course, even if such a request had been made, it would have been definitely turned down [by Iran]." Kamalvandi also explained about a 50 percent increase in the IAEA's inspections of Iran's nuclear sites, saying, "Since [uranium] enrichment to 60 percent purity level had been started for the first time at Fordo [nuclear] facility, the number of inspections had to increase in line with the safeguards [agreement between Iran and the

agency]."

"Basically, when the enrichment level increases or more sensitive materials are introduced into a facility, the number of inspections increases based on a mutual agreement between the two sides." Therefore, the spokesman said, the number of Fordo inspections, which previously stood at eight, was increased to 11 in view of the increased level of enrichment there.

The AEOI spokesman also rejected allegations about an agreement with the agency on access to the alleged "three locations" as many times as the agency demanded, saying, "No discussion was made about the frequency of [the IAEA's] access to three alleged locations. "In view of the previous access to these locations, more extensive access [to them] does not seem to be necessary, and the agency has made no request [in this regard] so far."



● IRNA

Iran: US in no position to advocate human rights

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the United States is in no position to advocate human rights or democracy, recounting the White House's record of supporting political systems based on institutionalized racial segregation and discrimination, namely South Africa's dismantled apartheid regime and the Tel Aviv regime.

Nasser Kanaani wrote in a post published on his Twitter page on Sunday that US officials used to back apartheid, which was enforced in South Africa from 1948 to 1994, and that the Central Intelli-

gence Agency (CIA) assisted the then all-white government of the country to arrest late anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela, who was also the first president of South Africa, according to Press TV.

"Today, it is the strategic ally and supporter of the apartheid Zionist regime," he pointed out.

Kanaani emphasized that the United States is in no position to advocate democracy and human rights, as it does not hold any beliefs in them at all. In December, Kanaani took a swipe at the West for its shameful record of political use of human

rights, saying the United States is neither morally nor legally competent to comment on human rights in the other countries.

He made the remark in a string of tweets on December 1, 2022 as he attached to his posts a picture of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who murdered African-American George Floyd during a violent arrest in May 2020, and the merciless torture of inmates at the infamous US-run Guantanamo prison.

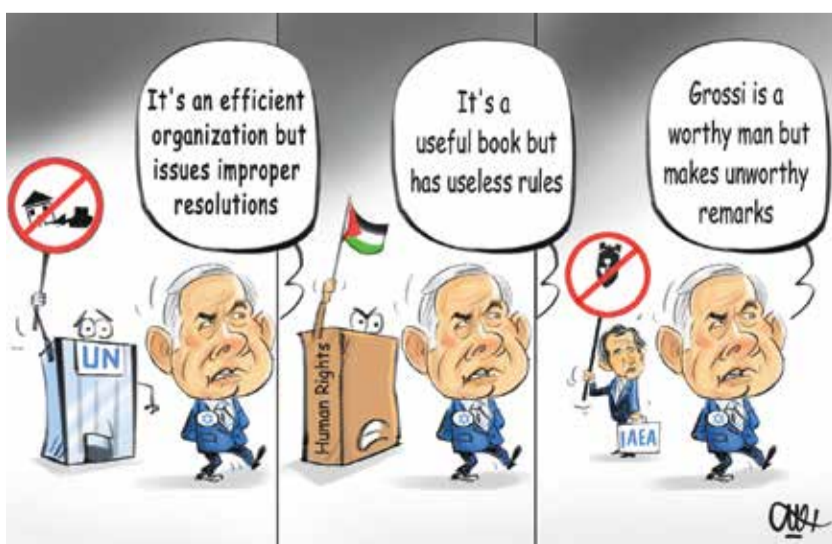
"Those with record of committing crimes against other nations and backing an occupier and

terrorist regime, don't have moral/legal right to comment on human rights in other countries. HR is a sacred value and Iran believes that it's Islamic, humane, legal and moral imperative to promote it," the spokesman said.

"Those HR violators had better look at their own shameful record and stop political and instrumental use of human rights. US government and many other self-proclaimed advocates of human rights are convicted in the court of human conscience because of their despicable historical conduct," he added.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



MP: Iran sensitive about citizens' security in border areas

In late February, the Taliban forces mistakenly arrested an Iranian border guard who had been taken into Afghanistan unintentionally during the search of a vehicle carrying contraband goods at a border post.

The Iranian border guard ended up being captured by the Taliban forces after trying to stop a smuggler, according to Tasnim News Agency. Quoting informed sources at the time, Tasnim added

that the Iranian border guards serving at the Milak border crossing in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan had stopped a vehicle that was carrying contraband goods.

After an Iranian border guard had gotten into the vehicle to carry out a search, the driver stepped on the gas pedal and drove toward Afghanistan. The Iranian forces had refrained from shooting at the runaway vehicle, which was finally stopped

on the Afghan soil by the Taliban forces, who arrested all passengers, including the Iranian soldier.

The misunderstandings were cleared up later and the Iranian border guard was released by the Taliban after a few hours.

Vahidi said the Iranian soldier had been on duty and sought to prevent entry by traffickers and illegal drugs into the country, stressing that the Afghan side was expected to treat the Iranian border guard with respect.