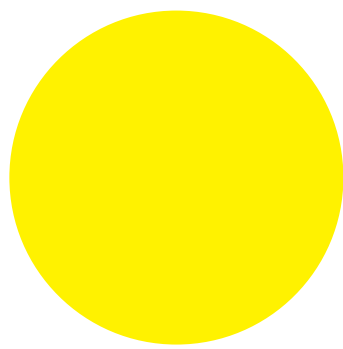


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Iran 'stands firmly' against imposed war

Leader:

US intervention to cause 'irreparable damage'

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Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses the nation in a televised speech on June 18, 2025 in the wake of the ongoing Israeli aggression.

● leader.ir

Pezeshkian urges unity, public support in face of Israeli strike

Political Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday called for national unity and public engagement to steer the country through what he described as a "critical juncture," days after Israel's June 13 strike on Iranian infrastructure escalated regional tensions.

In a cabinet session held in Tehran, Pezeshkian said Iran could weather any crisis if its people "stand with the authorities," president.ir reported.

He pressed ministers to focus all efforts on "preserving national cohesion" and urged agencies to respond swiftly when citizens need support. "With unity and solidarity, we can overcome any crisis," he said.

The comments come as Iran continues to absorb the political and economic shockwaves of Israel's attack on June 13, which targeted key logistical facilities in western Iran. Several neighboring countries, including Iraq and Turkey, condemned the attack and expressed solidarity.

Pezeshkian thanked those governments for their backing, singling out "neighboring states" for their timely support.

He directed ministers to "intensify diplomatic engagement," particularly in the region. "We must build on the goodwill shown," he added.

As inflation continues to weigh on households and external pressure grows, Pezeshkian also called for decentralized governance.

He instructed ministers to delegate authority to local managers and provincial deputies, allowing them to "make immediate decisions when needed" without awaiting central approval.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (3rd L) speaks during the cabinet session held in Tehran on June 18, 2025.

He reminded government institutions, especially social aid agencies like the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, to be alert and responsive to emergencies. "People must know that their government stands beside them," he said.

Toward the end of the meeting, Pezeshkian urged strict adherence to national security protocols. "Every official must comply with protective measures laid out by the competent authorities," he said, warning that any lapse could pose unnecessary risks.

Fallout of a strait closure

By Hoda Yousefi

Journalist

OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

Israel's attack on Iran and the escalating tensions have thrust the Persian Gulf into the global spotlight. This region, known for its strategic location and vast energy resources, plays a critical role in the world's economy and energy security. Now, it faces threats that could seriously undermine regional stability. At the heart of this brewing crisis lies the Strait of Hormuz—one of the world's most vital energy chokepoints. The Israeli regime has repeatedly threatened to target Iran's energy infrastructure, and in response, Iranian officials have signaled they may shut down the strait if national interests are at stake. The Strait of Hormuz, connect-

ing the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman, serves as a lifeline for global energy supplies. Current data shows that roughly 20% of all global oil and petroleum products—some 20 million barrels per day—flow through this narrow passage. Additionally, 30% of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) is shipped via this route, with 80% heading to Asia and 20% to Europe. These figures highlight the irreplaceable role the strait plays in global energy security. From a transit perspective, it is a crucial artery for maritime trade, and any disruption could wreak havoc on global supply chains. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz—currently under serious consideration, according to Esmaeil Kowsari, a member of Iran's parliamentary National Security and Foreign Policy Committee—could have catastrophic consequences for the global economy. Unlike the Bab

el-Mandeb Strait, where ships can reroute around Africa, the Strait of Hormuz offers no practical alternatives. Shutting it down would drastically cut off global energy flows, potentially driving oil prices up to \$200–300 per barrel. Such a price spike would inflate transportation costs and trigger major delays in energy deliveries to dependent countries like China, India, Japan, and European states. The ripple effects could push the global economy toward recession and pose major challenges to Persian Gulf exporters heavily reliant on this route.

Arab states sound alarm

Persian Gulf Arab nations—such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar—have voiced growing concern over the heightened tensions and the looming threat of a strait closure. Their economies, heavily reliant on

oil and gas exports, stand to suffer deeply from any disruption to shipping lanes through the Strait of Hormuz. Though these states have officially condemned Israeli aggression and called for restraint, they privately worry about a potential power shake-up in the region. A closure of the strait would not only deal a blow to their economies but could also undercut their geopolitical standing both regionally and globally.

Iran's legitimate self-defense right

In recent years, Israel has become a destabilizing force, ramping up hostile actions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. These include threats to strike critical energy infrastructure, cyberattacks, assassinations of nuclear scientists, and repeated military threats—all carried out with

backing from certain Western powers. These aggressive moves violate international law and jeopardize not only Iran's national security but also the broader stability of the Persian Gulf region.

In response, the Islamic Republic—exercising its sovereign right to self-defense—has repeatedly declared it will use all available means to protect its national interests. The potential closure of the Strait of Hormuz is one such strategic lever. This action, taken strictly in defense of national and regional security, falls squarely within the framework of international law and the principle of legitimate self-defense. Iran has consistently emphasized its commitment to peace and stability in the region, but in the face of Israeli aggression and its supporters, it reserves the right to push back using all tools at its disposal.