

Veep: Iran not to take orders on use of nuclear technology

International Desk

Iran's Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said the country will not take orders from anyone for the use of nuclear technology. Addressing the inauguration of the new head of the country's Iranology Foundation in Tehran on Tuesday, Aref said the "essence of Iranian culture is the acquisition of knowledge, even in the most distant parts of the world." Aref said the Islamic Republic is steadfast in its independent nuclear policy. "We must use nuclear technology, like other technol-

ogies, to elevate humanity and solve society's problems. In this regard, we do not consult or take orders, and at the same time, we make it available to everyone," Aref added. Iran's nuclear program has been a source of tensions between Tehran and the West for many years during which Iran has been insisting on the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities while the West has been accusing Iran of deviation in its nuclear energy program towards, what they allege, military purpose. The western countries, led

by the United States, have imposed crippling sanctions on Iran during the years. In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with six world powers. However, the US, during the first term of the President Donald Trump, unilaterally withdrew from the deal in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions against Tehran, which left the future of the deal in limbo. Now, after nearly 10 years since the signing of the

nuclear deal, Trump has expressed his interest in reaching a new agreement with Iran on its nuclear program. However, his language of threats and imposition of sanctions against Iran have made Iranian officials skeptical of negotiations with the US administration. Trump last month restored his "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran which includes efforts to drive its oil exports down to zero. Iranian officials have said that negotiations under pressure are not meaningful.



Iran's Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref addresses the inauguration ceremony of the new head of the country's Iranology Foundation in Tehran on March 11, 2025.
● IRNA

Senior official: So-called rights advocates biggest rights violators

Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs said that the so-called rights advocates are themselves the biggest rights violators for subjecting Iran to the most brutal sanctions.

Kazem Gharibabadi made the statement in the opening ceremony of an exhibition showcasing Iranian women's achievements in the capital Tehran on Tuesday, Press TV reported.

"Those who claim to advocate for human rights while they issue resolutions against Iran and criticize the human rights situation in the country are, in fact, the biggest violators of the rights of the Iranian people, as they have endangered the right to life and well-being of millions of Iranians by imposing unjust sanctions," Gharibabadi said. "If these human rights advocates truly care about the human rights of the people of Iran, they should lift the unilateral sanctions against the Iranian people."

Affirming that Iran remains strong despite economic pressures, he added, "These so-called human rights defenders do not even exempt food and medicine. But we are a great nation with vast capacities, and we are proud of our people. Based on national pride and effort, these threats and sanctions



Kazem Gharibabadi

have no impact on the Islamic Republic of Iran. If any other country had endured just 10% of Iran's sanctions, it would have collapsed by now."

Underlining that the Islamic Republic is determined to support and promote human rights, Gharibabadi said Iran is a victim of terrorism, with over 23,000 Iranian men, women and children having been killed by terrorists. Taking to task Western governments for harboring groups responsible for terrorist attacks on Iran, the senior official condemned the "politicization" of human rights and asserted that countries that have favorable political relations with the West enjoy immunity in

the face of international criticisms and rights resolutions.

"We are an independent country and we do not yield to any demands under pressure, and this is part of Iran's history. Iran is a country which enjoys a 7,000-year-old civilization and believes in religious principles and values," Gharibabadi said.

Iran has long been the target of Western sanctions, which have intensified under the administration of US President Donald Trump and its European allies.

The so-called "maximum pressure" campaign has significantly impacted Iran's economy and has been widely condemned as a form of hybrid warfare.

'Extremely deplorable': Araghchi raps US revocation of Iraq electricity waiver

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called the US decision to end Iraq's sanctions waiver for electricity import from Iran "extremely deplorable."

The Iranian foreign minister in a post on X said that Washington has decided to target the innocent people of Iraq "by attempting to deprive them of access to basic services such as electricity, especially ahead of the coming hot months of the year."

He added that Iran will stand with the Iraqi people and remains firm on its commitment to the Iraqi government to repel unlawful US actions.

The United States has ended a sanctions waiver that allowed Iraq to buy electricity from neighboring Iran, in line with US President Donald Trump's policy of exerting "maximum pressure" on Tehran.

In a statement released on Sunday, the US Department of State said the decision not to renew the waiver was made to "ensure we do not allow Iran any degree of economic or financial relief."

Such a waiver was introduced in 2018, when Washington reimposed sanctions on Tehran after Trump abandoned a nuclear deal with Iran negotiated under US President Barack Obama. Back then, Trump imposed sweeping US sanctions on any other country buying Iran's oil. The waiver was extended to Iraq as a "key partner" of the US.

Since returning to the White House for a second term as US president in January, Trump has reinstated his policy of exerting "maximum pressure" against Iran. The chairman of the Iraqi parliament's finance committee has warned



Abbas Araghchi

that any move by Washington to restrict power imports from Iran would cause Iraq's electrical grid to collapse.

The US has urged the Iraqi government to eliminate its dependence on Iranian sources of energy as soon as possible. Currently, approximately 80 percent of Iraq's electricity generation depends on natural gas, making the country heavily dependent on Iranian imports to sustain its power grid.

Three Iraqi energy officials who spoke to Reuters said the country has no immediate alternatives to compensate for the energy imported from Iran, which will cause a significant problem in providing enough electricity to meet domestic consumption. Many Iraqis have to rely on diesel generators or suffer through temperatures that exceed 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) during the summer months.

The US embassy in Iraq has asserted that electricity imports from Iran were only four percent of electricity consumption in Iraq.

But a spokesperson for Iraq's Ministry of Electricity, Ahmad Moussa, said that should gas imports also be forbidden, it "would cause Iraq to lose more than 30 percent of its electricity energy," so the government is looking for alternatives.

Iran heavily burdened by hosting Afghan migrants: UN envoy



AP

International Desk

Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani said Iran has been shouldering a heavy burden for hosting Afghan migrants – a situation which worsened after the US's withdrawal from Afghanistan in

2021.

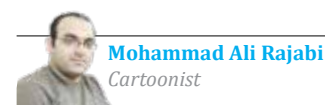
Amir Saeid Iravani made the remarks on Monday during a UN Security Council Briefing on the "Situation in Afghanistan."

"Iran's policy on Afghan refugees and migrants remains unchanged and rooted in humanitarian principles. For over four decades, Iran has sheltered millions of Afghans, carrying a heavy burden, one that became even greater after the US's reckless withdrawal in 2021," Iravani said.

He added that neighboring countries should not be left to bear this responsibility without support from the international community.

"Iran and Pakistan need sustained and meaningful assistance. The international community must go beyond rhetoric and take concrete action," the Iranian diplomat said. He underlined that legal Afghan migrants in Iran face no restrictions, and Iranian consulates issue 5,000 visas daily for Afghan migrants.

However, he said Iran will repatriate those who illegally enter Iran due to security concerns, including terrorist threats. Iran is hosting more than six million Afghans at an annual cost of 10 billion dollars.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

