

Leader: Iran not to enter any arena as weak but with full strength



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei speaks during a meeting with senior judiciary officials in Tehran on July 16, 2025.
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National Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that Iran will never step in any arena as the weaker side – whether in the field of diplomacy or the military. “Both friends and foes should take note that the Iranian nation will never enter in any arena as the weaker side. We have all necessary tools, including logic and military strength. Therefore, whether in the field of diplomacy or the military, whenever we step in, we will enter with full strength,” Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with Iran’s judiciary officials in Tehran. He was referring to Iran’s recent response to the last month’s Israel and the US aggression

against Iran and Tehran’s insistence on its rights during negotiations on its peaceful nuclear program. On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians. More than a week later, the US entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites. 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, the Israeli regime, isolated and abandoned, declared a unilateral halt to its aggression, announced on its behalf by US President Donald

Trump. The Leader cited Israel’s desperate appeal to the United States for a cease-fire after 12 days of aggression as clear evidence of Iran’s strong and decisive response to the regime. “If the Zionist regime had not bowed down and clung to the ground, and if it were capable of defending itself, it would not have turned to America like that. But it understood that it could not stand against the Islamic Republic.” He said the confrontation revealed not only Iran’s military and strategic strength, but also the resilience, awareness, and national unity of the Iranian people. The Leader described Iran’s retaliatory strike against the US attack as a highly sensitive one.

“The target hit by Iran was an extremely sensitive American center in the region, and once media censorship is lifted, it will become clear what a significant blow Iran delivered. Of course, even greater strikes could be dealt to the US and others if necessary.” Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the enemy’s strategy was to weaken Iran through targeted assassinations and psychological operations, then mobilize internal saboteurs and agitators to trigger unrest, but it was fully defeated by public awareness and nationwide solidarity. “In reality, the exact opposite of the enemy’s plan occurred, revealing that many of the assumptions held by some individuals in political and related spheres were also incorrect.”

Parliament rules out resumption of US talks until preconditions met

International Desk

Iran’s Parliament said in a statement on Wednesday that the country should not resume nuclear negotiations with the United States until preconditions are met. “When the US use negotiations as a tool to deceive Iran and cover up a sudden military attack by the Zionist regime (Israel), talks cannot be conducted as before. Preconditions must be set and no new negotiations can take place until they are fully met,” the statement said. The statement did not define the preconditions, but Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has previously said there should be guarantees there will be no further attacks against Tehran. Israel and the US launched strikes on Iran’s nuclear facilities last month, claiming that they were part of a program geared towards developing nuclear weapons. Tehran maintains that its nuclear program is purely for civilian purposes. Tehran and Washington had held five rounds of indirect negotiations mediated by Oman prior to the 12-day air war, with US demands that Tehran drop its domestic uranium enrichment program reaching a dead end. Last week, Araghchi reiterated Tehran’s position that it would not agree to a nuclear deal that prevents it from enriching uranium



and would refuse to discuss extra-nuclear topics such as its ballistic missile program. US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he was in no rush to negotiate with Iran as its nuclear sites were now “obliterated”, but the US, in coordination with three European countries, has agreed to set the end of August as the deadline for a deal. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Tuesday that Paris, London and Berlin would trigger the United Nations sanctions snapback mechanism, which would reimpose international sanctions on Iran, by the end of August if there is no concrete progress regarding an agreement. “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 on Monday. “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 (2015 Iran nuclear deal),” 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 2018 (known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) 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 urges ‘pathological evaluation’ of security woes after 12-day war

National Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday a recent Israeli aggression against Iran revealed “fundamental problems” in the country’s security field, necessitating a pathological evaluation in this regard. “In the recent war, it became clear that we had fundamental problems in security matters. A pathological evaluation must be carried out in this regard to minimize the damage to our country in such cases,” Pezeshkian said in a cabinet meeting. On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked war against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military command-



ers, 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).

Israel bombs Syria ...

Iran condemns Israel’s attacks

Earlier on Tuesday, Iran expressed deep concern over the recent clashes in Syria and condemned the Israeli attacks on the Arab country. Iranian Foreign Ministry’s spokesman Esmail Baqaei pointed to the continued military aggression by Israel against Syria’s territorial integrity, coinciding with the ongoing occupation of a large part of Syrian territory. He described the continued inaction of the United Nations Security Council regarding the aggressive actions of the regime against regional countries as ‘extremely dangerous’ and as fueling the

escalating boldness of the occupying regime. Turkey on Wednesday condemned the Israel’s strikes, saying they sought to undermine stability in the war-torn country. “Israel’s attacks on Damascus, following its military interventions in the south of Syria, constitute an act of sabotage against Syria’s efforts to secure peace, stability, and security,” the foreign ministry said in a statement. The United States’ special envoy for Syria on Wednesday called on all parties to step back and engage in dialogue for a lasting cease-fire in Syria following clashes with Druze factions in the south and Israeli strikes in Damascus.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Role of the Druze ...

This policy of minority engagement was clearly articulated by Gideon Sa’ar during his first press conference as Israel’s foreign minister, where he specifically named the Kurds and Druze as minorities of interest to Israel in the region. Currently, as skepticism within Israeli circles grows toward the continued presence of Sharaa in Syria, the Druze are being viewed as a potential balancing force. The Zionist regime has heavily counted on the Druze to counterbalance Damascus’s influence and support them as a strategic asset—or even a “trump card”—in Syria’s power struggles. Tensions in Sweida erupted just as

negotiations between Syria’s interim government and the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) collapsed. The breakdown came after SDF leaders issued a strongly worded statement criticizing the interim authorities in Damascus. These developments unfolded concurrently with violent clashes in Sweida. Given the already strained relations between the Sharaa-led government and the Druze, Damascus responded by deploying large numbers of military forces—mainly Sunni troops—from northern and central Syria as well as from Daraa in the south. These deployments appeared aimed at settling scores with the Druze, marking the first such large-scale

military movement toward Sweida since Sharaa assumed control of Damascus eight months ago. Until now, Sweida had largely managed its own affairs without major interference from the central government. Against this volatile backdrop, Israel launched limited but symbolic airstrikes in recent days against Damascus-aligned forces. Though the strikes were not militarily decisive, they were intended as a clear warning: Israel may escalate its involvement if the Druze are seriously threatened. Taken together, these developments suggest that the Druze will likely play an increasingly role in shaping Syria’s future political landscape.

