

# Iran tells UN Israel attack was 'self-defense'

**International Desk**

Iran's United Nations envoy told the Security Council on Sunday that the Islamic republic was exercising its "inherent right to self-defense" in its unprecedented attack on Israel.

"Iran's operation was entirely in the exercise of Iran's inherent right to self-defense as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and recognized by international law", Amir Saeid Iravani said. Overnight on Saturday and early Sunday morning, more than 300 Iranian drones and missiles rained down on targets in the Israeli-occupied lands.

The large-scale operation came less than two weeks after Israeli warplanes bombed the consular annex of Iran's Embassy in the Syrian capital of Damascus, killing seven members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) who were on an advisory mission to the Arab country.

Iravani underlined that the concluded action was necessary and proportionate. It was precise and only targeted military objectives, and carried out carefully to minimize the potential for escalation and prevent civilian harm.

"The Security Council... failed in its duty to maintain international peace and security" after Israel's



Representative of Iran to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani addresses the United Nations Security Council during an emergency meeting on April 14, 2024 at U.N. Headquarters in New York City.

● DAVID DEE DELGADO/AFP



apparent strike on an Iranian consulate in Damascus earlier this month, the Iranian diplomat added. Therefore, Tehran "had no choice" but to respond, he said, adding that his country does "not seek escalation or war," but will respond to any "threat or aggression."

**Hypocritical meeting**

During the meeting, Russia's UN envoy denounced as hypocritical the meeting of the Security Council on Iran's strikes. Vasily Nebenzya called it "a display of hypocrisy and double standards, which is almost embarrassing to watch."

"You know very well that an attack on a diplomatic mission is a casus belli under international law," he stated.

"If Western missions were attacked, you would not hesitate to retaliate and prove your case in this room. Because for you, everything that concerns Western missions and Western citizens is sacred and must be protected," the Russian official added.

**Protecting Israeli regime**

Iranian envoy also lambasted the US and the UK for their protecting the Israeli regime against accountability. "The US and the UK are fully responsible for all its (Israel's) decades-long aggressions and other crimes and unlawful measures in our region," he said.

"Furthermore, they are responsible for all crimes of the Israeli regime, as it cannot commit any of such savage crimes in Gaza without the consent, order, and all-out political, financial,

and military support of, and collaboration with, the United States and the UK." "We demonstrated our commitment to peace by exercising our restraint about involving the US Army in intercepting Iranian drones and missiles bound for military targets in the occupied Palestinian territories," Iravani added. "This underscores our dedication to de-escalating tensions and avoiding the expansion of conflict."

**Call for de-escalation**

Many countries, including the regime's allies, are now

urging restraint from Israel. French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday that France would help do everything to avoid "a conflagration - that is to say an escalation".

That would involve "trying to convince Israel not to respond by escalating," he said.

Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz also on Monday urged restraint by Israel.

UK Foreign Minister David Cameron urged Israel to "avoid escalation" and instead urged Israeli authorities to focus on freeing captives held by

Hamas.

The United States, the regime's main ally, has also said it will not join any potential Israeli counterattack against Iran.

"We would not be a part of any response they do," the Biden administration official told reporters on a call. "We would not envision ourselves participating in such an act."

However, Iranian officials have repeatedly warned of a much harsher response against any further action by Israel in the aftermath of Iran's retaliatory operation.

**Iran: Seized Israel-linked ship broke maritime law**



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Iran said Monday that the Israel-linked ship it seized on the weekend had violated international maritime law and was undergoing "necessary investigations". "The ship was directed into the territorial waters of Iran because it violated international maritime laws," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said.

The ship's crew failed to "adequately respond to questions from Iranian authorities," he told a briefing.

"It is certain that this ship belongs to the Zionist regime," Kanaani added, referring to Israel.

On Saturday, the special naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) seized the Israel-linked MSC Aries container ship near the Strait of Hormuz.

The ship was impounded by the Sepah Navy Special Force (SNSF) in a heliborne operation and rappelling of forces on the ship's deck, the agency said Saturday.

"The ship has now been directed towards the territorial waters of our country," IRNA said.

The Portuguese-flagged ship, operated by Zodiac Maritime, is owned by Israeli real estate, energy, technology and shipping magnate Eyal Ofer, it added. Zodiac Maritime is part of the Israeli billionaire's Zodiac Group.

A video released by IRGC shows SNSF commandos rappelling down onto a stack of containers sitting on the deck of the vessel.

Reports said the MSC Aries had been last located off Dubai heading toward the Strait of Hormuz on Friday. The ship had reportedly turned off its tracking data, which has been common for Israeli-affiliated ships moving through the region.

Israel's opposition leader Yair Lapid on Monday accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet of leading to a "total loss of Israeli deterrence" in the wake of an unprecedented Iranian attack.

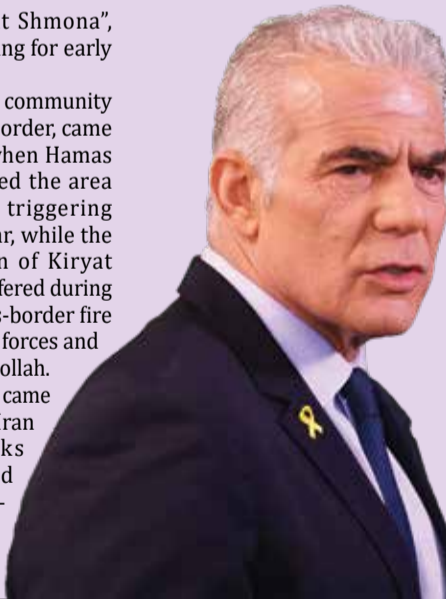
In a scathing criticism posted on X, former premier Lapid also said that under Netanyahu, "Jewish terrorist violence" against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank was "out of control", AFP reported.

Netanyahu, who returned to power in late 2022 at the helm of a coalition with far-right parties, has brought "heaps of destruction from

Beerli to Kiryat Shmona", Lapid said, calling for early elections.

Beerli, a kibbutz community near the Gaza border, came under attack when Hamas fighters stormed the area on October 7, triggering the ongoing war, while the northern town of Kiryat Shmona has suffered during months of cross-border fire between Israeli forces and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Lapid's remarks came two days after Iran - which backs both Hamas and Hezbollah - launched more than 300 mis-



## Netanyahu rival says Israel lost 'deterrence' against Iran

siles and drones at Israel in retaliation for a deadly strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus. Israel, the United States and other allies intercepted nearly all launches in the late Saturday aerial attack - the first direct Iranian military action against arch foe Israel.

Netanyahu's cabinet has

weighed Israel's response to the Iranian attack, but the prime minister has not made any public comments. In the West Bank, where violence has soared since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, Israeli settlers torched Palestinian homes and cars over the weekend, killing at least two people, after an Israeli teen was killed, accord-

ing to the Israeli military.

The Netanyahu's cabinet, which includes hardline settlers, has prioritized Jewish settlement expansion in the West Bank, occupied by Israel since 1967.

Netanyahu has faced in recent months mass protests over the fate of captives held in Gaza and pressure from a resurgent movement.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Why was Iran ...

Furthermore, Iran's commitment to international laws and its recognition of the right to legitimate defense against hostile states highlight its emphasis on ethical conduct in warfare and attention to humanitarian issues. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a religious political system, has demonstrated its capability to fulfill its political functions ethically, a quality often lacking in Western political systems. It's worth noting that Iran has never initiated war,

and even when providing military assistance upon request, it aims to be a constructive actor. Reviewing Iran's track record in countries like Syria, Yemen, and Iraq reveals Iran's supportive role that facilitated resolutions to existing problems rather than exacerbating them. In contrast, a look at the history of warfare worldwide, especially conflicts initiated by the United States and Israel, demonstrates that wherever they engaged militarily, they not only failed to achieve their political goals but

also caused significant human and infrastructural damage, with repercussions lasting for decades. Interestingly, these regimes, despite their lack of adherence to the ethics of warfare, were unable to achieve their political objectives and, in essence, faced defeat repeatedly. Why was Iran victorious in this latest operation? It was because while fighting responsibly and observing the ethics of engagement, Iran demonstrated very little of its capability to respond to Israel than Israel did to defend itself.

Iran refrained from utilizing many of its new and advanced missiles and relied on a small portion of its missile and drone capabilities to carry out this operation, while Israel employed its maximum defensive capability. This disparity in military capacity deployment is a clear indicator of Iran's victory; Iran lost nothing and maintained its power in the international arena. Meanwhile, Israel still struggles to prove its legitimacy; a legitimacy that will never be established.