

# Leader: Iranian nation can turn sanctions into opportunities



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of Iranian workers on the occasion of Labor Week in Tehran, Iran, on April 24, 2023. [khamenei.ir](#)

### National Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the Islamic Republic's remarkable achievements in arms production attest to the fact that a "lively nation" can turn sanctions into opportunities. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks on Wednesday as he received a group of workers from across the country on the occasion of Labor Week. The Leader admitted that the sanctions have damaged the country's economy and have created many problems. However, he said that these sanctions have also led to the flourishing of talents and the emergence of capacities inside the country. Ayatollah Khamenei said talking about economic issues without considering the unprecedented sanc-

tions imposed by the US and Europeans on the country is impossible. The West deceitfully claims issues such as nuclear weapons, human rights issues, and support for terrorism as the reasons for imposing sanctions against Iran, he said. The Leader noted that the anti-Iran sanctions aimed to put the Islamic Republic in a "tight spot" to force it to toe the line of imperialism and colonialism. Ayatollah Khamenei added, "A lively nation creates opportunities for itself out of the enemy's hostilities, a clear example of which is in the [Islamic Republic's] arms sector. In other sectors, great progress has been achieved as well despite pressures." "The Iranian nation must showcase its strength through work, action and national unity," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

## US DSA party affirms Iran's right to self-defense against Israel



The International Committee of the Democratic Socialists of America issued a statement affirming Iran's right to self-defense and emphasizing its opposition to any military or diplomatic support for the Israeli occupation. In a statement on Tuesday, the International Committee of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA IC) affirmed Iran's inherent right to self-defense. This position comes in light of the recent Israeli attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus on April 1. It reiterated its steadfast opposition to providing any military or diplomatic support to Israel's campaign of aggression as "Israel" is committing a large-scale genocide against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The DSA IC strongly opposed any US involvement in supporting Israeli attacks on Iran and denounced the punitive measures, such as sanctions and travel bans, issued by the Biden administration or Congress in response to Iran's retaliatory attack on 'Israel'. The statement shed light on the extensive history of US imperialism, citing the CIA-orchestrated overthrow of Iran's prime minister Mohammad Mossadegh in 1953. It emphasized that the US and 'Israel' had damaged Iran in various ways people, including causing casualties in the Iran-Iraq war, carrying out regular assassinations of leaders, scientists and top commanders during diplomatic missions, and imposing sanctions that deprive Iranians of vital medical supplies. The party's statement emphasized that the Biden administration's unwavering support for the Zionist project has granted "Israel" unchecked freedom of action, leading to serious violations of international humanitarian law and military provocations against regional allies of Palestine.

## EP members criticize EU as accomplice of Israel's genocide



Some members of the European Parliament (EP) on Tuesday criticized the European Union for being an "accomplice" in Israel's actions violating international law and for perpetuating them. The members of parliament criticized the EU's stance on Israel's actions during a session titled "EP's reaction to the killing of humanitarian aid workers, journalists, and civilians by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip" held at the EP, Anadolu Agency reported. The EP Left Group member, Manu Pineda, condemned Israel's failure to implement interim measures ordered by the International Court of Jus-

tice (ICJ), highlighting the deaths of journalists and humanitarian aid workers in Israeli attacks. Pineda's characterization of Israel as a "tumor" in the Middle East. Another Left Group member, Clare Daly, accused the EU of complicity and silence regarding Israel's actions in Gaza. Daly criticized the EU for cutting support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) without substantiating Israel's prosecution against the agency. She accused the EU of "waving the flag of the oppressor from day one" and condemned some EU countries for their actions.

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell attends a session at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France on April 24, 2024. [FREDERICK FLORIN/AFP](#)

Mick Wallace, also a member of the Left Group, criticized the EU's provision of arms to what he described as a "genocidal apartheid regime". He accused the EU of providing diplomatic cover for Israel's actions while failing to impose sanctions or take decisive action. He concluded by questioning whether the EU considers the loss of children's lives in Gaza as a price acceptable to protect its interests.

## Israel pummels Gaza after US approves military aid

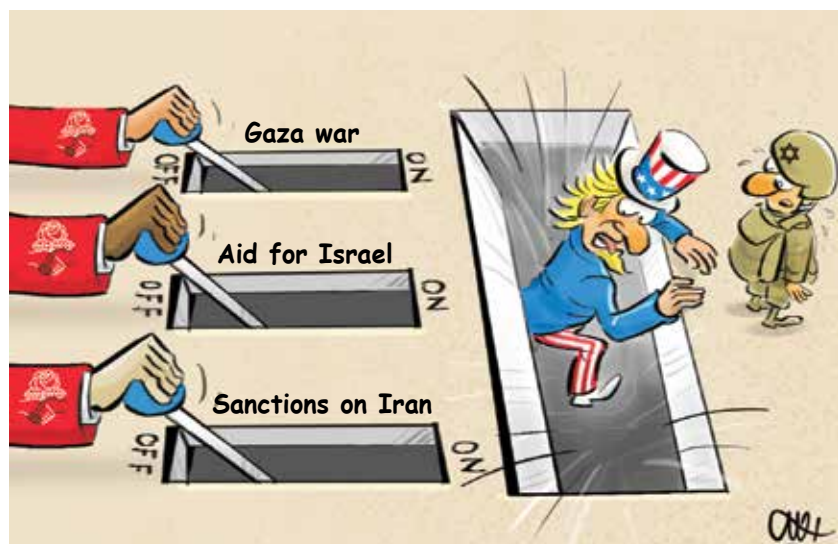


Israel pounded Gaza with air strikes and artillery fire in its onslaught on Gaza on Wednesday after the US Congress approved \$13 billion in military aid. Fears are also rising that Israel will soon launch an assault on the city Rafah in the Gaza Strip, which it claims is the "last" major Hamas stronghold, but aid groups warn any invasion would create an "apocalyptic situation", AFP reported. Early Wednesday, hospital and security sources in Gaza reported Israeli air strikes in Rafah, as well as the central Nuseirat refugee camp. There were also reports of heavy bombardment of several areas of northern Gaza during the night, while the Israeli military said its aircraft "struck over 50 tar-

gets" over the previous 24 hours. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, has insisted the assault on Rafah will go ahead. Citing Egyptian officials briefed on the Israeli plans, the Wall Street Journal said Israel was planning to move civilians from Rafah to nearby Khan Yunis over a period of two to three weeks. Satellite images shared by Maxar Technologies showed new blocks of tents that had been set up in recent weeks in southern Gaza. Ismail al-Thawabta, head of the Hamas government media office said an invasion would be a "crime" and that central Gaza and Khan Yunis "cannot accommodate the numbers of displaced people in Rafah".

Smoke rises from the Gaza Strip after an Israeli air strike on April 24, 2024. [JACK GUEZ/AFP](#)

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran rejects US claims of 'malicious cyber activity'

Iran condemned as "unfounded" Wednesday US allegations of "malicious cyber activity" on behalf of its military that triggered a new set of sanctions against Iranian companies and individuals. Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said Iran "categorically dismissed the US government claim that some Iranian individuals and companies have been involved in cyberattacks", AFP reported. He accused Washington of seeking to "deflect the wave of international criticism towards their policies

of unlimited support for the Zionist regime (Israeli) war crimes and genocide in the Gaza Strip". The US Treasury Department announced the sanctions against four individuals and two companies on Tuesday, adding that the four individuals had also been indicted "for their roles in cyber activity targeting US entities". "These actors targeted more than a dozen US companies and government entities through cyber operations, including spear phishing and malware attacks," on behalf of

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, it alleged. The United States, Britain and the European Union have all imposed new sanctions against Iran in recent days following its unprecedented April 13-

14 attack on Israel in retaliation for a deadly air strike on its consulate in Damascus.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani [ISNA](#)

