

In response to IAEA resolution

Iran activating 'advanced centrifuges'

International Desk

Iran said Friday it would activate a series of "new and advanced" centrifuges in response to a resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that censured Tehran for what the agency called lack of cooperation.

The motion at the IAEA was put forward by France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States at the 35-nation board of the United Nations nuclear watchdog and follows a similar one in June.

The resolution — which China, Russia, and Burkina Faso voted against — was carried with 19 votes in favor, 12 abstentions, and Venezuela not participat-

ing. The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the passing of the resolution and said on Friday that Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Esلمي had issued orders to "initiate the operation of a substantial number of advanced centrifuges of various models".

The measure, which is taken to safeguard Iran's national interests and address its growing need for civilian nuclear program, lies within the framework of the country's rights and obligations under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, they said.

The joint statement added that "technical and safeguards cooperation with

the IAEA will continue, as in the past" and within the framework of agreements signed by Iran.

The statement said that the "non-consensus" motion was approved under the "pressure and insistence" of Britain, France, Germany, and the US, despite lacking the support of approximately half of the 35-member Board of Governors.

It noted that the aforementioned states proposed a "politically motivated" resolution against the Islamic Republic, rather than fostering the constructive atmosphere established during the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's recent visit to Tehran.

The IAEA resolution says it is "essential and urgent"

for Iran to "act to fulfill its legal obligations".

The text also calls on Tehran to provide "technically credible explanations" for the presence of uranium particles found at two undeclared locations in Iran. In addition, Western powers are asking for a "comprehensive report" to be issued by the IAEA on Iran's nuclear efforts "at the latest" by spring 2025. The resolution came just as the IAEA's head returned from a trip to Tehran last week, where he appeared to have made headway.

In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing a nuclear deal with six world powers.

However, Washington's



unilateral withdrawal in 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of unilateral sanctions against Tehran

left the future of the deal in limbo. In 2019, Iran started to roll back the limits it

had accepted under the agreement after the other parties failed to live up to their commitments.

Bibi, Gallant wanted

World hails ICC arrest warrants

International Desk

Most countries in the world hailed a decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue arrest warrants for the Israeli prime minister and his former defense minister for "war crimes and crimes against humanity" during the regime's 13-month onslaught on the Gaza Strip, which has killed over 44,000 people. The court said on Thursday that there were "reasonable grounds" to believe Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister Yoav Gallant were criminally responsible for acts including murder, persecution, and starvation as a weapon of war as part of a "widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population of Gaza".

The ICC also issued an arrest warrant for Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif for alleged "crimes against humanity and war crimes". Israel said in August that Deif was killed in an air strike in southern Gaza the previous month. The decision was met with outrage in Tel Aviv, which called it shameful and absurd. Israeli Transportation Minister Miri Regev referred to the arrest warrants as "modern anti-Semitism in the guise of justice".

Global reaction

However, most countries in the world, including the regime's Western allies, welcomed the ICC decision.

EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the decision is a binding decision, and all state parties of the court, which include all members of



Yoav Gallant

Benjamin Netanyahu

the European Union, are bound to implement its decision.

"The fight against impunity wherever crimes are committed is a priority for Belgium, which fully supports the work of the [ICC], Belgium's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on X.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi called it a "major victory" for supporters of the Palestinian cause and people.

Hamas resistance group welcomed the decision, calling it an "important step towards justice".

"[It's] an important step towards justice and can lead to redress for the victims in general, but it remains limited and symbolic if it is not supported by all means by all countries around the world," Hamas political bureau member Basem Naim said in a statement.

The Palestinian Authority, which governs the occupied West Bank, said, "The ICC's decision represents hope and confidence in international law and its institutions."

Austria's Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg called the warrant

incomprehensible and ludicrous, but his office also said as a party to the Rome statutes, Austria is obliged to implement ICC arrest warrants.

"It's really important that everyone abide by international law," Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, adding his country would abide by rulings of international courts.

France would act "in line with the ICC's statutes", said Christophe Lemoine, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, he declined to say whether France would arrest Netanyahu if he came to the country, saying it was "legally complex".

A government spokesperson in Germany said Berlin will "carefully examine" the ICC's arrest warrants, but will not take further steps until a visit to the country.

"The Federal Government was involved in the drafting of the ICC Statute and is one of the ICC's biggest supporters. This position is also a result of German history," the spokesperson said. "At the same time, a consequence of German history is that we have a unique relationship and

a great responsibility to Israel."

Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said Rome would consider how to interpret the decision and act together with its allies. "We support the ICC ... the court must play a legal role and not a political role," he added.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said the ICC's decision must be respected and implemented. "Palestinians deserve justice," he said.

However, US President Joe Biden unsurprisingly said in a statement, "The ICC issuance of arrest warrants against Israeli leaders is outrageous".

Hungary's Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto also condemned the ICC decision, calling it "shameful and absurd," presidential spokesperson Zoltan Kovacs reported on X. More than 44,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli military action since the beginning of its devastating war on the Palestinian territory in October 2023.

Nearly two million Palestinians have been displaced by the Israel's army and face a grave humanitarian crisis.

Leader's advisor: Negotiation on new nuclear deal possible

Ali Larijani, a senior advisor to the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said the Islamic Republic is ready to negotiate a new nuclear deal with the new US administration to resolve issues concerning Iran's nuclear program. In an interview on Thursday, Larijani noted that the Americans say they ac-

cepted a nuclear Iran as long as Tehran does not move toward a nuclear bomb. He said that Iran is enriching uranium to 60% purity, and it has never sought to build a nuclear bomb. The Iranian official said that if the Americans accept Iran's conditions, they can reach a new agreement with Iran. "In any case, this is a solution too."

US vetoing of Gaza cease-fire resolution 'disgraceful'

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations slammed the US vetoing of a Gaza cease-fire resolution as "disgraceful," urging the UN Security Council to put an end to the immunity of the Israeli regime. Speaking at a meeting of the 15-member UN Security Council on Thursday,

Amir Saeid Irvani blamed the "unwavering" US support and the "inaction" of the Security Council for Israel's crimes. His remarks came as the US on Wednesday vetoed a resolution calling for "an immediate, unconditional and permanent cease-fire" in Gaza.

Anti-Iran rights resolution politically motivated: Tehran

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman censured as politically motivated and unjustified the adoption of a resolution against the Islamic Republic in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly over alleged human rights violations. The draft resolution, approved by a

vote of 77 in favor, 28 against, and 66 abstentions on Wednesday, came after the committee, providing no evidence, accused Iran of the "violation of its international obligations," and claimed that "respect for human rights" had deteriorated in the country.

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