

Araghchi says 12-day war result of Israel's impunity granted by West

Lavrov: SCO reiterates commitment to Iran's right to peaceful nuclear energy

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Tuesday called a recent aggression by Israel against Iran a result of an "absolute immunity" that is granted by the regime's Western allies for committing any crime in the Middle East region.

"In fact, the Israeli aggression against Iran is a direct result of the absolute immunity granted by the United States and certain European countries to the regime; an immunity that allows this regime to commit any crime in our region without fear of being held accountable," Araghchi said in an address to a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in China.

"It is deeply regrettable that, over the past two years, the international community has failed to take effective measures to put an end to the genocide of the Palestinian people or to bring

about an end to the Israeli regime's occupation of neighboring Arab territories."

Araghchi underlined that the problem of insecurity in the region will remain unresolved as long as Israel continues its "lawless and roguish behavior" with the support of its allies.

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked act of aggression against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders and nuclear scientists.

The Israeli attacks also targeted military and nuclear sites as well as vital non-military infrastructure, including a building of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Evin Prison, health-care centers, outreach facilities, and both residential neighborhoods and rural communities, inflicting widespread civilian harm. These attacks caused over 900 civilian fatalities.

"It is of great importance that the extent of these crimes—and the extremely

dangerous consequences of letting the Israeli regime get away with occupation, apartheid, genocide, and warmongering across the West Asia region — be properly understood and condemned," the Iranian foreign minister said.

Araghchi called on the SCO to promptly review the situation regarding the recent Israeli aggression against Iran, urging the body to adopt measures offering Tehran essential political backing and related support.

He proposed "establishing a permanent mechanism to monitor, document, and coordinate responses to military aggression, acts of sabotage, state-sponsored terrorism, and violations of member states' national sovereignty." At the end of the meeting, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who also attended the meeting, said the SCO member states reiterated their commitment to uphold Iran's legitimate right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The Russian foreign minister said no



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks at a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in China on July 15, 2025.
● mjfa.gov.ir

individual, including inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, has so far presented any evidence contradicting Tehran's declaration of pursuing a peaceful nuclear path.

He added that any possible deal on Iran's nuclear issue must not violate Tehran's legitimate rights – as a member of the IAEA and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty – regarding

its capability to enrich uranium for energy-related purposes.

Both officials held talks on the sidelines of the SCO meeting during which the Russian foreign minister once again reiterated the importance of resolving the issues surrounding Iran's nuclear program solely through political and diplomatic means, and in accordance with international law.

Top EU diplomat: Return to diplomacy on Iran's nuclear file to benefit bloc

International Desk

The EU foreign policy chief said on Tuesday that returning to the path of diplomacy and negotiations on Iran's nuclear issue will benefit the bloc amid tensions between Tehran and Europe over Iran's nuclear issue.

"Returning to the path of diplomacy and resuming negotiations with Iran serves our interests. We stand ready to facilitate this process," Kaja Kallas told reporters before a meeting with foreign ministers from the 27 EU countries in Brussels.

In recent months, Iran and three European powers – France, Germany and Britain, who are also parties to the 2015 nuclear agreement – have held several meetings on Iran's nuclear issue – the latest held on June 20 in Geneva.

The meeting in June was held after the fifth round of nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington, which Iran decided not to continue over the Israeli-US aggression against the



Kaja Kallas
● AFP

Islamic Republic.

Remarks by Kallas came amid threats by the three European countries – known as E3 – to activate a so-called snapback mechanism against Iran, which would reimpose a broad range of international sanctions on Iran that had been suspended under the 2015 nuclear pact. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Tuesday that France, the United Kingdom and Germany will launch the UN snapback mechanism on Iran by the end of August at the latest if no concrete progress has been made on a

nuclear deal by then.

"France and its partners are ... justified in reapplying global embargoes on arms, banks, and nuclear equipment that were lifted 10 years ago. Without a firm, tangible, and verifiable commitment from Iran, we will do so by the end of August at the latest," Barrot told reporters ahead of the EU foreign ministers' meeting.

"The threat to use the snapback mechanism lacks legal and political basis and will be met with an appropriate and proportionate response from the Islamic Republic of Iran," Iran's Foreign

Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei told a press conference. The 2015 deal with Britain, Germany, France, the US, Russia and China – known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – states that if the parties cannot resolve accusations of "significant non-performance" by Iran, the "snapback mechanism" process can be triggered by the 15-member UN Security Council.

"The European parties, who are constantly trying to use this possibility as a tool, have themselves committed gross and fundamental violations of their obligations under the JCPOA," Baqaei said.

"They have failed to fulfill the duties they had undertaken under the JCPOA, so they have no legal or moral standing to resort to this mechanism."

The US withdrew from the deal in 2015 and the European parties to the deal failed to fulfil their commitments under the deal. In response, the Islamic Republic began to scale back its JCPOA commitments.

Pezeshkian extols national unity, solidarity in face of Israeli aggression



Masoud Pezeshkian

International Desk

Iran's president praised the nationwide unity and solidarity achieved after the Israeli regime's aggression on the country, saying those who had even been unjustly treated over the years threw their weight behind the Islamic Republic in the wake of the imposed 12-day war.

Masoud Pezeshkian, in a ceremony at Iran's Ministry of Cooperative, Labor and Social Welfare on Tuesday, hailed the unity among Iranians as "priceless," saying they displayed an unprecedented and honorable image of bravery by foiling the enemy's plots.

"The Zionist regime imagined that after martyring the commanders of our country's Armed Forces, who had dedicated their lives to the glory of Iran, the Islamic Establishment would face challenges; however, the wisdom of Leader of the Islamic Revolution [Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei] and the immediate appointment of successors to the martyred commanders, coupled with the Armed Forces' powerful defense, thwarted the enemy's plots," Pezeshkian said.

"The Iranian people did a greater and more important job; the enemy's plan was that within a short time after the start of its attacks, the people would go rogue and take to the streets, and the Islamic Republic of Iran would collapse, but the people also stood up to the enemy and neutralized its conspiracies," he added. The Iranian president empha-

sized that even those who had been wronged and treated unfairly, including those in prison or those who had left the country due to dissatisfaction, rose to defend the country.

"The ones we lost in those 12 days were indeed very valuable and dear, but the consensus and empathy we gained are far more precious. Iran belongs to all of us, regardless of race, gender, language, ethnicity, or religion, and anyone interested in serving the country and its people should have the opportunity to serve solely based on their merits and capabilities," Pezeshkian said. "We must strive to preserve the unity, cohesion, and empathy created in the country and spare no effort in building and developing Iran."

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked act of aggression against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians.

More than a week later, the United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia. On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, managed to impose a halt to the illegal assault.

European trio wants ...

In practical terms, Iran's economy would feel the sting of reimposed UN sanctions. Banking and trade ties would be choked, insurance coverage limited, and inspections of oil shipments ramped up—opening the door to seizure of Iranian vessels on the high seas, disrupting its commerce.

Moreover, a return to Chapter VII status at the UN would deal a blow to investor confidence, petrifying markets, scaring off global banks and corporations, and stalling foreign investment. For that reason, Iran has consistently shunned the activation of snapback, using all possible diplomatic levers to prevent Europe from pulling the trigger.

Yet the European troika must remember: Iran, both before and after the JCPOA, weathered the toughest sanctions the UN imposed and still managed to carve out its own path. Those sanctions fell short of their objectives, which is why the US and Europe even sat down at the negotiating table in the first place. Faced

with two nuclear-armed enemies and standing firm on its lawful resistance, Iran considers such threats no longer credible. Snapback offers Europe nothing it does not already have.

If the snapback threat is meant as a diplomatic punishment, it will expose Europe's ignorance of Iran's strategic culture and its defiant posture. Iran refuses to be broken by unfounded sanctions, having spent two decades arguing convincingly that it has no need for punishment. Resorting to snapback would threaten the principle of "dignity" in its foreign policy doctrine, and Iran's reaction would be even stronger.

Following the recent bombing of its nuclear sites, Iran does not see itself as a criminal—but as the aggrieved—thus, it will not back down, but press forward through alternative avenues.

For the EU and its members, invoking snapback now would mark a pivotal—and dangerous—turning point in relations with Iran.

As Araghchi said: "it would spell the end of Europe's role on Iran's nuclear issue, and perhaps the darkest moment in Iran's relations with the three European countries; a point from which recovery may never come."

When the trio ultimately enforces snapback and returns Iran's file to the UN Security Council, they will face a tough question: if Iran and the US soon resume talks and strike a deal, what position will Europe take—given its lack of independent leverage against Washington? Will they simply fall in line—and if so, with what standing? Will Iran ever trust a European troika that has been obstinate once more?

Tehran has so far shown goodwill toward Europe, seeking trust-based dialogue—but the ball is now in Europe's court. At a time when the Middle East needs rational diplomacy from the West—and must drop coercion in favor of negotiation—snapback could seal a path to nowhere. Diplomacy remains the only viable path and no other road lies ahead.