

Iran warns against 'political exploitation' of UN atomic agency

International Desk

Iran warned of consequences of "political exploitation" of the UN nuclear watchdog by certain countries after the release of a "politically-motivated" report by the agency about Tehran's nuclear program.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a phone call with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Rafael Grossi urged him to reflect the realities about Iran's peaceful nuclear energy program and prevent political exploitation of its coverage of the country's nuclear activities.

Araghchi reaffirmed the country's continued cooperation with the IAEA, noting that all of its nuclear activities were under the agency's supervision and conducted in line with the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement. The agreement allows the IAEA to verify that all nuclear materials in a country are used only for peaceful purposes, and are not diverted towards production of nuclear weapons. The top Iranian diplomat, meanwhile, emphasized that there had been no deviation concerning either nuclear ma-

terials or activities at any stage of the nation's nuclear program.

Araghchi urged Grossi to ensure the agency's reports accurately reflected these facts to prevent certain actors from using the IAEA as a political tool against Iran.

He also called on Grossi to underscore Iran's cooperation with the IAEA at the upcoming IAEA Board of Governors' meeting and to caution against politically-driven actions against the country, particularly by European states.

Araghchi warned that Iran would respond appropriately to any "unjustified move". The remarks concerned under-way efforts by the UK, France, and Germany – the United States allies in a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran – to return the UN's sanctions against Iran by resorting to the so-called "snapback" mechanism. Araghchi's phone conversation with Grossi came after Iran's Foreign Ministry and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) in a joint statement on Saturday strongly criticized the IAEA's recent quarterly report, which had accused Iran of stepping up its production of highly enriched uranium.

The IAEA also claimed that Iran has failed to report its nuclear activities at three undeclared locations.

Denouncing the report as "political and unbalanced," the statement said that the document had been drafted under pressure from European states and failed to reflect Tehran's comprehensive cooperation with the agency.

The statement dismissed as baseless the IAEA's expression of alleged concern and repeated accusations against the Islamic Republic, asserting that the allegations lacked credible evidence and were being used for political maneuvering. Meanwhile, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi on Sunday rejected the report as "politically-motivated," warning of appropriate response if certain states "abuse its patience."

He said the report is based on "a series of fabricated data provided by the Zionist regime" dating back to more than two decades ago.

All accusations about Iran's past nuclear activities were terminated under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, which formally endorsed the 2015



IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria

Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he added.

The IAEA Board of Governors is set to review Iran's nuclear activities in its

upcoming quarterly meeting in Vienna starting June 9.

Iran has denied seeking nuclear arms and says it needs the uranium for civilian power production.

Several European countries host mass anti-Israel rallies

International Desk

Thousands of people once again took to the streets in several European capitals to protest against the Israeli genocidal war in the Gaza Strip as the regime's strikes continue to claim the lives of innocent people in the Palestinian territory.

In the Spanish Basque city of San Sebastian, hundreds of people covered with white sheets lay on the ground to symbolize Palestinians killed during nearly 20 months of Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip. The protesters called for an end to Israel's genocide in Gaza and called on their government to sever its relations with the regime. Since the beginning of war in Gaza on 2023, Spain has been an outspoken critic of Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip and has recognized the Palestinian state in a show of support for Palestinians.

Protesters also held a rally in Britain's major city of Manchester where they called for an arms embargo on the regime. They also urged their government to shut down Israel's arms factories in the UK. Stockholm and Athens were also the scene of protests against the Israeli regime which has claimed the lives of more than 54,000 Palestinians – most of them women and children – since October 2023.

On Sunday, at least 31 people were killed and over 170 were wounded while on their way to receive food in



A Palestinian girl stands in a heavily damaged building in the central Gaza Strip, following Israeli fire near an aid distribution center, on June 1, 2025.

• EYAD BABA/AFP

the Gaza Strip, according to health officials and multiple witnesses. The witnesses said Israeli forces fired on crowds around a kilometer from an aid site run by an Israeli-backed foundation. Residents and medics said Israeli soldiers fired from the ground at a crane nearby that overlooks the area, and a tank opened fire at thousands of people who were en route to get aid from the site in Rafah.

The Gaza government media office said Israel was using aid as a weapon, "employed to exploit starving civilians and forcibly gather them at exposed killing zones, which are managed and monitored by the Israeli military".

The head of the UN Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, condemned the deaths on Sunday, say-

ing in a statement on X that "aid distribution has become a death trap." He said aid distribution should be "only through the United Nations, including UNRWA."

The incident in Rafah in the south of the enclave was the latest in a series underscoring the insecurity around aid delivery to Gaza, following the easing of an almost three-month Israeli blockade last month. Hamas resistance group called for an independent UN investigation into the incident.

Israel has faced growing condemnation over the humanitarian crisis in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, where the United Nations has warned the entire population faces famine after no aid had been allowed to enter for more than two months.

Iranian FM begins two-leg visit to Egypt, Lebanon

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is scheduled to visit Egypt and Lebanon on Monday and Tuesday to discuss "bilateral relations and regional crises" with the countries' officials.

Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei on Sunday told reporters that Araghchi's visit to Egypt and Lebanon "is aimed at discussing bilateral relations, consulting on the latest situation in the region, especially developments in Palestine, and consulting on international developments." According to Mohammad Hossein Soltani-Fard, head of Iran's Interests Section in Cairo, Araghchi is scheduled to meet with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, and prominent political and economic figures.

He said Araghchi's visit to Cairo takes place at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart. Highlighting the "clear objectives" of the visit, the envoy emphasized that ongoing regional crises—including the Gaza war, Israeli military aggression, and the conflicts in Sudan and Libya—call for dialogue and negotiations among "influential and impactful" nations.

Regarding Tehran-Cairo relations, he noted that progress has been steady, with regular consultations and intensive discussions between the foreign ministers of the two countries. Soltani-Fard said he hopes Iran



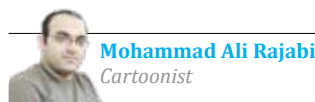
Abbas Araghchi
• IRNA

and Egypt will take the "final steps" toward enhancing relations in the very near future. Iran and Egypt, two influential Muslim-majority countries, have experienced strained relations since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. A key source of tension was Egypt's decision to grant asylum to the deposed West-backed Iranian dictator, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, as well as recognition of the Israeli regime through the 1978 Camp David Accords.

Relations between the two countries saw a marked improvement after the ouster of longtime Egyptian dictator Hosni Mubarak during the 2011 Arab Spring.

"Iran has supported Egypt's stance against the forced migration of Gaza's people and its efforts to secure a ceasefire. Egypt plays a crucial role in this regard," he added.

Talks are also underway to finalize arrangements for direct flights between the two countries. The top Iranian diplomat will later travel to Lebanon for talks with Lebanese officials.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iran never gives ...

One of the main sticking points in the Iran-US talks is the dispute over uranium enrichment. The US is pushing for a total shutdown of enrichment in Iran, while Iran insists this is its inalienable right and refuses to give ground. This impasse led the fifth round of talks, held in Rome on May 23—which Araghchi described as "one of the most professional sessions"—to end in stalemate, with no date set for a sixth round.

Iranian officials have repeatedly driven home in recent weeks that they will not agree to even an hour's suspension of enrichment, making it clear that insisting on zero enrichment in Iran would steer the talks toward failure. The Iranian foreign minister has previously posted on X that Iran is ready for a diplomatic solution, but any deal must bring about the full lifting of sanctions and safeguard Iran's nuclear rights, including enrichment. While the US's insistence on zero enrichment appears to have boxed in both Tehran and Washington, Iran's suggested ap-

proach—focusing on the specifics of enrichment and exploring various oversight mechanisms—could help break the deadlock. The Iran-US talks have reached a critical juncture. The uncertainty over the timing and location of the sixth round only underscores the complexity of the diplomatic path ahead. The political, security, and economic fallout of a failed negotiation for all parties in the Middle East, Europe, and the US has spurred them into round-the-clock efforts to ensure diplomacy wins out over other options. Oman's Foreign Minister Busaidi, after the fifth round of talks in Rome, wrote on X about ongoing efforts to help Tehran and Washington strike a "sustainable and honorable" agreement. The key to such a deal is a win-win solution, where Tehran reaps the benefits of effective sanctions relief, and Trump can tout a deal distinct from the JCPOA. In such a roadmap, a dogged insistence on zero enrichment in Iran—clearly declared as a non-negotiable red line—will only drag out the talks and play into the hands of those seeking to sabotage diplomacy.

