

Araghchi: Any move against Iran at IAEA will be met with 'appropriate response'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned on Tuesday that any "unwise and destructive decision" at the UN nuclear agency against Iran will be met with an "appropriate response" from Tehran.

The Iranian foreign minister in a phone call with his Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya said that the responsibility for the consequences of such move at the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) falls on those who instrumentalize the UN agency for their political purposes. There are reports that the United States, Britain, France and Germany plan to submit a draft resolution to the 35-member board on Thursday, creating a window to trigger the snapback of all UN sanctions on Tehran under the 2015 nuclear deal before the mechanism expires in October.

The resolution, which Iran views as a politically motivated step, would accuse Iran of failing to meet its obliga-

tions under the agreement.

Referring to Iran's principled position on safeguarding the "legitimate interests and undeniable rights" of the Iranian people to benefit from peaceful nuclear energy, Araghchi criticized the "provocative move" by the US and the three European countries in putting forward the anti-Iran resolution amid ongoing nuclear negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

Araghchi reiterated that Iran will never move toward production of nuclear weapons and will not back down from its rights to peaceful nuclear energy. Pointing to Japan's balanced positions in its foreign policy, Iran's top diplomat expressed hope that Japan and other IAEA member states would take appropriate stances and measures to strengthen the path of dialogue and engagement.

The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi also warned on Monday that Iran will take retaliatory measures if the IAEA adopts the resolution.



Abbas Araghchi



Takeshi Iwaya

Kamalvandi said Iran has warned in previous resolutions, but they did not pay attention, and the result was that we increased the production of 60 percent enrichment by 7 times, launched 20 chains, and installed advanced 13th-generation machines. The Japan's foreign minister welcomed the continuation of Iran-US talks and emphasized Iran's legitimate right to peaceful nuclear energy.

The IAEA Board of Governors has started its regular June meeting at the Agency's headquarters in Vienna. Representatives from the 35 member countries of the IAEA Board of Governors are participating in the crucial quarterly meeting which began on Monday and will last until Friday.

IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi delivered an introductory statement to the meeting on Monday, during

which he called on Iran to fully cooperate with the agency after he claimed that the agency has found man-made uranium particles at three undeclared locations in Iran.

"Unless and until Iran assists the Agency in resolving the outstanding safeguards issues, the Agency will not be in a position to provide assurance that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively peaceful", Grossi said.

Intelligence Ministry: Iran deals 'crushing blow' to Israel over secret documents



Israel's Dimona nuclear facility

International Desk

Iran's Intelligence Ministry said on Tuesday that the country dealt a "crushing blow" to Israel after it managed to obtain the regime's secret documents in an "unprecedented and complicated operation".

The ministry said in a statement that the "historic mission" — designed to access the regime's most sensitive, strategic, and highly classified documents — was successfully concluded despite strict security measures put in place by the regime.

Iran's Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib said on Sunday that the country has obtained thousands of secret Israeli documents in an "extensive and complicated operation".

Khatib called the documents a trove of "strategic, operational, and scientific information".

The minister added that the documents are related to the regime's nuclear facilities, its relations with the United States, Europe and some other countries as well as information that will help Iran enhance its offensive capabilities.

The ministry in its statement said that the documents hold strategic, practical, research, and scientific value. They contain a wide range of information, part of which are related to Israel's "illegal and covert nuclear weapons programs" as well as ties with American and European institutions, covering the regime's

current and future nuclear plans. The documents also include information about Israel's military and missile programs, scientific and technical projects, as well as the names, profiles, photos and addresses of the managers, officials, and scientists involved in the projects.

The documents clearly reveal how the United States and certain European countries have played — and continue to play — a supporting role in advancing the weapons programs of the Israeli regime, while accusing Iran of pursuing non-peaceful activities, the ministry's statement said.

The Chief Commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami said the Islamic Republic will be able to strike potential Israeli targets "more precisely" now after it managed to obtain the secret documents of the regime.

Iran: New round of nuclear talks with US planned for Sunday

Trump calls Iranians good negotiators but tough

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry said a new round of nuclear talks with the United States is being planned for Sunday, after US President Donald Trump said it was expected on Thursday.

"The next round of Iran-US indirect talks is being planned for next Sunday in Muscat," Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said in a statement Tuesday.

Iran and the United States have held five rounds of talks since April to thrash out a new nuclear deal to replace the 2015 accord with major powers that Trump abandoned during his first term in 2018.

On May 31, after the fifth round of talks, Iran said it had received "elements" of a US proposal for a nuclear deal, with Araghchi later saying the text contained "ambiguities".

Iran said on Monday the US proposal was "lacking elements" reflective of the previous negotiations and that it would present a "reasonable, logical and balanced" counter-proposal to the United States through mediator Oman.

Trump said on Monday that the next round of the talks could clarify if a nuclear deal is possible or not. He made clear that the two sides remained at odds over Iran's uranium enrichment.

"We're doing a lot of work on Iran right now," Trump said at an economic event at the White House.

"They are good negotiators, but they're tough. Sometimes they can be too tough, that's the problem," Trump added.



Esmail Baqaei
IRNA

"They're just asking for things that you can't do. They don't want to give up what they have to give up," Trump told reporters at the White House. "They seek enrichment. We can't have enrichment."

Iran and the United States have recently been locked in a diplomatic standoff over Iran's uranium enrichment, with Tehran defending it as a "non-negotiable" right and Washington calling it as a "red line".

On Monday, Baqaei criticized the US proposal as "lacking elements" reflective of the previous rounds of negotiations, without providing further details.

"The US's proposal is [simply] the US's proposal; naturally, any negotiating party can make proposals on their own part, but this proposal has not considered any of the issues raised by Iran," Baqaei added.

"We will soon submit our own proposed plan to the other side through (mediator) Oman once it is finalized," Baqaei told a weekly press briefing. "It is a proposal that is reasonable, logical, and balanced, and we strongly recommend that the American side value this opportunity."

UK foreign ministry staff warn of 'complicity' in Gaza

International Desk

More than 300 civil servants at Britain's foreign ministry have written to Foreign Secretary David Lammy expressing concerns about Israel's conduct of the war in Gaza, the BBC reported Tuesday.

The officials warned of potential UK "complicity" in what they called "Israel's violations of international humanitarian law" during the conflict in the Palestinian territory.

The letter dated May 16 questioned the continuation of some UK arms sales to the country, according to the broadcaster.

"In July 2024, staff expressed concern about Israel's violations of international humanitarian law and potential UK government complicity," the staff wrote, according to excerpts cited by the BBC.

"In the intervening period, the reality of Israel's disregard for international law has become more stark," they added, citing the killing of humanitarian workers, restrictions on international aid and violence by Israeli settlers in the West Bank.

The letter added the UK government had contributed to "the erosion of global norms", including through weapons exports, the broadcaster reported.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government suspended some 30 of 350 arms export licenses to Israel in September 2024, citing a "risk" they could be used in violations of international law.



AP

London has also sanctioned settlers in the West Bank and suspended negotiations on a free trade agreement with Israel.

But it continues to supply components for F-35 fighter jets to a global pool that Israel is able to access.

"Since day one, this government has rigorously applied international law in relation to the war in Gaza," a Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) spokesperson said in a statement sent to AFP.

The BBC reported that the two most senior officials in the FCDO replied to the letter by saying the signatories could "resign" if they disagreed with government policy.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

