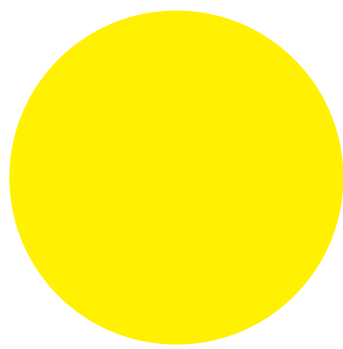


Global protests erupt against US, Israeli strikes on Iran

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## Iran targets Israel's positions; warns US after attack on nuclear sites

Tel Aviv launches new attack on Fordow

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### US-Israeli aggression unjustified, baseless: Putin

#### International Desk

Russian President Vladimir Putin condemned in a meeting on Monday with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi the recent US-Israeli aggression on the Islamic Republic, underlining that the anti-Iran onslaught was unjustified and baseless.

Putin expressed the Kremlin's position in condemning the offensives by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran, stressing, "These attacks are unjustified and baseless aggression." Pointing to the deep-rooted and reliable ties between Tehran and Moscow, he said, "Unjustified aggression against Iran has no foundation and Russia is doing its best to help Iranian people and to explore how they can find a solution."

Putin also said the Iranian foreign minister's visit to Moscow provided an opportunity to discuss the ways out of the current crisis in the West Asian region.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Russia's President Vladimir Putin shake hands during a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow on June 23, 2025. ALEXANDER KAZAKOV/AFP

Araghchi, for his part, praised Russia for condemning the Israeli and American military strikes on his country, saying Tehran is engaged in legitimate self-defense and that Moscow stands on the right side of history in accordance with international laws.

"Tensions are now rising due to the unreasonable aggression

by the Israeli regime and the US (against Iran). The acts of aggression are in violation of the United Nations Charter and the international law, as the Islamic Republic of Iran is legitimately defending itself against the aggression," Araghchi stated. Emphasizing that Tehran has always had close consultations with Moscow on all issues relat-

ed to global security, the top Iranian diplomat said, "Russia has been a partner and companion of Iran over its nuclear issue. It has also been present in the nuclear negotiations. The Israeli regime waged a war of aggression against Iran on June 13 and has since been targeting Iran's military, nuclear sites and civilian infrastruc-

tures, with Tehran pounding with missiles the occupied territories in retaliatory attacks. In new escalation early on Sunday, the US stepped in and conducted military attacks on three nuclear sites in Iran's Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan. The Islamic Republic has underscored its absolute right to respond to the Israeli-US onslaught on its soil.

### Iran says IAEA cooperation no longer serves nat'l interests

#### International Desk

An Iranian envoy told an emergency session of the IAEA Board of Governors that recent US and Israeli attacks on Iran's safeguarded nuclear facilities led Tehran to conclude that continued cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog "can no longer serve its national interests, sovereignty, or security."

Reza Najafi, Iran's Ambassador to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Vienna, condemned the June 22 attacks on Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, describing them as "an irreparable blow to the international non-proliferation system," IRNA reported. He stressed that the strikes occurred while IAEA inspectors were present at the facilities and all operations were under agency supervision.

Iran had requested the extraordinary session following what it called acts of aggression against its peaceful nuclear program.

Najafi criticized the United States, an NPT depository state, for launching strikes against safeguarded sites and then publicly boasting about the destruction of Iran's enrichment capability. "It is shameful," he said, "that a country entrusted with the NPT framework not only violates its principles but takes pride in an unlawful act of aggression."

He also warned that the IAEA's ability to conduct routine inspections had been directly impacted, creating a serious challenge to the implementation of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

"Furthermore," he added, "the security of nuclear materials, including enriched uranium, has been severely compromised. The continuity of the agency's knowledge can no longer be guaranteed."

A joint statement by eleven countries condemned Israel's attack as a flagrant violation of international law and urged the IAEA and the UN Security Council to take immediate action to prevent further aggression.

Najafi warned that the IAEA and its Board of Governors would share responsibility for any widespread environmental damage resulting from the strikes if they fail to take effective, principled action—including the unequivocal condemnation of the attacks.

## No room for talks after US deception

> By Abolfazl Salehinia  
Mideast affairs expert

### OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The United States has now directly entered the war between Iran and Israel by launching airstrikes on Iran's nuclear facilities in various locations, openly aligning itself with the Zionist regime in its military campaign. While American involvement in the conflict began with its provision of military equipment, intelligence support, logistical aid, and political backing to Israel, the recent overt participation marks a significant and dangerous escalation.

This development, however, comes as no surprise. The preservation of the Israeli regime and the satisfaction of its leadership have long been an unwavering strategic priority for the US and its Western allies. Nonetheless, Washington's direct engagement in the conflict constitutes a grave strategic miscalculation that is expected to carry irreversible

consequences.

Currently, discussions surrounding a ceasefire and an end to hostilities are circulating among various parties. Any serious consideration of this path, however, requires a thorough assessment of the capabilities and conditions on both sides.

Prior to the United States' direct involvement, diverse voices were heard within Iran, some favoring negotiations, others insisting on continuing the war until Israel is fully punished. But under the current circumstances—marked by ongoing Israeli and American airstrikes on Iran's nuclear and military infrastructure—calls for negotiations or halting the war appear neither rational nor effective.

The targeted attacks on Iran's facilities and the assassinations of nuclear scientists and military commanders, even while nuclear negotiations were still ongoing, highlight a deliberate act of deception and bad faith on the part of the US. Negotiations were merely a façade used by Washington to obscure its hos-

tile intentions and lull Iran into a false sense of security ahead of coordinated strikes. Given this betrayal, any further discourse around negotiations would be devoid of credibility and would only embolden the aggressors. A firm and powerful military response remains the most appropriate course of action. Any hesitation or retreat in defending Iran's right to retaliate would be interpreted by the enemy as weakness, potentially encouraging further acts of aggression.

The Zionist regime, misjudging the scope of Iran's military power, believed it could achieve its goals through a swift, surprise offensive. This miscalculation may have been influenced in part by the relatively restrained nature of Iran's earlier retaliatory operations, known as True Promise I and II. The enemy mistakenly assumed these actions reflected the upper limit of Iran's missile capabilities. In hindsight, a more decisive and broader counterattack in those operations could have deterred Israeli misperceptions regarding

Iran's deterrence capacity.

Nonetheless, Israel's misreading of Iran's defense posture led it to believe a short and limited confrontation could succeed, without anticipating the scale and endurance of the resistance it now faces. The course of the war has diverged significantly from Israeli projections. With key targets in Israel under repeated attack and significant losses mounting, Israeli leadership now faces mounting domestic pressure, both due to the damage inflicted and the growing discontent within occupied territories.

Iran, in turn, has struck a diverse and growing list of strategic targets inside Israel, including research centers, military bases, intelligence facilities, airports, factories, and commercial ports. These were not anticipated by Israeli planners before the conflict and have now placed Tel Aviv under severe economic, social, and psychological stress. Facing such conditions, Israel has recognized that it cannot achieve its wartime objectives unaided and has consequently drawn the United

States deeper into the conflict.

It must be acknowledged that Iran has also incurred losses in this imposed war. Several nuclear scientists and senior military commanders have been assassinated, and some nuclear installations, built through years of investment, have sustained damage. Yet, despite these sacrifices, Iran is committed to continuing its confrontation with full force. The goal is to ensure the enemy comes to regret its actions and is permanently deterred from any similar future aggression.

Furthermore, if the war were to be halted prematurely, there is a tangible risk that the enemy could rebuild its military capabilities, correct its prior mistakes, and launch another wave of assaults against Iran. Therefore, the logical and strategic response at this point in time is to continue imposing costs on the aggressors until the message is clear: Any future attempt to undermine Iran's sovereignty will come at a prohibitively high price.