

Pezeshkian: IAEA's double standards spur problems for int'l security

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that the UN nuclear agency's double standards have created many problems for regional and global security after strikes by Israel and the United States targeted several Iranian nuclear facilities.

Pezeshkian, in a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron, criticized the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi for failing to condemn the attacks. Pezeshkian also criticized Grossi for presenting "inaccurate reports" about Iran's nuclear program, which were used by

the Israeli regime as a pretext to attack Iran.

"Why should the criminal Zionist regime, which is not a member of the NPT (the Non-Proliferation Treaty), be the basis and reference for the IAEA's reports?", Pezeshkian asked.

"These double standards have brought about serious challenges to regional and global security. It is expected that the IAEA, while respecting the rights of nations and refraining from biased behaviors, also defend the legitimate rights of its member states," the Iranian president said.

Israel and the US launched several strikes on Iran's nuclear sites during a 12-day aggression against Iran, which began

on June 13 and ended on June 24 following a US-proposed cease-fire.

Pezeshkian said that Iran's government, Parliament and the nation now believe that the IAEA's chief has not acted impartially toward Iran's nuclear dossier, despite cooperation by the Islamic Republic.

He also defended a move by the Parliament to suspend Iran's cooperation with the UN agency as a natural response to the "unjustified, unconstructive, and destructive behavior" of the IAEA's chief.

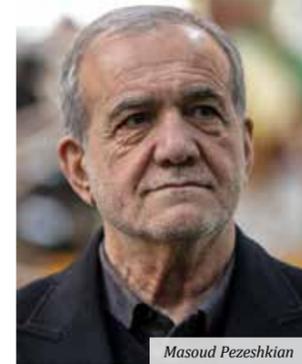
On Wednesday, Iranian lawmakers voted in favor of a bill to suspend cooperation with the IAEA, citing attacks by Israel and the US on Iran's nuclear

facilities.

"When the IAEA director-general does not abide by the laws of this international body and refuses to condemn the attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran's nuclear facilities, expecting member states to comply with the agency's regulations is unreasonable", Pezeshkian said.

On the assumption that Iran continues its cooperation with the agency, "What guarantees are in place to ensure our nuclear facilities won't be targeted again?", President Pezeshkian asked.

Macron, for his part, expressed condolences for the death of more than 900 Iranians during the Israel's aggression, saying that France was one of the first



Masoud Pezeshkian



Emmanuel Macron

countries that condemned the attacks.

He also emphasized the continuation of Tehran's cooperation with the IAEA as well as the ongoing dialogue with European

countries.

In a Sunday post on X, Macron said he called for "respect for the cease-fire" and a return to negotiations to address "ballistic and nuclear issues."

US must rule out more strikes before new talks: Deputy FM



Majid Takht-Ravanchi

The US must rule out any further strikes on Iran if it wants to resume diplomatic talks, Tehran's deputy foreign minister told the BBC.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi said the Trump administration told Iran through mediators that it wanted to return to negotiations this week, but had not made its position clear on the "very important question" of further attacks while talks are taking place.

The US and Iran were involved in talks over Iran's nuclear program when Israel struck Iranian nuclear sites and military infrastructure earlier this month and Iran responded

with missiles.

The US became directly involved in the conflict on June 21 when it bombed three of Iran's nuclear sites.

Takht-Ravanchi also said Iran would "insist" on being able to enrich uranium for what it says are peaceful purposes, rejecting accusations that it is secretly moving towards developing a nuclear bomb.

He said Iran had been "denied access to nuclear material" for its research program so they needed "to rely on ourselves".

"The level of that can be discussed, the capacity can be discussed, but to say that you should not have

enrichment, you should have zero enrichment, and if do you not agree, we will bomb you - that is the law of the jungle," the deputy foreign minister said.

Israel began its attacks, targeting nuclear, military sites, residential areas as well as assassinating commanders and scientists, in Iran on June 13, claiming Tehran was close to building a nuclear weapon.

On 21 June, the US became involved in the conflict, dropping bombs on three of Iran's nuclear sites: Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.

Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said the strikes caused severe but "not total" damage, while US President Donald Trump declared that Iran's nuclear facilities were "totally obliterated".

Grossi also said Iran had the capacity to start enriching uranium again in "a matter of months".

Trump has said he would "absolutely" consider bombing Iran again if intelligence found that it could enrich uranium to concerning levels.

Takht-Ravanchi said no

date had been agreed upon for a possible return to talks and he did not know what would be on the agenda, after Trump suggested discussions could take place this week.

Iran's deputy foreign minister said: "Right now we are seeking an answer to this question - are we going to see a repetition of an act of aggression while we are engaging in dialogue?"

He said the US had to be "quite clear on this very important question" and "what they are going to offer us in order to make the necessary confidence required for such a dialogue".

Takht-Ravanchi also accused some European leaders of a "ridiculous" endorsement of US and Israeli strikes.

He said those who are criticizing Iran over its nuclear program "should criticize the way that we have been treated" and criticize the US and Israel.

He added: "And if they do not have the guts to criticize America, they should keep silent, not try to justify the aggression."

Iran says closely monitoring Israeli movements in neighboring countries

Iran said it is closely monitoring any Israeli movement to abuse the soil of the neighboring countries for a renewed act of aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Addressing reporters at his weekly press conference on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Iran has informed the relevant countries of related news reports, intelligence, and speculation in this regard, Press TV reported.

Esmail Baqaei
IRNA

"Without exception, all the neighboring countries have assured us that they will not allow the Zionist regime to misuse their space or territory for [Israel's] aggressive actions against Iran," he added.

Based on international law, the Iranian spokesperson said, no country is permitted to allow other countries to use their territory for malicious actions against a third country.

Baqaei added that all the relevant countries have "explicitly and decisively" rejected reports about the misuse of their territory against Iran and assured Tehran that they would never give such permission in the future.

He emphasized that the issue is still under investigation, while the Iranian Armed Forces and security and military authorities are closely monitoring the reports in this regard.

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also pursuing these cases seriously, Baqaei said.

Israel launched an unprovoked war of aggression against Iran on June 13, assassinating senior military commanders and top nuclear scientists in targeted strikes before attacking nuclear and military sites and residential areas.

The Iranian Armed Forces responded with missile strikes as part of Operation True Promise III, which targeted many strategic sites across the Israeli-occupied territories.

On June 22, the United States joined the Israeli regime in the assault and bombed three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Baqaei said the most recent "inappropriate" report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provided an excuse for military aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran's nuclear facilities.

He added that the US and the European trio of Britain, France, and Germany (E3), and some other countries have been explicitly pursuing a political approach to Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

"We have always expected the Agency and its director general to adhere to their duties, regardless of political maneuvering," the Iranian spokesman emphasized.

He noted that the IAEA made mistakes, which had many consequences regarding Iran's nuclear issue and made the continuation of bilateral cooperation in a normal manner quite irrational.

Judiciary: Israeli strikes claim 935 Iranian lives

Evin prison's death toll rises to 79

National Desk

The death toll from 12-day Israel's aggression against Iran rose to 935, based on the latest data released by the Iranian Legal Medicine Organization (ILMO).

"During the 12-day war waged by the Zionist regime against our country, 935 martyrs have been identified so far," Iran's judiciary spokesman Asghar Jahangir said on Monday.

The death toll included 132 women and 38 children, Jahangir said.

Jahangir also said that the death toll from Israel's attack on Tehran's Evin prison rose to 79. On Sunday, he announced the death of 71 people in the attack on the prison.

The judiciary's spokesman said that the victims of the June 23 attack on Evin prison included administrative staff, youth doing their military service, detainees, family members of detainees who were visiting them and neighbors who lived in the prison's vicinity.

Jahangir also noted that several people were injured in the Israeli strike which destroyed part of the administrative building at Evin.

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, killing civilians, nuclear scientists and the country's top military commanders.

The Israeli strikes hit military bases, nuclear sites as well as residential areas across Iran.



IRNA

Iran retaliated with waves of missiles and drone strikes which hit major cities in Israel including Tel Aviv and Haifa, killing 28 people, according to Israeli authorities.

A cease-fire between Iran and Israel took effect on June 24.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

