

Terrorists 'legitimate' targets

IRGC hits back at Jaish al-Adl in Pakistan

International Desk

Iran's defense minister on Wednesday defended strikes on terrorists' positions in some neighboring countries as a "legitimate defense" that the country is entitled to.

Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani underlined that Iran warns the countries and uses diplomatic channels and negotiations before taking any military action against anti-Iran terrorists.

Ashtiani made the remarks after Iran's attacks on positions of anti-Iran terrorists in Pakistan, Syria and Iraq. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) carried out missile and drone attacks against the bases of anti-Iran terrorists in Syria and Pakistan as well as facilities run by the Israeli Mossad spy agency in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region.

'Decisive' response

"We see no limitations in defending our national interests and the people, and will certainly do this authoritatively. No matter where threats against the Islamic Republic come from, we will react and the response will surely be proportionate, decisive and strong," he emphasized.



Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani
● IRNA

Ashtiani added, "We condemn terrorism anywhere in the world. We will definitely respond to any action meant to violate the [Iranian] nation's rights, as well as any act of terror targeting the people. We have already demonstrated this forcefully, and see no limits in this regard." The Iranian defense minister also said that Iran respects the sovereignty, interests, rights and regulations as well as the territorial integrity of other countries, especially

neighbors. It, however, won't allow anyone to cause mischief on its borders and will deal with any such move, Ashtiani emphasized. Iran's top diplomat said on Wednesday that his country's armed forces targeted an anti-Iran terrorist group, Jaish al-Adl, in Pakistan. "None of the nationals of the friendly and brotherly country of Pakistan were targeted by Iranian missiles and drones," Foreign Minister

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Pakistan's reaction

Pakistan denounced the strike near the nations' shared border, recalled its ambassador from Iran and blocked Tehran's envoy from returning to Islamabad. Pakistan said two children were killed and three others injured in the attack. "This illegal act is complete-

ly unacceptable and has no justification whatsoever," it said in a statement. "Pakistan reserves the right to respond to this illegal act. The responsibility for the consequences will lie squarely with Iran," Pakistani Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

Amir-Abdollahian said Iran's attack on "Pakistan's soil" was a response to the Jaish al-Adl group's recent deadly attacks on Iran, particularly on the city of Rask, in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan.

At attack on January 10 on a police station in the city killed a policeman, almost a month after 11 police officers were killed in a similar attack in the area.

Both attacks were claimed by Jaish al-Adl that was formed in 2012 and is blacklisted by Iran as a "terrorist" group.

"The group has taken shelter in some parts of Pakistan's Balochistan Province," Amir-Abdollahian said, adding, "we've talked with Pakistani officials several times on this matter."

The foreign minister said Iran respected the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Pakistan but would not "allow the country's national security to be compromised or played with".

Iran warns US not to tie its destiny to fate of Netanyahu



● CNBC

Iran's foreign minister warned the US not to "tie its destiny" to the fate of Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and said Washington's full support for Israel is "the root of insecurity in the region."

"The US should not... tie its destiny to the fate of Netanyahu," Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told CNBC's Dan Murphy on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The US has expressed steadfast support for Israel in its onslaught on the Gaza Strip after Hamas resistance group launched an unprecedented attack on the occupied territories, killing nearly 1,200 people.

In the aftermath of the attack, US President Joe Biden flew to Tel Aviv in a show of solidarity, pledging billions of dollars in military support. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has since visited Israel several times since.

"The full-scale cooperation of Biden and the White House with thugs like Netanyahu in Israel is the root of insecurity in the region," Amir-Abdollahian added.

Iran wants the US to "stop the war in Gaza," Amir-Abdollahian said.

Referring to the developments in the Red Sea, where Yemen's armed forces have launched several attacks on Israel-bound ships in support of Palestinians in recent weeks, he stressed that security in the Red Sea is important to his country.

In response, a US-led coalition in the Red Sea has conducted several strikes against the Ansarallah resistance movement in Yemen.

"The people of Yemen and other countries in the region who defend the Palestinian people are acting according to their own experience and in their own interests, and they are not receiving any orders or instructions from us," he said.

"Maritime security is of paramount importance to us, because we export oil," the Iranian minister said. "So, if there is insecurity near our vicinity, it will not be in our favor."

"We believe that any action to destabilize the region is rooted in Israel and its genocide in Gaza."

Israel launched the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas launched the surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm into the occupied territories in response to the Israeli regime's decades-long campaign of bloodletting and devastation against Palestinians.

Since the start of the offensive, the Tel Aviv regime has killed more than 24,400 Palestinians, according to data provided by the Palestinian Health Ministry.

The US and its Western allies have expressed their support for Israel's war, with Washington going further by vetoing UN Security Council resolutions demanding a cease-fire in Gaza.

Iran to act as 'third party' in South Africa's ICJ case against Israel

International Desk

Iran has formed a commission and is preparing documents to act as a third party in South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice, the Iranian Vice President for Legal Affairs Mohammad Dehghan said on Wednesday.

"As soon as South Africa filed a complaint, we formed a commission [...] and will soon file a complaint against Israel at the International Court of Justice as a third party. This claim was brought by South Africa under the 1948 Convention for the Prevention of the Crime of Genocide, and Iran, taking into account Article 9 of the Convention, did not file a complaint on its own, since this would mean recognition of Israel as a state," he said. The International Court of Jus-

tice in The Hague held hearings on the case on January 11 and 12. In its testimony, South Africa urged the court to oblige Israel to end its military operation in Gaza, to ensure that its residents have access to food, water and humanitarian aid, and to not impede the access of international missions to the strip. South Africa accused Israel of "chilling" and "incontrovertible" intent to commit genocide in Gaza on the opening day of the landmark case before the UN's top court. Calling on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to order Israel to cease military operations in Gaza, lawyers for South Africa said that Israel has gone beyond its intention to eradicate Hamas and is aiming to bring about the "the destruction" of the besieged territory's

population. Israel was accused of breaching the UN Genocide Convention, with lawyers saying that even the October 7 attack by Hamas on the occupied territories - during which around 1,200 people were killed - could not justify such actions, according to The Independent newspaper. South Africa's Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said that Israel has "crossed the line" with its bombardment of Gaza, with health officials in the Palestinian territory putting the death toll at more than 24,400 people. "The intent to destroy Gaza has been nurtured at the highest level of state," Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, advocate of the High Court of South Africa, told the court. "The evidence of genocidal intent is not only chilling, it is also overwhelming and

incontrovertible," Ngcukaitobi said.

Lawyers for South Africa told the court that Israel's military response to the Hamas attack has gone beyond what is reasonable. "This killing is nothing short of destruction of Palestinian life," Adila Hassim, a South African lawyer and member of the delegation,

said. "It is inflicted deliberately. No one is spared. Not even newborn babies."

Post-apartheid South Africa has long defended the Palestinian cause, a relationship forged when Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization backed the African National Congress's struggle against white-minority rule.



● AFP

Procurement, Construction, Test and Commissioning of

LOT 1: Main Lines, Laterals & Interceptors of Zone C & D of Darab wastewater Networks.

and

LOT 2: Main Lines, Laterals & Interceptors of Zone E & L & I of Darab wastewater Networks.

Following the Procurement Notice of Fars Water and Wastewater Company with NCB No. DA-SL1 and DA-SL2 which was published on December 12, 2023 and December 21, 2023 in this newspaper, this is to announce that the bid opening date has been postponed up to 11:00 a.m. January 31, 2024.

اصلاحیه آگهی مناقصه

لات ۱: باقیمانده کارهای تدارکات، ساخت، آزمایش و راه اندازی «خط انتقال و خطوط اصلی و فرعی زونهای C و D شبکه جمع آوری فاضلاب داراب» و

لات ۲: باقیمانده کارهای تدارکات، ساخت، آزمایش و راه اندازی «خط انتقال و خطوط اصلی و فرعی زونهای E و I و L شبکه جمع آوری فاضلاب داراب»

پیرو آگهی مناقصه شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان فارس به شماره های DA-SL2 & DA-SL1 که در تاریخهای ۱۴۰۲/۰۹/۳۰ و ۱۴۰۲/۰۹/۲۱ در این روزنامه به چاپ رسیده است، بدین وسیله به اطلاع می‌رساند که تاریخ بازگشایی پیشنهادها تا تاریخ ۱۴۰۲/۱۱/۱۱ رأس ساعت ۱۱ صبح تمدید گردید.

Tehran's security ...

Moreover, international organizations followed in the footsteps of certain world powers including the United States to demonstrate double standards when it comes to terrorism. Consequently, they lack a proper understanding of the crimes committed by terrorists in Iran.

Despite holding multiple rounds of talks and striking agreements with neighboring countries, and issuing necessary warnings, the Islamic Republic had hoped these neighbors would take the required measures to tighten their border control and prevent terrorists from crossing into Iranian territory. Now that they have failed or been unable to contain the terrorists for any reason, Iran launched attacks on the terrorists' strongholds to ensure

its security and protect its people. Ensuring the security of its citizens is a matter of utmost importance for the Islamic Republic of Iran and in fact is a red line for Tehran. Therefore, in this specific case, there is zero tolerance for any group or country. It is a principle for Iran that if its neighbors fail to address anti-Iranian terrorists, Tehran will take action directly. In other words, these neighbors, with whom we share strong and fraternal relations, must take this warning seriously and work out a wise security strategy to combat terrorists. Otherwise, Tehran will intensify its efforts to crack down on terrorists, whether they are in Pakistan, Iraq, or elsewhere abroad. Defending the people and guaranteeing their security is an indisputable and legitimate right of the Islamic Republic of Iran.