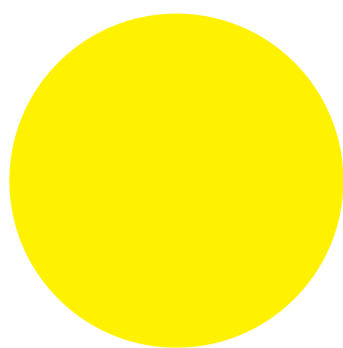


Iran climbs
to 9th place among
global steel producers:
Worldsteel

3 >



Pezeshkian: IAEA's double standards spur problems for int'l security 2 >

Israeli strike on
Evin Prison a clear
violation of international
law and a war crime

By Shadab Askari
Researcher & author

O P I N I O N
E X C L U S I V E

The Israeli regime launched a military strike on Evin Prison in Tehran on June 24, killing dozens of staff, inmates, and visiting family members. Among the casualties were many civilians, including women, children, and elderly individuals.

The brutal act by the Zionist regime constitutes not only an egregious assault on Iranian citizens but also a flagrant breach of international law and a textbook example of a war crime. According to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the deliberate targeting of civilian sites, including hospitals and prisons, is explicitly categorized as a war crime.

Furthermore, Article 18 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) guarantees the protection of civilian medical units, such as the infirmary at Evin Prison. Article 13 of Protocol I (1977) to the Geneva Conventions also provides immunity from attack for civilians—including inmates' families and visitors present at the site during the assault. Moreover, under the same Article 8 of the ICC Statute, attacks against persons deprived of liberty, such as prisoners, are strictly prohibited.

Israel, over the course of the recent conflict with Iran—dubbed the “12-Day War”—committed several other war crimes. In addition to bombing Evin Prison, Israeli forces pounded hospitals and cultural centers, including the Foreign Ministry's national library. The attack on Iran's nuclear facilities further underscored Israel's disregard for international legal frameworks. Article 56 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions explicitly forbids attacks on nuclear installations under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) supervision, unless authorized by the UN Security Council through legal procedures. Beyond its legal and humanitarian ramifications, the strike on Evin Prison was also part of a broader military and psychological campaign. Based on miscalculations, Israeli strategists aimed to incite riot within the jail, enabling a mass prisoner escape and igniting disorder in the capital. The goal appeared to be the loss of state control over Tehran.

According to intelligence assessments, this operation was informed by misleading advice from the exiled opposition, including the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK) and Reza Pahlavi, the son Iran's last Shah. These groups reportedly convinced Mossad that releasing Evin's prisoners would trigger riots and align the capital's unrest with Israel's strategic interests. It was falsely assumed that the prisoners would emerge as leaders of a mass movement against the state.

To maximize the impact of the plot, the Israelis simultaneously hit the IRGC's Sarallah Headquarters—the main command center for security crisis management in Tehran—hoping to cripple the state's ability to respond once unrest broke out. But these plans completely misfired.

Page 3 >

War crime amid international deafening silence 2 >

Judiciary: Israeli strikes claim 935 Iranian lives Evin prison's death toll rises to 79



The photo taken on June 30, 2025 shows the aftermath of an Israeli strike against Evin Prison in Tehran on June 24, 2025 during the regime's recent aggression on Iran. Iran's Judiciary allowed photojournalists of local and international media outlets to visit the facility on June 30, 2025.

● IRNA



Amidst eroding credibility of
UN watchdog

Tehran has to take
firm action against
IAEA chief

O P I N I O N 4 >



Volleyball Nations League:

Iran edges
the Dutch to close in
on Finals spot

6 >



Zanjan Province;
a major center
for handmade
carpets

7 >

Energy minister opens 100 MW solar power plant in Markazi Province

Two solar energy projects
kick off

3 >



Minister: National treasures 'fully protected' during Israeli strikes on Iran

8 >



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 you do 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.

"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.



Esmail Baqaei
IRNA

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



Energy minister opens 100 MW solar power plant in Markazi Province

Two solar energy projects kick off

Economy Desk

Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi inaugurated on Monday a 100 MW solar power plant in Mahallat in Markazi Province as part of the government's push to enhance use of green energy. Aliabadi stressed that the project saves 160 million cubic meters of gas per year.

The energy minister also launched the executive operations for the construction of two solar power plants in Saveh in Markazi Province, which included the 250 MW solar plant at Kaveh Methanol Company and the 550 MW plant at Shahid Hossein Hamedani Petropars Iran Company.

The head of Markazi Province Electricity Distribution Company emphasized on the sidelines of the ceremony that to accelerate the construction of renewable power plants, land allocation to applicants will be completed in less than 10 days.

He added that 47 meetings of the government's Renewable Energy Working Group have been held in the province to date to achieve the 5000 MW target.

78,000 megawatts of solar power awaiting investment

Aliabadi also highlighted on Monday the attractiveness of national investing in the renewable energy sector, saying 78,000 MW of solar power are awaiting investment, and that operating



Iran's Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi starts the executive operations for the construction of a solar power plant in Saveh in Markazi Province on June 30, 2025.

● IRNA

licenses have been issued for 30,000 MW.

"In the past, the country's electricity generation focused on thermal power plants, and renewable power plants have increased from 1,200 MW to 2,300 MW, which is expected to exceed 3,800 MW by the end of this year," the Iranian energy minister said.

Expressing hope that by the end of the current government about 30,000 megawatts of renewable electricity generation will be achieved in Ira, Aliabadi said, "Given the widespread growth in consumption due to technological advancements and changes in people's lifestyles, growth in electricity production is essential."

The energy minister also touched on the country's readiness for difficult conditions, saying, "In every part of the country that was damaged in the 12-day war, electricity and water were also damaged, but the damage to these sectors was overcome in a short time, the most important of which was providing water to the people of northern Tehran in less than 48 hours, and the major damage to the 400 and 230 kV lines has also been repaired."



Aliabadi emphasized that there is no point in the country that is under stress as a result of war damage, and starting on Monday, power plants will

be established in 40 sites across 11 provinces of the country. The minister added that in the construction of solar power plants, there

is a move towards small and distributed power plants, and next week, a project for electricity generation by the people will be introduced.

Iran climbs to 9th place among global steel producers: *Worldsteel*



Economy Desk

Figures by the World Steel Association (*worldsteel*) showed that Iran's steel production had surpassed Brazil's in May as the country climbed to 9th in the ranking of the world's largest steel producers.

A Sunday report by IRNA cited latest *worldsteel* figures as indicating that the Islamic Republic had produced 3.4 million metric tons (mt) of steel in May, up 4.5% from the

same month last year.

The output was just 0.4 million mt less than the production reported by Germany, which put the country above Iran in the ranking in May, the report said.

Iran's steel production in the five months to May reached a total of 14 million mt, down 5.3% from the same period in 2024, according to *worldsteel* figures.

Global output fell by 3.8% year on year in May to 158.8 million mt, while January-May production

also dropped 1.3% to 784 million mt, the data showed.

China, the world's largest steel producer, churned out 431.6 million tons from January to May, a 1.7 percent decline year-on-year, while India, Japan, the United States, Russia, South Korea, and Turkey occupied the second through sixth positions in the global rankings.

Iran has maintained its position as a major steel producer this year despite facing acute energy supply

and price issues.

Steel mills in the country reported natural gas problems in January and February when Iran's Oil Ministry was forced to redirect supplies to the household sector to respond to rising demand for heating.

Iran's steel production also declined for a short period in late April and early May when a sudden heat wave caused restrictions on electricity supplies delivered to major industries.

Haifa refinery not fully operation by October due to Iranian strikes: *Israeli media*

Economy Desk

Israeli media revealed on Sunday that the Haifa refinery, which was damaged by Iran's missile strikes during the 12-day war, would not fully resume operations as early as October.

Citing refinery owner Bazan, the Times of Israel newspaper said the major oil facility at the port city of Haifa was gradually resuming operations and will likely be fully operational by October.

It was previously reported that three people had been killed at Bazan facilities as a result of an Iranian missile attack that occurred on the night of June 16.

"The company said in a regulatory filing in Tel Aviv that it was gradually restoring operations and would likely be fully operational by October. It noted that it holds

insurance covering damage and profit losses of up to \$250 million caused by acts of terrorism and war," the Israeli newspaper said.

"Bazan said on June 15 that its pipelines and transmission lines in Haifa had been damaged by Iranian missile strikes, which killed three employees, and that it was examining the impact of the damage on its operations and implications on its financial results."

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



Smoke billows from a missile impact site after Iran's strikes on the northern city of Haifa, Israel, on June 16, 2025.

● AFP

sites across the Israeli-occupied territories. Iran's retaliation included the launch of over 500 ballistic missiles and around 1,100 drones at Israel. The attacks killed 28 people and wounded some 5,000 others in the 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).

The 12-day war ended with a unilateral US-brokered ceasefire last week.



Israeli strike on ...

Conditions inside Evin Prison in 2025 bore no resemblance to those of the late

1980s. Unlike in 1988, there was no appetite among inmates for rebellion or confrontation with the state. No ideological groundwork had been laid for insurrec-

tion, and no internal momentum existed to support such chaos.

Furthermore, even amid the broader attacks on Tehran, the population did not respond with anti-government protests. On the contrary, civilians rallied behind the Armed Forces, standing firmly

against the Zionist aggression.

If Israel's objective was to destabilize Iran, such an operation might have been more plausible in the early days of the war. But by the time of the prison strike, the tide had already turned in favor of Iran's military. The move appeared less

a strategic play and more an act of desperation—Israel's final shot at tipping the balance through internal turmoil.

In the end, the plan failed. The scheme hatched by the Zionist regime, along with MEK and Reza Pahlavi, to use the prison strike as a catalyst for nation-

wide unrest was foiled. Rather than weakening Iran, the attack only added another stain to Israel's record—marking a grim chapter of disgrace, as the regime became one of the few in modern history to bomb a prison filled with civilians.

Amidst eroding credibility of UN watchdog

Tehran has to take firm action against IAEA chief



By Nosratollah Tajik

Former Iranian ambassador to Jordan

OPINION

For humanity, peace has always been sweeter than war. Yet staying alert in times of peace is no less important than vigilance during conflict. One of the key players in bringing the region to the brink of a potentially global confrontation was the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Until the agency comes out and condemns the US and Israeli attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, Iran must stick to all necessary security, intelligence, protective, political, and other required protocols. In other words, Iran's co-operation with the agency, both before and after these 12 days (June 13–24, 2025), should be handled differently.

Beyond the West's aim to turn up the heat on Iran's nuclear program — a move in which the agency and its current Director General Mr. Rafael Grossi have played a significant role — the core of the West's dispute with Iran centers on enrichment. The West's actions, including its failure to deliver nuclear fuel paid for by Iran before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, have sown the seeds of mistrust and convinced Iran not to bank on Western commitments, prompting it to go down its own path. Now, Trump, acting on behalf of the West, is trying to pick up where Ernest Moniz, John Kerry, and Obama "said they couldn't," seeking to take apart Iran's nuclear industry by force, aiming both for national hero status and a Nobel Prize.

From Iran's perspective, the "body" of enrichment is technological, while its "spirit" is geopolitical, underpinned by national will and authority to secure its interests. Although Iran is enriching uranium under the rights granted by the JCPOA and as an NPT member, given the West's repeated breaches of trust — even before the Islamic Republic's founding — who can guarantee that halting enrichment would be the end of Western demands?

In a region where everyone is waiting for Iran to fall apart, Iran's nuclear program has not only become a way for the US, Europe, and the agency to settle their political debts, but the US attack on Iran's nuclear facilities amounts to an international crime. Given the legal foundations of Iran's nuclear program, this can be taken up in international courts. While this may not have an immediate impact in today's unjust international system and the flawed structure of the UN, even casting doubt on America's legitimacy could tip the scales in the global balance of power — a point that requires cooperation with other nations.

Looking at the main actors — Iran, the US, Europe, the agency, and Mr. Grossi — and their various agendas, we are faced with a complex equation with multiple scenarios. Iran sees nuclear energy as a pillar of its national strength and seeks to resolve its issues with the West and the agency without harming this industry. The US is maximalist and pushes for zero enrichment,



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi attends an IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna, Austria, on June 23, 2025, a day after the US attack on Iran's nuclear facilities.

● AP

which is neither legally justified nor acceptable to Iran. Although an agreement could have been a major breakthrough, Trump is all over the map — it's unclear whether his goal is to wipe out Iran's nuclear industry or to bring about regime change. The US attack on Iran's nuclear facilities has brought negotiations to a standstill and pushed diplomacy to the sidelines.

Europe, sidelined by the US, has tried to make the most of the situation by ramping up pressure on Iran to secure its own role in the nuclear program and shore up its regional and global standing. The IAEA, meanwhile, has operated on two levels. First, Director General Grossi waded into a complex political game, playing a destructive role driven by personal ambition. He sought to boost his own standing by cozying up to the US, turning Iran's nuclear dossier into a tool for his own advancement. Second, the agency itself strayed from impartial oversight, becoming a tool for political pressure and bargaining. Instead of focusing on technical oversight, the agency has turned into a political actor in the ongoing horse-trading. Although the three main players — the US, Europe, and the agency — have different goals, they have all taken advantage of the current situation to turn up the pressure on Iran and pave the way for US and Israeli attacks.

Rather than sticking to his professional and technical duties, Rafael Grossi has gone in for political, media, and PR activities — actions outside the agency's mandate, aimed solely at polishing his own image and currying favor with the West in hopes of a future UN secretary-general bid. Meanwhile, inside Iran, there is little positive sentiment toward him or his approach. Many experts believe he should be seen as nothing more than a technical staffer at the agency's secretariat, not as a political figure.

Engagement with the director general should have remained strictly technical. The lack of Iran-Europe relations should not have opened the door for Grossi to step into the spotlight. His in-

terviews, especially from a security and information protection standpoint, were troubling. In my view, Iran should have spoken out clearly and firmly against his actions.

Fortunately, in an explanatory note distributed by Iran's IAEA mission, the country called out Grossi's report and his lack of professionalism, but this matter should now be taken up a notch and a formal complaint lodged against him. The note pointed out that some of the information he released was sensitive and its public disclosure could be dangerous. Overall, Mr. Grossi's conduct departed from professional norms, turning Iran's nuclear program into a tool for his personal ambitions. Iran's mission in Vienna and the Foreign Ministry must write to the UN secretary-general, both to object to the director general's methods and to the agency's overall performance, which has become blatantly biased and politicized.

According to Iran's mission, the agency has pulled out all the stops to monitor Iran's nuclear program, conducting more inspections there than anywhere

else in the world. Yet, these efforts are neither reflected in the agency's reports nor in its technical assessments, which are colored by politics.

Grossi managed to play a negative role among the agency, the Board of Governors, the US, and Europe — who all have major political differences with Iran — coordinating efforts to securitize Iran's nuclear program. He has not only turned the program into a political battleground for the US and Europe, aiming to isolate and pressure Iran, but also opened the door for US and Israeli interference in Iran's territorial integrity. Even now, instead of worrying about the US attack on Iran's nuclear sites, Grossi is fixated on Iran's 400 kilograms of 60% enriched uranium — a topic that set the tone for the Board of Governors' session just one day after the US attack and left the meeting deadlocked with no condemnation of the US. For Grossi, the US attack that endangered this material is irrelevant; What matters is the material itself — revealing his true priorities. This raises the suspicion that he may be passing on countries' information to Western intelligence agencies to be used

against Iran.

Given that several former IAEA directors general have also called out Grossi and the Board of Governors for politicizing the issue, the Foreign Ministry and Atomic Energy Organization of Iran are looking into his conduct and violations, with the help of international legal experts, and will file complaints against him with the UN secretary-general, Security Council, and other relevant legal and judicial bodies.

On another note, due to the Board of Governors' and agency's inaction regarding the two attacks — which amount to war crimes and have thrown the world into strategic uncertainty — Iran should also consider suspending or scaling back its cooperation with the agency until further notice, barring the director general from entering Iran, and steering clear of any political meetings with him.

Iran must never let the role of the agency, the US, and Israel in the attack on its nuclear facilities slide; This move must come back to haunt them with a heavy political price.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.

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Even now, instead of worrying about the US attack on Iran's nuclear sites, Grossi is fixated on Iran's 400 kilograms of 60% enriched uranium — a topic that set the tone for the Board of Governors' session just one day after the US attack and left the meeting deadlocked with no condemnation of the US. For Grossi, the US attack that endangered this material is irrelevant; What matters is the material itself — revealing his true priorities. This raises the suspicion that he may be passing on countries' information to Western intelligence agencies to be used against Iran.



Iran's envoy at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Reza Najafi (R) holds a press conference in Vienna, Austria, on June 23, 2025. Najafi said US strikes on its nuclear sites over the weekend have delivered an "irreparable blow" to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

● JOE KLAMAR/AFP

Iranian Parliament moves to suspend cooperation with IAEA

Reviewing Agency's strategic missteps

ANALYSIS

The Israeli regime's assault on Iran's territorial integrity, while driven by numerous motives and hidden agendas, has, in the two weeks since it fizzled out, brought to light the pivotal role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) report, the statements of its director general, and the resolution adopted by its Board of Governors in this blatant military aggression against Iran and its nuclear facilities. The most striking evidence is the IAEA's failure to condemn the attack and even the tacit support voiced by some Western countries. After 12 days of resistance, Iran's Parliament pushed through a bill immediately following the cessation of Israel's aggression to hit back at the IAEA's political, unlawful, and provocative approach.

On June 25, 2025, members of the Iranian Parliament passed a bill, with an overwhelming majority, "obligating the government to suspend cooperation with the IAEA". The single-article bill, with two notes, was swiftly signed off on by the Guardian Council and delivered to the President for implementation on June 26, 2025. The bill lays out three prohibitions on Iran's cooperation with the IAEA:

- Banning the installation of any safeguards or additional monitoring cameras.
 - Barring the entry of any inspectors or agents and the submission of any reports to the agency.
 - Halting all cooperation with the IAEA until the security of nuclear sites and Iran's nuclear rights are guaranteed.
- Lawmakers have cited violations of national sovereignty and attacks on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities by the Israeli regime and the United States, as well as the endangerment of the Islamic Republic's vital interests, as the main reasons for drawing up and passing this bill.

According to the law, the suspension of cooperation with the IAEA will stay in place until Tehran is assured that full respect for Iran's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the security of nuclear facilities and scientists is observed, in line with the UN Charter. Tehran must also be convinced that Iran's inherent rights under Article 4 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, especially uranium enrichment, are being upheld.

The law stipulates that confirmation of these conditions will be established after a report from the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and approval by the Supreme National Security Council. The government is required to hand in a progress report every three months to Parliament and the Security Council.

Parliament has also criminalized any violation or non-implementation of the law, with punishments ranging from six months to two years in prison, hefty fines, or 31 to 74 lashes.

While the move has come under fire from the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi and some European countries, there is broad consensus inside Iran on its necessity. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, responding to Parliament's decision, pointed out



The undated photo shows a group of lawmakers chanting in unison in the Iranian Parliament in Tehran.

● IRNA

that it is a direct result of Grossi's "regrettable role in covering up the fact that the agency, a decade ago, had officially closed all past issues". Like many Iranian analysts, the foreign minister called out Grossi's actions, writing that "through this malign action, he directly facilitated the adoption of a politically-motivated resolution against Iran by the IAEA BoG as well as the unlawful Israeli and US bombings of Iranian nuclear sites." Grossi's conduct before and after the military aggression was, according to the foreign minister, astonishingly unprofessional, as he "refused — contrary to his professional duties — to explicitly condemn such blatant violations of IAEA safeguards and its statute." Such irresponsibility, in one of the IAEA's most sensitive cases, casts doubt on his suitability to remain at the helm. As Araghchi emphasized, the IAEA and its director general bear full responsibility for this deplorable situation, and Grossi's insistence on visiting bombed sites under the guise of safeguards inspections is "nonsensical and potentially malicious".

According to the Iranian FM, these actions entitle Iran to take any necessary measures to defend its interests, people, and sovereignty. Although the new law does not slam the door shut on future cooperation, leaving the decision to

the Supreme National Security Council, the continuation or end of this suspension now hinges more than ever on a shift in the IAEA's approach. By his own admission, the director general currently has no information about Iran's nuclear facilities or production, snap inspections and constant camera surveillance have been scrapped, and the sites have suffered significant damage in one of the heaviest attacks ever. Grossi and the Board of Governors must now ask themselves how their treatment of one of the NPT's most committed members has driven Tehran to suspend its extensive cooperation. Is this the outcome Europe and the IAEA had in mind? Do they have any confidence-building measures up their sleeve to break the deadlock? How can they convince other NPT members that the treaty and the IAEA will safeguard their nuclear industries when the agency failed to even issue a condemnation after one of its members was bombed? And how can Iran be expected to stay committed when its nuclear facilities have been laid to waste despite its membership? An honest, legal, and fair answer to these questions might, in the long run, shore up the credibility of one of the world's most important international bodies and persuade Tehran to reconsider cooperation.

Suspension not permanent

Abdolreza Faraji-Rad, a professor of geopolitics, told IRNA that the suspension of cooperation with the IAEA is not a permanent move. He stressed that Parliament's approval does not mean a complete break with the agency; Rather, the suspension is conditional and reversible — provided the IAEA owns up to its mistakes and redefines its relationship with Iran based on mutual respect and engagement.

Faraji-Rad noted that the IAEA's actions in recent months have gone down the wrong path. He said Grossi's reports contained inaccuracies that set the stage for the Board of Governors' resolution, which in turn gave cover to some aggressive actions against Iran. While not the sole factor, it was a key pillar of the pressure campaign. The other side tried to make the case that Iran was on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons capacity. "Israel's attacks on Iran's nuclear sites violated international law and could have posed grave risks to public safety, yet the IAEA and Grossi turned a blind eye. Grossi even let slip information that jeopardized Iran's national security."

Faraji-Rad emphasized that cooperation remains suspended, and

the decision to resume or prolong it comes down to the course of diplomatic talks, especially between Iran and the US. "Should diplomacy get back on track, the IAEA could also adopt a more reasonable approach," he said, adding that "if hostile policies drag on, however, the current standoff will persist."

On the impasse in Iran-IAEA relations, Faraji-Rad observed that there are some signs the West is gearing up for talks. For example, US President Donald Trump has expressed interest in negotiations, and European officials have reached out to Iran's foreign minister to call for continued diplomacy.

"Iran, for its part, has never said it has walked away from diplomacy. Its official stance has always been that it is ready to negotiate if hostile actions come to a halt."

He mentioned the possibility of informal, indirect talks between Iran and the US, noting that both sides need dialogue: The US wants to steer clear of conflict, and Iran seeks to protect its national interests through constructive negotiations. Iran's ambassador to New York recently sat down with an American media outlet, signaling Tehran's willingness to keep the diplomatic channel open.

Faraji-Rad reiterated that Iran is not looking to stir up tension, but rather to secure its legitimate rights through negotiations that deliver "concrete and fair results, not just talks for the sake of talks". The expert predicted that soon news about fresh negotiations between Iran and the US may come to light. If talks do not materialize, European parties are more likely to trigger the snapback mechanism — something Iran wants to ward off, knowing that Europe lacks independent resolve and that the real leverage lies in talks with the US. Should negotiations kick off, the issue of snapback sanctions would likely be taken off the table.



While the Parliament's move has come under fire from the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi and some European countries, there is broad consensus inside Iran on its necessity. Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, responding to Parliament's decision, pointed out that it is a direct result of Grossi's "regrettable role in covering up the fact that the agency, a decade ago, had officially closed all past issues".



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets with his Egyptian counterpart, Badr Abdelatty (C) and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi in Cairo, Egypt, on June 2, 2025.

● REUTERS

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.

Volleyball Nations League: Iran edges the Dutch to close in on Finals spot

Sports Desk

Amin Esmailnejad and Pouria Hosseinkhanzadeh led the way as Iran salvaged a 3-2 victory (25-19, 22-25, 21-25, 25-19, 15-9) over the Netherlands in their final outing in Week 2 of the FIVB Men's Volleyball Nations League in Belgrade, Serbia. The hard-fought win helped the Asian powerhouse move up to 10th in the 18-team table with a 4-4 record and stay in contention with a place in the VNL Finals in Ningbo, China.

The top seven of the preliminary-round table will be joined by China in the Finals – starting with the quarterfinals on July 30. Sunday's result also meant Iran has already won as many games in this year's preliminary phase as in the previous two editions combined. Having suffered a 3-1 loss to Ger-

many at the Belgrade Arena on the preceding day, Iran was much more prolific in attack, outscoring the Dutch by 62-57, while capitalizing on the abundant unforced errors (35) by the European opponent, which is now under a serious threat of relegation – sitting second from bottom in the table with a 1-7 record.

Esmailnejad chipped in a joint game-high 22 points – alongside Dutch opposite Michiel Ahyi. The Iranian opposite spiker signed off with a 61% success rate in attack, two kill blocks and an ace, while 20-year-old Hosseinkhanzadeh added 21 points, including two aces, and his cross-court teammate Ehsan Daneshdoust finished with 14 points to his name.

As many as four other players finished in double figures on the Dutch side – outside-hitters Bennie

Tuinstra (13) and Tom Koops (11), as well as middle blockers Twan Wiltenburg and Cornelis Luuc van Der Ent with 11 apiece. The two middles put up as many as nine kill blocks combined – six and three, respectively.

"I should first say congrats to the other team, because they played great! Of course, we played better than yesterday. We should continue to improve, because we have good talent, good young players, and we also have a good coach to head the team. Every game is important for us and we should just think about the next one," Esmailnejad told VBTv after the match.

Iran head coach Roberto Piazza, meanwhile, was thrilled to see his men "change their mindset in the fourth set" to stage a comeback. Asked what was the biggest challenge for his team against his for-

mer employers, the Italian said: "The toughest challenge was their tactical serving strategy. They targeted specific zones with their serves, which at times troubled our setter. They also effectively pressured Iran's middle blocker, managing to get a touch on most of our attacks."

Piazza and his men will still have to overcome some formidable tests in the third and final week of action in the preliminaries in Gdańsk, Poland, to secure a first last-eight spot since in three years.

A first game for Iran in Week 3 will come against European powerhouse Poland – second in the table with six wins – on July 16, followed by an all-Asian encounter against China.

Piazza's men will square off against reigning Olympic and VNL champi-

on France on July 19, before facing Bulgaria the following day at the Ergo Arena.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Brazil defeated Poland 3-1 (25-21, 25-21, 21-25, 28-26) in the clash of the titans to finish the second week on top of the table with seven victories.

Third-placed Italy made a quick work of USA in straight sets (25-21, 25-22, 25-18) to move level on a 6-2 record alongside Poland.

Japan is fourth with five wins, thanks to a 3-0 (27-25, 25-15, 25-16) victory over Slovenia on Sunday, with France, which eased past Türkiye in straight sets, in the fifth place.

Ukraine, the surprise package at this year's event, came from behind to beat Bulgaria in four sets in Burgos and stand sixth, followed by Argentina, Germany, Cuba, and Iran.

Iranian players celebrate a point during a 3-2 victory over the Netherlands at the Volleyball Nations League in Belgrade, Serbia, on June 29, 2025.

● FIVB

Injured Yousefi to miss Islamic Solidarity Games



● IWF

Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifter Alireza Yousefi will not recover in time from knee surgery to compete at the Islamic Solidarity Games, Iran coach Ali Jabbari told ISNA on Monday.

The sixth edition of the multi-sport event will kick off on November 7 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The recovery process had already ruled the Iranian out of October's IWF World Championships in Førde, Norway.

Two-time world junior champion

Yousefi had to undergo treatment on his injured knee right after last December's World Senior Championships in Manama, where the 21-year-old headlined Iran's medal haul with a gold medal and a bronze in the superheavyweight contests.

Yousefi lifted 262kg to walk away with the ultimate prize in men's 109kg clean & jerk event – shattering the Asian record in the process – before settling for the total bronze with 456kg, finishing behind Armenian Varazdat Lalayan (467kg) and fellow-Iranian Ali Davoudi (459kg).

World Cup Asian qualifiers:

Four Iranians shortlisted for Dream XI

Sports Desk

Four Iranian players are among the candidates for a place in the Dream XI of the 2026 World Cup Asian qualifiers.

Goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand is joined by strike force duo Mahdi Taremi and Sardar Azmoun, as well as midfielder Mohammad-Mahdi Mohebbi in the 41-man shortlist, released by the Asian Football Confederation.

Football fans will have until July 4 to vote for the members of their dream team on the official website of the Asian football governing body.

Beiranvand registered five clean sheets in 10 Group A games, while Taremi and Azmoun had nine goals



Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun (20) is in the AFC shortlist for the World Cup Asian qualifiers Dream XI.

● AFC

between them in the third round of the qualifiers as Iran finished atop the table with 23 points to secure a place in next year's finals in North America.

Mohebbi, meanwhile, made little contribution to Iran's campaign, but still impressed with a goal and an assist in two games.

Luis Enrique eyes historic PSG season as they reach Club World Cup quarters

REUTERS – Paris St Germain manager Luis Enrique said his team were making history after they brushed aside Inter Miami 4-0 in the Club World Cup last 16 on Sunday.

The French side, who have already won their domestic league, the French Cup and the Champions League, are edging closer to completing a perfect season by lifting the Club World Cup.

"This is clearly a historic season for our club, and we intend to continue making history in this competition," former Barcelona coach Luis Enrique told reporters.

The reunion with ex-Barcelona players Lionel Messi and Miami coach Javier Mascherano – both central figures during Luis Enrique's Camp Nou tenure between 2014 and 2017 – added emotional weight to what was otherwise a clinical dismantling of the MLS side.

"It was a very special game because I met people who are very important to me, people with whom we shared successes and failures," the 55-year-old Spaniard said. When asked if he would like to coach Messi in Europe again, he said it was a question for the Argentine.

"We have all seen his qualities as a player, and he still has them. It's very difficult to play against this kind of player. It was hard, but I believe that as a team we did a really great job."

PSG's ruthless first-half display effectively settled matters before Miami found their footing after the interval.

"I think that's the first half where we really dominated the game. We didn't concede a single chance, but then in the second half, maybe because of the results, Inter Miami created more chances and got us into trouble," he added.



● AFP

Zanjan Province; a major center for handmade carpets



will achieve excellent results, and the carpets will be sold at reasonable prices." She added that these points include the pattern and design, coloring, raw materials, and weaving techniques. In the final stages, the art of finishing — knots, edges, and borders — is essential. If weavers focus on and adhere to these elements, their work will be of significantly higher quality and value.

Future of carpet weaving in Zanjan

She stated that carpet weavers should seek guidance from designers, and it is advisable to incorporate new patterns. She also not-



Iranica Desk

Handwoven carpet, as a suitable and soft flooring, have been a fundamental component of every Iranian home, holding a unique and irreplaceable position within Iranian culture. This flooring not only imparts a sense of tranquility and warmth to households but has also been cherished for its beauty, artistic value, economic significance, and cultural importance for centuries. Its esteemed status extends beyond borders, where it is often exchanged as a valuable gift — an act of great respect and admiration.

weaving and enjoys a global reputation. The handmade carpets of Zanjan are among the most significant and longstanding handicrafts of the province. Thanks to their diverse designs, unique colors, and high quality, these carpets attract many enthusiasts both domestically and internationally. Typically, Zanjan carpets feature geometric patterns and traditional motifs, with vibrant and rich colors such as dark red, brown, and light blue.

Local weaving innovations

Mohammad Abbasi, a local carpet merchant, stated



ing since childhood carry fond memories of this artistic industry. Even if they have temporarily set aside their work, they remain eager to reconnect with this tradition. Referring to the calming and uplifting effects of carpet weaving, Khani added, "Neuroscience experts in some countries recommend and prescribe carpet weaving as a relaxing activity." She further stated, "In Zanjan Province, we have 30,000 weavers, of whom 21,000 are residents of Zanjan itself, and only 5,000 are insured. Therefore, it is essential for the Province's Industry, Mine, and Trade Or-

for Zanjan carpets have been successfully carried out.

Cultural significance

Director General of Zanjan Province's Industry, Mine, and Trade Organization, Amirali Mosayebi, said that the art of handmade carpets represents the union of art and industry. It is recognized not only as an economic sector but also as a vital part of the history and cultural identity of society. He highlighted that Persian carpets are a symbol of art and creativity, embodying a part of Iran's authentic Iranian-Islamic identity. They act as excellent ambassadors of Iran's rich history to the world.



ed that interest among the younger generation in this art form has increased, and it is increasingly regarded as an artistic pursuit. Khani emphasized that students, skill learners, and even professionals such as healthcare staff are turning toward this craft industry to practice and hone their skills. She continued by highlighting that interest in carpet weaving has grown, and the sizes of carpets have become smaller. In the realm of tapestry carpets, digital weaving techniques are now employed, providing greater inspiration for weavers.



Artistic, cultural value

Among these, hand-woven carpets made from natural materials such as wool, cotton, silk, and other fibers are particularly significant from multiple perspectives. Their importance is amplified due to their deep connection to art, creativity, and craftsmanship, making their value grow exponentially. These carpets, woven with intricate, rhythmic patterns akin to harmonious poetry, symbolize Iranian art and culture. Renowned worldwide, they are rich with history and stories that reflect centuries of tradition, IRNA wrote. Iranian handmade carpets are among the country's most important non-oil exports, supporting employment and income generation. Zanjan is one of the vibrant centers of carpet

that Zanjan is one of the provinces producing carpets in the country and ranks fifth nationwide in terms of distribution. He explained that various types of carpets are woven in the province. "We have many skilled weavers in Zanjan. Large-weave carpets and fine silk rugs are produced in different areas, showcasing a variety of colors and patterns." Abbasi also mentioned that recently, some villages in Zanjan have begun weaving tapestry carpets. There are also artistic carpets, especially intended for traders, similar to those woven in Qom and Tabriz, created by highly talented, skilled, and diligent weavers in the region.

Growing interest

Fatemeh Khani, a master weaver and instructor of



carpet weaving, said, "In Zanjan Province, we have 30,000 weavers. If they pay attention to three crucial points, their craftsmanship

Heritage value of carpet weaving

She expressed optimism about the future of carpet weaving, noting that

artisans view their craft as a way to inscribe their dreams and aspirations. Khani also shared that those who have been weav-

ganization to support these weavers to help preserve this heritage and promote it with greater enthusiasm and motivation."

Global recognition

Deputy Head of Zanjan Province's Industry, Mine, and Trade Organization, Hadi Taqilu, mentioned that over one million handmade carpets are produced annually in the province. He added that Zanjan is actively seeking to register and internationalize its carpet trademarks, and this will be the first such initiative in the country. He also noted that, in line with promoting Zanjan carpets under the province's name, the groundwork has been laid to support cooperative carpet organizations. Branding, commercialization, and global registration efforts

Historical, economic importance

Mosayebi further stated that this industry has enjoyed global recognition for a long time, a reputation built through the efforts of anonymous weavers and talented artisans passionate about their craft. Many renowned museums around the world take pride in possessing Persian carpets. He added that Zanjan Province, as one of the leading centers of handmade carpet production in Iran, has historically held a distinguished place in international markets. He concluded by emphasizing that the antiquity, historical significance, and distinctive patterns of carpets underscore the industry's potential as a central pillar of economic, cultural, and social development.

Minister: National treasures ‘fully protected’ during Israeli strikes on Iran

Social Desk

Iran’s cultural treasures emerged intact from the recent 12-day war between Israel and Iran, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri said on Sunday, crediting swift and round-the-clock efforts to protect key museum assets.

Speaking at a meeting of hoteliers and tourism officials in Tehran’s Babataher Hotel, Salehi Amiri said that despite the intensity of the attacks, “not a single piece from the national treasure sustained damage.”

According to the minister, valuable artifacts were transferred to secure storage facilities shortly after the hostilities broke out on June 13, ISNA reported.

“The moment the first signs of escalation appeared,” he said, “our teams were mobilized without pause.”

He announced that a dedicated task force has now been formed to gather field data and assess war-related challenges across Iran’s tourism sector. Its report will soon be submitted directly to President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Salehi Amiri urged the press to reflect what he called the “unshakable dignity” of the Iranian public during the war, saying the nation had portrayed “a

lasting image of Iranian honor.” He called on media outlets to take on the “responsible task” of amplifying that message on the global stage.

The minister described the early morning of June 13—the day Israel launched its first strikes—as “the explosion point of a long-term project” that had been in the making for years. He pointed to past assassinations of nuclear scientists as part of a broader, drawn-out plan. “They believed Iran was too worn down—internally and externally—to withstand another blow. That was their strategic miscalculation,” he said.

According to Salehi Amiri, the war underscored two strategic fronts where Iran must now operate simultaneously: Diplomacy and resistance. He cited President Pezeshkian’s push to deepen regional and international ties, including “productive talks” with Egypt in recent weeks.

While acknowledging the strain on Iran’s tourism infrastructure, he praised hotels and guesthouses for their response. Many, he said, “opened their doors for free” to displaced families, showing “compassion, ethics, and a deep sense of national duty.”

The minister promised that hoteliers’ war-related grievances—raised during



the Tehran meeting—would be pursued “as rightful and lawful demands.” He said the government was drafting support packages aimed at easing the burden, including in banking, insurance, and tax relief. “Tourism is not just a business,” he said, “it’s a pillar of our na-

tional economy and cultural identity.” Salehi Amiri also told attendees that the cabinet had been briefed with a comprehensive report on the protection of cultural heritage during the conflict. “With vigilance and coordination, we kept our heritage safe,” he said.

He concluded by underscoring that the government remains “in debt to the people,” noting that powers had been delegated to ministries and provincial governors to ensure faster delivery of essential goods and public services. “We see ourselves only as servants of this nation,” he said.

Over 230,000 Afghans left Iran in June ahead of return deadline: IOM



More than 230,000 Afghans left Iran in June, most of them deported, as returns surge ahead of a deadline set by Tehran, the United Nations migration agency

said on Monday. The number of returns from Iran rose dramatically in recent weeks. Afghans have reported increased deportations ahead of

the July 6 deadline announced by Iran for undocumented Afghans to leave the country. From June 1-28, 233,941 people returned from Iran to Afghanistan, International Organization for Migration (IOM) spokesman Avand Azeez Agha told AFP, with 131,912 returns recorded in the week of June 21-28 alone. Since January, “691,049 people have returned, 70 percent of whom were forcibly sent back”, he added. For several days last week, the number reached 30,000 per day, the IOM said, with numbers expected to increase ahead of the deadline. Afghans spilled into an IOM-run reception center out of buses ar-

iving back-to-back at the Islam Qala border point in western Afghanistan’s Herat province on Saturday. The recent returns have been marked by a sharp increase in the number of families instead of individuals, the UN said, with men, women and children lugging suitcases carrying all their belongings. Many have few assets and few prospects for work, with Afghanistan facing entrenched poverty and steep unemployment. The country is four years into a fragile recovery from decades of war under Taliban authorities, who have called for a “dignified” return of migrants and refugees from neighboring countries.

Kabul’s Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi raised the Taliban government’s concerns in a meeting with Iran’s ambassador, according to a statement, saying: “A coordinated mechanism should be put in place for the gradual return of migrants.” The cash-strapped government faces challenges in integrating the influx of returnees, which has piled on to hundreds of thousands also forced out in recent years from Pakistan – another traditional host of Afghans fleeing conflict and humanitarian crises. Severe international aid cuts have also hamstrung UN and NGO responses, with the IOM saying it was “only able to assist a fraction of those in need”.

“On some high-volume days, such as recently at Islam Qala, assistance reached as few as three percent of undocumented returnees,” it said in a recent statement. Returnees AFP spoke to in recent days at the border cited mounting pressure by Iranian authorities and increased deportations, with none pointing to the recent Iran-Israel war as a spur to leave the country. However, “regional instability – particularly the fallout from the Israel-Iran conflict – and shifting host country policies have accelerated returns, overwhelming Afghanistan’s already fragile humanitarian and development systems”, the UN mission in Afghanistan, UNAMA, said in a statement.

Tehran officials revive push for mandatory shelters after Israel-Iran strike

Social Desk

Iranian authorities are renewing calls for mandatory safe rooms and shelters in residential buildings, after a 12-day war with Israel exposed the lack of secure civilian infrastructure in the face of airstrikes.

The conflict, which erupted on June 13 after an Israeli strike killed senior Iranian military and scientific figures, underscored the need for better public shelter systems. US forces joined the offensive days later, targeting Iran’s nuclear sites in Natanz, Fordow, and Isfahan. Iran responded with “crushing” missile strikes before a ceasefire was reached on June 24, IRNA reported.

But as the dust settles, the war has reignited a long-dormant debate. “This was a wake-up call,” said Ali Beitollahi, senior researcher at the Road, Housing and Urban Development Re-

search Center. “We’ve seen again what happens when planning stops at talk.” For decades, Iranian officials have floated plans to build reinforced shelters or safe rooms in homes to guard against both war and natural disasters like earthquakes. But none of the proposals ever got off the ground. After the 2003 Bam earthquake, public interest surged briefly, then faded.

Tehran City Council Chairman Mehdi Chamran said last week a new motion will be tabled requiring buildings with more than 50 residential units to include shelters equipped with basic facilities. Multi-level parking garages may also be repurposed as emergency shelters, he said. Experts say Iran’s seismic vulnerability adds urgency to the issue. “Iran sits on multiple fault lines,” Beitollahi noted. “We cannot afford to forget the lessons of war and disaster every time the emotions cool.”

While several agencies—from the Ministry of Interior to the National Disaster Management Organization—could take charge, Beitollahi stressed the absence of clear legal obligations has left responsibility adrift. “No law, no follow-through,” he said. “Even a cabinet directive would do the job, if enforced.”

He argued that multipurpose underground spaces, including metro stations built with dual-use in mind, offer practical and economic solutions. “These aren’t just war bunkers,” he added. “They’re about saving lives, when the shaking starts or the sirens go off.”

The proposal also calls for a nationwide rollout of safe rooms built with reinforced walls and no debris risk. Beitollahi believes such spaces must become mandatory, not optional. “When seconds count, you need somewhere to run,” he said. “This can’t be left to chance.”

