

# Leader urges further development of defense power

## National Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei praised the country's defense advances, saying that Iran should further develop its defense power, including its missiles.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with Defense Ministry officials, defense industry elites and the ministry's experts and staff.

"Today, our defensive power is well-known, the friends of the [Islamic] Revolution are proud of it and our enemies are afraid of it. This is very important for our country," he added.

He called defending the nation and the country's security an important issue. Ayatollah Khamenei described the country's defense progress as impressive despite sanctions which have been imposed on the Islamic Republic in the past decades.

"Progress should not be stopped, we

cannot be satisfied [with our current level]. We previously set a limit for the accuracy of our missiles, but we now feel this limit is no longer enough. We have to go forward," he said, citing a need to focus on innovation in the Iranian military. Referring to the era when "world's bullies" were refusing to sell defense equipment to Iran, the Leader said that, "Today, those bullies ask Iran not to sell military equipment."

The Leader also visited an exhibition showcasing the latest developments in Iran's defense sector.

The event displayed advanced equipment and new technologies used in areas such as air defense, ballistic and cruise missiles, smart munitions, space, drones, aviation, vessels, and energy.

During his speech, the Leader also commended the Iranian nation for relaying its "message of unity" to the international community on the 46th anniversary of the country's historic 1979

Islamic Revolution.

On Monday, millions of Iranians took to the streets across the country to commemorate the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the Western-backed Pahlavi regime.

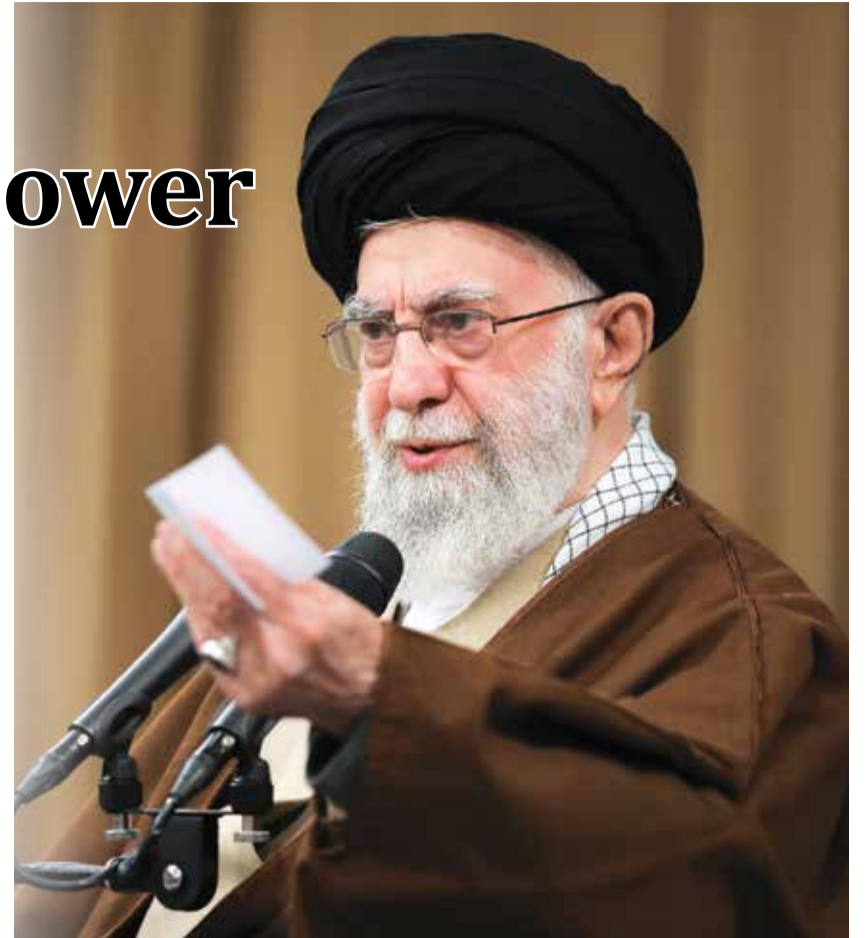
He described the day as one of the most significant national events, showcasing the unity and strength of the Iranian people despite relentless external pressures.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the celebrations on this year's anniversary were not just a commemoration, but a powerful act of resistance and national unity.



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with Defense Ministry officials, experts and staff in Tehran on February 12, 2025

● [khamenei.ir](http://khamenei.ir)



## Pezeshkian: Iran will not cave in to threats President warns enemies seeking to sow discord in society

### International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said Iran will not back down and will not surrender in the face of any threat after the US president reimposed his so-called maximum pressure policy and threatened Iran with military attack.

"You cannot scare Iran and Iranians; Iranians will not back down in the face of any threat and will not surrender. We are not at war with any country, we have established friendship with all our neighbors, all our neighbors are our brothers and sisters and friends," Pezeshkian said while addressing a group of Iranians in the southern port city of Bushehr on Wednesday. Pezeshkian's remarks were in response to recent measures and threats made by the US President Donald Trump against Iran.

After taking office on January 20, the US president restored his so-called "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran that includes efforts to drive its oil exports down to zero.

Trump has also repeatedly talk-



ed about Israel's military attack on Iran if Washington and Tehran fail to reach an agreement on the latter's nuclear program. "I would like a deal done with Iran on non-nuclear. I would prefer that to bombing the hell out of it... They don't want to die. Nobody wants to die," Trump told New York Post on Saturday. "If we made the deal, Israel wouldn't bomb them."

In a separate interview with Fox News on Monday, the US president reiterated its threats, saying that, "I think Iran would love to make a deal and I would love to make a deal with them

without bombing them."

"Everybody thinks Israel with our help or our approval will go in and bomb the hell out of them," Trump added, stressing that Israel would need the US support for such a strike.

"I would prefer that not happen. I'd much rather see a deal with Iran where we can do a deal, supervise, check it, inspect it."

The US president says he wants to negotiate with Iran while closing all the doors for negotiations. He threatens the world not to establish relations with Iran and on the other hand, he says let's negotiate,



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses a group people in the southern port city of Bushehr on February 12, 2025.

● [president.ir](http://president.ir)

Pezeshkian said.

Pezeshkian also warned that the enemies are seeking to sow discord among Iranians in order to make people pessimistic about the management and the leadership of the country.

"We must join hands and build our country with unity," Pezeshkian underlined.

## Hamas rejects US, Israeli threats of return of war

Hamas said Wednesday it would not bow down to threats from Israel and the United States, which demanded the resistance group release hostages this weekend or face a return to war in Gaza.

Mediators Qatar and Egypt were pushing to salvage

the cease-fire agreement, a Palestinian source and a diplomat familiar with the talks told AFP, while Hamas said its top negotiator was in Cairo, AFP reported.

The truce has largely halted more than 15 months of fighting and seen Israeli captives released in batches in exchange for Palestinians in Israeli custody.

But the deal, currently in its 42-day first phase, has come under increasing strain.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said on Wednesday that Israel was "evading the implementation of several provisions of the cease-fire agreement", warning that hostages would not be released without Israeli compliance with the deal.

"Our position is clear, and we will not accept the language of American and Israeli threats," said Qassem, after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened to "resume intense fighting" if hostages were not released by Saturday.

His threat echoed US President Donald Trump, who said on Monday that "hell" would break loose if Hamas failed to release "all" Israeli hostages by then. Netanyahu did not specify whether he was referring to all captives.

Hamas has said it would postpone the next hostage release scheduled for Saturday, citing Israeli violations.



● [Hazem Qassem](http://Hazem Qassem)

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran envoy decries Trump's threat to use force against Tehran

Iran strongly condemned US President Donald Trump's threat to use force against the country as deeply alarming and irresponsible.

Iran's permanent ambassador to the UN made the remarks in a letter to the UN chief and the president of the Security Council on Tuesday.

Amir Saeid Iravani said Trump's reckless and inflammatory statements flagrantly violate international law and the UN Charter, Press TV reported.

"Upon the instructions from my Government, I am writing to draw the Security Council's attention to deeply alarming and irresponsible remarks made by the President of the United States, in which he openly threatened the use of force against the Islamic Republic of Iran,"

Iravani said.

Trump said he would prefer to make a deal with Iran rather than "bomb the hell out of it," in a media interview published on Saturday.

"I would like a deal done with Iran on non-nuclear. I would prefer that to bomb the hell out of it," Trump told the New York Post. "They don't want to die. Nobody wants to die."

In yet another belligerent statement, during an interview with Fox News on Monday, Trump reiterated the same language of war. "I would like to make a deal without bombing them."

Iravani said Trump's "reckless and inflammatory statements flagrantly violate international law and the UN Charter, particularly Article 2(4), which prohibits

threats or use of force against sovereign states."

The Iranian diplomat also slammed Trump's so-called maximum pressure policy against Iran as a blatant violation of fundamental principles and norms of international law.

Iravani called on the Security Council not to remain silent in the face of such brazen rhetoric and condemned it unequivocally.

He warned that any act of aggression against Iran will have severe consequences, for which the US will bear full responsibility.

He emphasized that Iran will resolutely defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national interests against any hostile action.

Trump's threats came a few days after he signed an order seeking to cut Iran's oil exports to zero, while also claiming that he wanted to work towards a nuclear deal.