

Iran urges UN action on Israeli crimes against own citizens, sovereignty

Iran's permanent mission to the UN has urged the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, to take concrete action to hold Israel accountable for the crimes it has committed against the Islamic Republic for over four decades.

In letters to UN chief António Guterres, Security Council president Barbara Woodward, and General Assembly head Philemon Yang, the mission stated that Israel's anti-Iran actions are exemplified by its sustained campaign of targeted assassinations and terrorist acts, Press TV reported.

It cited Israel's targeting of Iranian nuclear scientists, military advisors, diplomatic premises, and representatives as well as its sabotage of Iran's peaceful

nuclear facilities.

"These unlawful and criminal acts which were perpetrated both within Iran and outside its borders began with the abduction of four Iranian diplomats in southern Beirut, Lebanon, on July 4, 1982," it said.

The mission was referring to three diplomats and a journalist kidnapped north of Beirut by Lebanese Christian militiamen during Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

"Most recently, this pattern of aggression has come to include the terrorist attack employing explosive devices against Iran's ambassador to Lebanon on September 17, 2024, the criminal assault on April 1, 2024, where Israel attacked Iranian diplomatic and consular premises in

Damascus, the Arab Republic of Syria, and was followed by Israel's act of aggression on October 26, 2024, against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity in a gross violation of international law and the Charter of the UN," the letters read.

The targeting and assassination of Iranian nationals, particularly those engaged in scientific, diplomatic and defense tasks, the mission said, is a gross violation of Iran's sovereign rights and a serious and flagrant breach of the basic norms and principles of international law and the UN Charter, in particular the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The mission said the international community, particularly the UN Security Council, has yet to

take concrete action to hold the Israel accountable for its ongoing pattern of aggression, despite repeated reports by the Iranian government detailing these egregious violations.

Such inaction not only emboldens further violations, but also erodes the credibility and core principles of international law upon which the United Nations was founded, it added.

The letter said the Iranian government's obligations towards its citizens "require it to take all necessary measures to protect its nationals, interests, and sovereignty, including exercising its inherent right to self-defense as ensured in the Charter of the United Nations".

Iran, it said, also requests the Security Council to live up to



its responsibility under the UN Charter to take necessary measures to ensure Israel ceases its internationally wrongful acts and respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other UN member states.

Tehran calls on the UN chief to ensure that all violations committed by Israel are thoroughly documented in relevant reports to the General Assembly, Security Council, and Human Rights Council, it added.

EU 'strongly' condemns Israeli killing of paramedics in Lebanon

International Desk

The EU on Friday "strongly" condemned the killing of 12 paramedics in an Israeli strike near Baalbek district in eastern Lebanon.

"Attacks on healthcare workers and facilities are a grave violation of international humanitarian law. The protection of medical personnel in conflict zones is non-negotiable," Josep Borrell, bloc's foreign policy chief, said on X.

"This pattern of targeting healthcare mirrors appalling trends in other conflicts, from Syria to Ukraine or Sudan. Be it reckless disregard or deliberate targeting, this is a blatant assault on human dignity, endangering lives & flagrantly violating fundamental human rights," he said in another X post. An Israeli airstrike targeted the town of Douris late Thursday, causing the collapse of the civil defense center and the destruction

of an adjacent building, according to the National News Agency.

Israel this September launched an air campaign in Lebanon against what it claims are targets of the Hezbollah group, in an escalation from a year of cross-border warfare.

The Israeli military pressed on Saturday with its days-long bombing campaign targeting an area near Beirut, while in the country's south, Israeli airstrikes



Smoke billows from south of Beirut after an Israeli strike on November 16, 2024.
DIEGO IBARRA SANCHEZ/NYT

killed two more paramedics, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry, NYT reported.

Iran dismisses reports on Musk's meeting with UN envoy

Iran has denied a report by the New York Times that its UN envoy has met with Elon Musk, a top adviser to the US President-elect Donald Trump, in New York on discussing ways to ease tensions between Iran and the United States. The New York Times claimed on Friday that the tech billionaire met with Ambassador Amir Saeid Irvani on Monday in a session that two Iranian officials described as a discussion on how to defuse tensions between Tehran and Washington, IRNA reported.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Esmail Baghaei, on Saturday categorically dismissed the media stories on the meeting.

He expressed surprise at the extent of the speculation the American media outlets have been fueling about the issue.

Calm Mideast to better serve US interests

Trump 2.0 seeking credit for détente with Iran



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

Donald Trump's "America First" slogan has raised the question of whether the US under his leadership will abandon its interventionist policies and influence on international developments. Specifically, what will be the foreign policy of the new US administration towards the Middle East and the Gaza war? Iran Daily held talks this issue with Davoud Aqaei, a professor of International Relations at the University of Tehran. Aqaei believes that establishing stability and stopping wars will be in line with Trump's plans and serve US interests best. He also thinks that the conditions are ripe for reducing tensions and resolving differences between Iran and the US.

IRAN DAILY: Regarding the resolution of major crises such as the Ukraine and Gaza wars, many believed that the outcome of the US elections should be awaited. On the other hand, some are convinced that the US is in decline, and the persistence of these crises is a sign of the waning of US influence. Do you think the US' ability to shape major global developments has declined?

AQAEI: The level of influence of major powers is linked to various factors, such as the policies of Joe Biden, the current US president. Has he effectively utilized US capabilities to resolve crises? However, contrary to the

views of some experts who believe the world has entered a multipolar order, I think the US remains a major player in shaping global developments. Even in the current crises, such as the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, we see that the US has been the most influential power. Other powers, like Europe and China, have been largely inactive, and Russia, embroiled in its own war, has been unable to make a significant impact. As a result, the US remains the dominant player, backed by its military and economic might and capabilities, as other major powers have largely ceded the field.

Some believe that President-elect Donald Trump will focus more on domestic issues, as he has stated in his campaign slogans. Will we see a decrease in Washington's influence and impact outside of the US, particularly in West Asia, during the Trump era?

The US' role in global developments will not diminish, but rather change in its approach. Trump has stated that he will seek to stop the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. He has also vowed to restore America's position as the world's top power. It appears that in his new term, Trump will attempt to reduce international tensions and cut costs for the US in various crises. Notably, the US has provided significant aid to Ukraine and over \$18 billion to the Israeli regime. Logically, if wars are stopped and stability is established, these foreign aid funds can be redirected to welfare and economic issues within the country. Trump aims to increase US interests

through this approach. Furthermore, improving relations with Russia could also bring economic benefits for both Moscow and Washington. In reality, when stability is established, the US will not only reduce its crisis-related costs but also better secure its interests.

Since the Obama administration, the US has focused seriously on China. Trump also views China as the main threat to the US and, in the real world, the only power that can challenge US interests. Therefore, Trump will likely focus more on containing China in the international arena. A natural consequence of this focus on China is that the US will stop regional crises like the Ukraine and Gaza wars. Of course, achieving this is no easy task and is not solely dependent on Trump's will, but it appears that the incoming US president will operate within this framework.

Can the US-Iran relationship also be evaluated within the framework of Trump's approach; in other words, will Trump pursue a policy of reducing tensions with Iran as well?

Yes, the issue of Iran is also defined within the framework of US foreign policy in West Asia. Moreover, the two countries have experienced a tumultuous relationship over the past four decades. I hope that during the new administrations in Iran and the US, we will see steps taken to reduce tensions and ultimately reach understandings and agreements between the two sides. There is a willingness among Iranian officials to prevent the

escalation of tensions with the US. In the past, there have been opportunities to strengthen relations and cooperation that have been missed by both sides. Resolving the differences between Tehran and Washington is in the interest of both parties, and the longer it takes, the more damage will be done to both sides. It appears that the Trump administration is prepared to take a serious decision about its tie with Iran. He is willing to establish a relationship. All US presidents over the past four decades have wanted to be the hero who establishes a relationship with Iran. However, this has not happened yet. Trump, naturally, wants the credit for establishing a bilateral relation with Iran to be recorded in his name. Additionally, this would be a great prestige and success for the Republican Party as well. I hope that the decision-makers in Iran will also make a new assessment about their bond with the US, based on domestic, regional, and international conditions, and within the framework of securing national interests.

Recently, the Iranian president has said that we will eventually come face to face with this country in the regional and international arenas, and it is better to manage this issue ourselves. And the Iranian foreign minister has also said that we will negotiate with the US to secure Iran's national interests. From your explanations, I understand that reducing tensions and possibly establishing a relationship between Iran and the US will better serve both

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE



Davoud Aqaei

sides' interests.

The main plan of President Pezeshkian in the field of foreign policy is constructive engagement with the world and balancing foreign policy. This is a wise approach. The more a country engages with powerful and influential nations and participates in regional and international agreements, conventions, and unions, the more it demonstrates its strength and stature. The path that Iran and the US have taken in the past has not yielded desirable results. What is important is national interest. Iran and Iraq were sworn enemies for eight years and clashed with each other, just as the US and Vietnam fought a historic war, but when national interests came in, Iran and Iraq became close friends, just as the US and Vietnam have also put the past behind them and enjoy good relations now. Enmities and conflicts are not meant to last forever. The art of diplomacy is to build bridges from differences to commonalities and secure interests. It seems that in the new era, the ground has been laid for a new path in the relations between Iran and the US. The interests of both countries lie in the fact that the path of de-escalation and resolving conflicts should be taken seriously.