

# BRICS condemns Israel-US offensive against Iran

*Araghchi: Aggression dealt severe blow to diplomacy, rule of law*

## International Desk

The BRICS group of emerging economies on Sunday condemned Israel and the United States for their recent aggression against Iran, saying that the strikes "constitute a violation of international law."

"We condemn the military strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran since 13 June 2025," members of the BRICS said in a statement read during the 17th summit of the group in Brazil's city of Rio de Janeiro, which was attended by Iran's foreign minister.

On June 13, the Israeli regime launched a 12-day unprovoked aggression against Iran, which claimed the lives of 935 Iranians, including civilians, nuclear scientists and the country's top military commanders.

The US also joined the aggression by targeting three Iranian nuclear facilities of Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.

A cease-fire proposed by the US put an end to the conflict on June 24 after Iran launched barrages of missiles at Israel's targets in the occupied territories and at the US largest military base in the Middle East in Qatar.

"We further express serious concern over deliberate attacks on civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities," the bloc said in its statement.

The 11-nation grouping said the strikes "constitute a violation of international

law."

Addressing the summit, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called the aggression against Iran a severe blow to diplomacy, the rule of law, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime. He said the Israeli regime's 12-day unprovoked "military, terrorist strikes" have been carried out with the support, collaboration and eventual participation of the US.

He added that the Israeli unlawful attack against Iran violated the UN Charter, which killed and injured more than 6,000 innocent people and damaged infrastructures, residential areas and nuclear facilities in Iran.

## Attacks on nuclear facilities

"The US/Israeli attacks on our nuclear facilities were in stark violation of NPT and the UNSR resolution 2231 that has endorsed Iran's peaceful nuclear program in 2015 by consensus," the top Iranian diplomat emphasized.

"The US's subsequent involvement in this aggression by targeting Iran's peaceful nuclear installations has left no doubt as to the full complicity of the American government in Israel's war of aggression against Iran," he added.

He said the strikes by the Israeli regime, and subsequently the United States, were no less than an unprecedented breach of international peace.

"No rule of law or logic allows anyone



A general view of a plenary session of the BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on July 7, 2025.  
PABLO PORCIUNCULA/AFP

to target the IAEA-monitored peaceful nuclear facilities of another State simply out of speculation that the facilities may sometimes be used for weaponization," he added.

## Israel's impunity

The foreign minister said, "Israel's act of aggression against Iran came as the result of absolute impunity it is granted by the US and some other European states to commit every atrocity in our region." He warned that the common values of peace and justice are at serious stake now, reminding each UN member of its

responsibility to "stand up against this grave injustice and condemn Israeli aggression firmly."

"The truth and facts must not be allowed to be twisted upside-down by Israel and its backers. Israel's aggression on Iran cannot and must not be justified by any legal or moral standards. Any justification for this unjust and criminal war would be tantamount to complicity," Araghchi pointed out.

He stressed the importance of holding Israel and the United States accountable for their violations of international law, including human rights and humanitar-

ian law.

The 17th two-day BRICS Summit kicked off in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday under the theme of "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance".

The BRICS group of fast-developing economies initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In 2024, it was expanded to include Iran, Egypt, the UAE and Ethiopia as new members.

On the sidelines of the summit, the Iranian foreign minister held talks with his Russian, Turkish, Brazilian counterparts.

## Pezeshkian: Return to ...

"We hope that after overcoming this crisis, it will be possible to return to the negotiating table. Of course, this requires one condition: trust in the dialogue process. The Zionist regime should not be allowed to attack again in the middle of the negotiations, and the war should not be reignited."

Asked whether Tehran is ready to embark on a new diplomatic path once again and what form and basis a desirable agreement with the US should have, Pezeshkian said what matters in negotiations is "respect for international laws and the rights of nations."

"In my opinion, we could have easily resolved our problems through dialogue. The framework for these dialogues could be based on international laws and the rights of nations. We have had and have no demand other than respect for international laws. It is [Israeli prime minister Benjamin]

N Netanyahu who has thrown the region into chaos and tried to disrupt our dialogue. We seek peace," he said.

"My belief is that in our small world, humans should live together in peace and tranquility, but we were attacked. Our nation has the ability to defend itself. I believe the US president can steer the region towards peace and security or plunge it into an endless war."

Queried on the Israeli regime's plot to assassinate the Iranian president, Pezeshkian told Carlson, "Attempts were made and actions were taken, but we believe that if God wills, a person lives, and if not, they might even die while walking. We are ready to defend our people, the independence and freedom of our land to the last breath, and we do not fear death. However, in the world we live in, it is obnoxious and regrettable that they destabilize the region with

bloodshed, murder, looting, and evil desires."

In his interview, Carlson also pointed to an alleged fatwa issued by two prominent Iranian clerics against US President Donald Trump, asking Pezeshkian to clarify the meaning and significance of the religious decree.

"As far as I know, they have not issued a fatwa against any specific individual. The fatwa that has been issued – which has no connection to the [Iranian] government or leadership – merely states that insulting religions or religious figures is, from a theological perspective, reprehensible and unacceptable," the Iranian president said.

"This matter is clearly not related to the US president or other individuals. Religious scholars have expressed their expert opinions, but this fatwa never implies assassination or threat."

## VP says Iran's cybersecurity should reach global standards

### National Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said on Monday that Iran's cybersecurity must measure up to global standards, calling the localization of cyber technology a necessity and pressing for the formulation of a cybersecurity roadmap.

Addressing a meeting in Tehran, Aref pointed out certain shortcomings in the field of cybersecurity and said the country has not made use of its scientific potential and capabilities in the field.

Due to some negligence, "We may not have fully tapped into the high potential of the cybersecurity and defense sector in the past years," he said.

Given the skilled experts in the high-tech field, a serious short-term plan must be drawn up as soon as possible, Aref said.

Aref emphasized the necessity of maging out non-governmental sec-



tor involvement in cybersecurity, stating, "We have not capitalized on private sector capacities in cybersecurity matters, even though their economic interests call for full compliance with security standards."

Noting that universities and educational centers have not been properly utilized in cyberspace security, he stressed the need to train skilled human resources and strengthen research and technology centers.

Aref underscored that the localization of cyber technology is a necessity and pushed for the formulation of a cybersecurity roadmap.

## Talks with Europe ...

In practice, the snapback of sanctions becomes a bargaining chip for Europe in its dealings with the US, particularly in extracting favors from the Trump administration. They are expected to make full use of it.

Walking away from the negotiating table is not a rational move. Iran must keep the doors to dialogue open. Negotiation should not be equated with weakness or surrender—as some voices inside Iran claim—but rather seen as a tool to protect and promote national interests on the global stage. Whether engagement with Europe is minimal or comprehensive matters less than whether it is built around preconditions that safeguard Iran's national interests. Talks with Europe can be constructive, but given the re-

cent developments, both the strategy and substance of these negotiations require reassessment. European governments have the capacity to rally consensus against Iran and to weaponize international law to apply pressure. Tehran must act smartly to counteract these efforts.

Still, dialogue with Europe remains secondary. The primary channel—based on the discretion of Iranian officials—is the negotiation track with the United States. If those talks progress positively, engagement with Europe will naturally fall into place or perhaps even become less significant. Any dialogue with European actors, including the prerequisites involved, should be considered a subset of the broader US-Iran negotiation track. The real focus of Iran's preconditions should be the

US, not Europe.

Politics is the art of possibilities, and while the outlook for Iran-Europe relations at this stage seems largely unwarranted—unless meaningful negotiations with European nations can be held on key issues. Still, it bears repeating that any deal with the US carries greater weight, and any talks with Europe should be seen as secondary to that primary track.

Should progress be made in negotiations with the US—a matter ultimately determined by Iran's leadership—positive ripple effects could be expected in Tehran's relations with Europe as well. Otherwise, the European trio is expected to remain in lockstep with US policy, advancing the broader Western agenda against Iran in a coordinated manner.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

