



Raisi vows severe response to any Israeli strike

Iran's operation proved Israel's power fragile like 'spider's web'

International Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday reiterated warnings against "the slightest act of aggression" by Israel against Iran's interests and soil, saying it would lead to "a fierce and severe response".

Raisi made the remarks on Wednesday as he addressed a ceremony in the capital Tehran on the occasion of the National Army Day, where forces with various divisions of Iran's Army attended a large-scale military parade, and displayed their new defense achievements, and advanced military equipment and hardware.

Iran launched its first-ever attack on Israel on

Saturday with a barrage of drones and missiles in response to the regime's April 1 attack on the Iranian diplomatic facilities in the Syrian capital of Damascus.

Raisi said Iran's retaliatory operation against Israel shattered the Israeli military's invincibility myth and proved that the regime's power is like a spider's web.

Strategic setback

The Iranian president said the operation inflicted not only a military defeat but also a strategic setback on the occupying Tel Aviv regime.

He also said the operation dissuaded certain regional Arab countries seeking to

normalize diplomatic ties with the Zionist entity.

"The Zionist regime's defeat was an intelligence, security and military one; but it was a strategic setback above all. Some countries sought to normalize relations with the Zionist regime, but they are now humiliated in the eyes of their own nations. This was a strategic failure for that regime," he pointed out.

In 2020, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco normalized relations with Israel as part of the US-brokered Abraham Accords, vehemently criticized by the Palestinians.

"Our armed forces are ensuring security and peace and establishing

sovereignty across the region, and are completely reliable," the Iranian president stated, urging regional countries to rely on their own assets and Muslim forces rather than foreign interference and partnerships with Israel. Raisi also underscored that Iran's Operation True Promise was "limited and punitive," warning the Tel Aviv regime against any military adventurism as a stronger strike could have totally wiped it out.

Tel Aviv has vowed to respond to the Iran's operation.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday told the visiting British and German foreign ministers that Is-

rael "will reserve the right to protect itself," his office said.

After meeting the two visiting diplomats, Netanyahu addressed the cabinet where he said that he had been given "all kinds of suggestions and advice" by the country's allies.

"However, I would also like to clarify: we will make our decisions ourselves," he said, according to a statement issued by his office.

On Wednesday, Iran's air force commander Hamid Vahedi warned Iran's enemies against making a "strategic mistake".

"We are 100 percent ready in all aerial fronts," he was quoted as saying by ISNA news agency. He said that



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (C) observes a military parade on the occasion of the National Army Day in the capital Tehran, Iran, on April 17, 2024.

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Malaysia PM calls Iran's attack against Israel 'legitimate'

International Desk

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim described Iran's attack against Israel as a "legitimate act".

In a statement on Monday, Anwar said that the attack was a consequence of the Israel's "barbarous" bombing of the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria.

He said that Israel's attack on Iran's consulate violated international law.

"When you break the law you invite a reaction," said Anwar. He added that the war between Iran and Israel was not good for the world economy and peace.

World powers have urged restraint after Iran launched more than 300 drones and missiles at Israel late Saturday. The leader of Muslim-majority Malaysia urged Israel "not to take any further retaliation that will aggravate tensions in the Middle East".

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday said that Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was the main party to blame for Iran's attack against Israel. "The main one responsible for the tension that gripped our hearts on the evening of April 13 is Netanyahu and his bloody administration," the Turkish leader, who regularly criticizes Israel and its leadership, said in televised remarks.

"Those who have been silent for months about Israel's aggressive attitude immediately condemned the Iranian response," he said.

"But it's Netanyahu himself who is the first who should be condemned." Erdogan also said the April 1 attack in Damascus violated international law.

Iranian envoy to UK: Netanyahu aims to trap West into Middle East conflicts

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking to trap the West into a total war across the Middle East that would have incalculable consequences for the region and the world, Iran's top diplomat in the UK said.

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini Matin argued that the West was losing credibility in the Middle East in a way that would ultimately lead to the US leaving the region, and a peace being reached by regional powers alone, The Guardian reported.

"Iran has considered its actions very carefully, and understood that there is a trap, but not for Iran, for the Western countries and allied countries in which they are drawn by the Zionist state into a total war inside the Middle East, and the whole world soon may be unable to control the consequences."

Matin insisted that before the attack on Israel, Iran had urged Western officials – including the British foreign secretary, David Cameron – to back a UN security council statement condemning



Israel for attacking the Iranian consulate in Damascus. It had also urged the West to back an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, he said.

Matin said Cameron had last week refused the Iranian request, even though this week he had admitted that the UK would have responded very strongly if a hostile power flattened a British consulate. "As Cameron mentioned, rightly, every nation has the right to defend itself against this kind of flagrant breach of diplomatic and international law."

He also denied Cameron's claims that there could have been thousands of civilian casualties if the mass attack of Iranian drones and missiles, which decisively moved its years-long shadow war with Israel into the open, had penetrated the defense of Israel and its allies. He said he found such an accusation extraordinary coming from a government that had armed a regime that had killed 34,000 Palestinians.

He said that Iranian forces didn't target any populated sites so as to prevent human casualties.

Iran against any nuclear activity that damages ties with IAEA

Iran's nuclear chief said the Islamic Republic will not settle for any kind of nuclear activity that undermines the interaction between Tehran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Pointing to IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's claims about ambiguities in Iran's nuclear program, Mohammad Eslami, said the reports submitted by the UN nuclear agency chief to the Board of Governors or the UN Security Council have two parts, with the first one pertaining to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the second one to safeguards and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Press TV reported.

Highlighting good relations between Iran and the IAEA in the field of safeguards and the NPT, Eslami said, "In this area, the installation of the IAEA's cameras and their constant monitoring is underway, and their knowledge about our measures is always up-to-date."

Iran's nuclear chief said there

are 120 accredited inspectors of the IAEA for the country's nuclear program, some of whom are stationed in Iran while the others visit the country's nuclear facilities on a regular or unannounced basis.

"The IAEA submits a report about Iran's nuclear activities to the Board of Governors every three months and to the UN Security Council every six months, and the issue of compliance or non-compliance of Iran's nuclear activities with the JCPOA is the main focus of the report," Eslami said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects any nuclear activity that impairs the interaction between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency," he added.

Underlining that the Islamic Republic is committed to the 2020 strategic law concerning the JCPOA,

the head of the AEOI said if the other side fails to fulfill its obligations, Iran will follow suit and, "If they fulfill their commitments, the Islamic Republic will also live up to its end of the bargain in the JCPOA regarding the clauses on certain restrictions."

