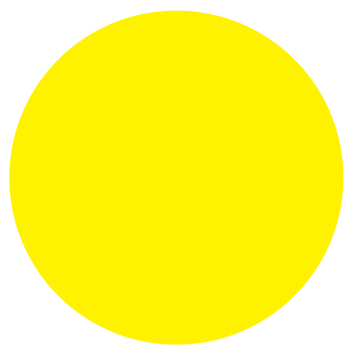


Grossi's destructive role regarding Iran to be recorded in history: *Eslami* 2 >



Top general calls past strikes warning, vows punishment

 2 >

Iran 'stands firmly' against imposed war

Leader:

US intervention to cause 'irreparable damage' 2 >



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.

Iran 'stands firmly' against imposed war *Leader: US intervention to cause 'irreparable damage'*



The screengrab was taken from footage released by the Iranian Armed Forces for the first time since the start of the war, showing the launch of missiles from an undisclosed location in Iran toward Israel on June 17, 2025.

International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in a message on Wednesday, said the Iranian nation will "firmly stand against" an imposed war. In a televised message, amid the continued Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei said the Iranian nation will never surrender to "any form of imposition."

In the wake of continued Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution commended the Iranian people for their "composed, courageous, and timely" conduct, Press TV reported.

He said the brave response of people reflected the nation's growing maturity, as well as its spiritual and intellectual strength.

"The Iranian nation will firmly stand against an imposed war, just as it will resolutely resist an imposed peace," he said in a televised message.

"This is a nation that will never surrender to any form of imposition."

Referring to the recent war-mongering rhetoric of US President Donald Trump, Ayatollah Khamenei warned against any American military intervention.

"Those with wisdom, who truly understand Iran, its people, and

its long history, never speak to this nation with the language of threats. Iran will not yield," he asserted.

"The Americans must understand—any US military incursion will undoubtedly lead to irreversible consequences."

Leader's latest message came as the Israeli-imposed war against the Iranian nation entered its sixth day on Wednesday. The unprovoked war was launched on Friday, leading to the assassination of many senior-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists and civilians.

The wanton aggression has only continued and escalated in the past five days.

Iranian retaliatory operation, dubbed 'True Promise III', was launched on Friday evening, targeting numerous strategic and sensitive military intelligence targets of the Israeli regime.

The eleven phases of the operation have caused heavy blows to the regime, and instilled a sense of fear among settlers who have been hiding in underground tunnels.

On Tuesday, Trump again resorted to saber-rattling against Iran, accusing it of pursuing nuclear weapons. Iranian officials maintain that the country is not in the race for nuclear arms but stands ready to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Islamic Republic.

Top general calls past strikes warning, vows punishment

International Desk

In a stern and strongly-worded warning to Israel and its Western backers on Tuesday, Iran's top military commander stated the "punitive operations" will be carried out soon.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, the newly-elected chief of staff of Iran's Armed Forces, in a televised message, said the operations carried out so far since Friday have served as a deterrent warning, and the actual punitive operations will be executed soon. He also warned the settlers of the occupied territories, especially Tel Aviv and Haifa, to immediately leave these areas to save their lives and "not sacrifice themselves to Netanyahu's animalistic desires".

The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a statement after launching a fresh wave of at-

tacks on Israel early on Wednesday in response to the Tel Aviv regime's aggression on Iran's soil. In the statement, the IRGC revealed that it had attacked occupied territories with first-generation Fattah missiles, which managed to pass through the Israeli missile defense shield and repeatedly shook their shelters.

"Tonight's missile attack showed that we have gained complete control over the skies of the occupied territories," the IRGC said, adding that the residents of Israel are now completely defenseless against Iranian missile attacks.

Israel loses edge on tech front

The Iranian Air Defense units reportedly shot down 28 hostile aircraft on Tuesday to early Wednesday, including an advanced Hermes drone of the



Zionist regime over the central province of Isfahan. The Israeli spy drone was trying to gather information about the sensitive sites of Iran when it was detected by the country's integrated air defense network and brought down by a missile.

The Zionist regime has confirmed the downing of its Hermes drone in Iran. Manufactured by the Zionist regime's Elbit Systems, the Hermes 900 Kochav is a long-endurance UAV designed for tactical missions, such as recon-



An Iranian reporter stands in front of an Israeli Hermes 900 Kochav UAV that was downed by a missile in Isfahan Province, central Iran, on June 18, 2025.

● SCREENGAB

naissance and surveillance, and is valued at around \$10 million. Meanwhile, Israel is running low on defensive Arrow interceptors, according to a US official, raising concern about the country's ability to counter long-range ballistic missiles from Iran if the conflict isn't resolved soon.

The US has been aware of the capacity problems for months, the official said, and Washington has been augmenting Israel's defenses with systems on the ground, at sea, and in the air. Since the conflict escalated in June, the Pentagon has sent more missile defense assets into the region, and now there is concern about the US burning through interceptors as well.

According to Al Arabiya, Iran has fired more than 440 missiles at Israel since the beginning of its attacks, killing 24 and injuring more than 1,300.

Grossi's destructive role regarding Iran to be recorded in history: *Eslami*

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami pointed the finger of blame at Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi for the destructive role he played in the Islamic Republic's peaceful nuclear program.

Eslami underlined on Wednesday that Grossi failed to deliver his duties regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Grossi's destructive role regarding Iran will be recorded in history, he said, adding that his procrastination paved the way for the Israeli regime to advance its illegal objectives.

Iranians will not bow to any pressure and oppression, Eslami noted, high-

lighting the national pride of the Iranian nation.

Touching on the state of Iran's nuclear activities after the Israeli regime's aggression, Eslami stressed that the nuclear facilities are in good condition. Praising the high morale of the AEOI staffers, the nuclear chief said they are stationed in their work places and steadfastly doing their duties.

"Pride and might are deeply embedded in the Iranian people, as they have never given in to force or surrendered," Eslami underlined.

The senior nuclear official made it clear to the enemy that it will get nowhere through military aggress-

sion against Iran. Speaking to CNN journalist Christiane Amanpour on Tuesday, Grossi confirmed that there is no evidence Iran is pursuing a nuclear weapons program. Grossi acknowledged what Iran has repeatedly stated the issue and the UN nuclear agency has also confirmed in its reports.

"What we reported was that we did not have any proof of a systematic effort [by Iran] to move toward a nuclear weapon," the director general of the IAEA was quoted as saying.

He reiterated that the agency's findings align with other independent sources on the issue.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

