

Europeans have no grounds to trigger snapback mechanism: *FM*

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told his European counterparts Friday they have no grounds for reactivating UN sanctions after they threatened to do so in coming months unless there is progress in nuclear talks. "If EU/E3 want to have a role, they should act responsibly and put aside the worn-out policies of threat and pressure, including the 'snap-back' for which they (have) absolutely no moral (or) legal grounds," Araghchi said on X. The remarks came after Araghchi held a conference call with his British, French and German counterparts and European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas. The European diplomats told Araghchi of "their determination

to use the 'snapback' mechanism – which allows for the reimposition of all international sanctions against Iran – in the absence of concrete progress" towards a new deal on Iran's nuclear program "by the end of the summer", the French Foreign Ministry said. French officials have previously indicated that means by the end of August. Last month, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said that the Europeans would be "justified" in seeking a snapback of UN sanctions lifted under a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and major powers, later abandoned by US President Donald Trump. "Without a firm, tangible, and verifiable commitment from Iran, we will do so no later than the end of August," he told reporters. Iran and the United States held

several rounds of nuclear negotiations through Omani mediators before Israel launched its 12-day war on June 13. Trump's decision to join Israel in striking Iranian nuclear facilities effectively ended the talks. The aggression against Iran claimed the lives of more than 1,000 Iranians, most of them civilians. Iran-US talks However, both Tehran and Washington have signaled willingness to return to the table, though Tehran has said it will not give up its right to the peaceful use of nuclear power. "It was the US that withdrew from a two-year negotiated deal -coordinated by EU in 2015- not Iran; and it was US that left the negotiation table in June this year and chose a military option instead, not Iran," Araghchi told

the European officials. Araghchi said that "any new round of talks is only possible when the other side is ready for a fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial nuclear deal."

Threat of sanctions does not help diplomacy

Last week, Araghchi told French newspaper Le Monde that, "The threat of sanctions does not help diplomacy." Araghchi said triggering the "snapback" mechanism would have the same effect as a military attack. "We support the constructive role of the three European countries in rebuilding the JCPOA (Iran 2015 nuclear deal), provided they avoid provocative and unconstructive actions such as threatening the "snapback" mechanism, which



Abbas Araghchi
REUTERS

would have the same effect as a military attack", Araghchi said. The so-called snapback mechanism allows for the return of anti-Iran sanctions suspended under the 2015 nuclear deal, from which the US withdrew in 2018

and its European parties failed to fulfill their commitments under the deal. But the deal expires in October giving the parties to it a fast looming deadline to invoke the clause.

Syria tensions escalate as clashes resumes in Sweida Death toll rises to nearly 600

International Desk

Renewed clashes broke out overnight between Druze armed groups and members of Bedouin clans in southern Syria, and government forces were preparing to deploy again to the area Friday after pulling out under a cease-fire agreement that halted several days of violence earlier this week, officials said. Government security forces agreed with some of the Druze factions that they would re-enter the area to impose stability and protect state institutions, according to two Syrian officials who spoke Friday on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. Thousands of people remained displaced by the violence and the United Nations has been unable to bring in much-needed humanitarian and medical aid because of ongoing clashes. Syrian government forces pulled out of the Druze-majority southern province of Sweida after days of clashes with militias linked to the Druze religious minority that threatened to unravel the country's fragile post-war transition.

Israel's intervention

The conflict drew airstrikes against Syrian forces by the Israeli regime in defense of the Druze minority before most of the fighting was halted by a truce announced Wednesday that was mediated by the US, Turkey and Arab countries. Under that agreement, Druze factions and clerics would be left to maintain internal security in Sweida, Syria's interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa said Thursday.



A fighter from Bedouin tribes walks past a burnt vehicle in the Al-Mazraa village in Syria's southern Sweida Province, as clashes with Druze gunmen continue on July 18, 2025.

BAKR ALKASEM/AFP

The clashes initially began between Druze militias and local Sunni Muslim Bedouin tribes Sunday before government forces intervened, nominally to restore order, but ended up taking the Bedouins' side against the Druze. The fighting killed hundreds of people over four days, with allegations that government-affiliated fighters executed Druze civilians and looted and burned homes. Israel intervened, launching dozens of airstrikes on convoys of government fighters and striking the Syrian Defense Ministry headquarters in central Damascus in a major escalation of its involvement. After the cease-fire and withdrawal of government forces, clashes once again flared between the Druze and Bedouin groups in parts of Sweida Province. State media reported Druze militias carried out revenge attacks against Bedouin communities, leading to a wave of displacement.

The governor of neighboring Daraa Province said in a statement that more than 1,000 families had been displaced to the area from Sweida as a result of "attacks on Bedouin tribes by outlaw groups." In Sweida "there are severe disruptions to supply routes, with insecurity and road closures blocking aid deliveries," Adam Abdelmoula, UN Resident and Humanitarian Affairs Coordinator in Syria, said in a statement Friday. The United Nations called for an end to the "bloodshed" and demanded an "independent" investigation of the violence, which has claimed nearly 600 lives since Sunday, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The renewed fighting raised questions over the authority of interim president, whose interim government also has difficult relations with the Kurdish minority in the northeast and the Alawite minority on the Mediterranean coast.

Top general: Iran air defense will make enemies regret any mistake

National Desk

Iran's top military official said on Friday that the country's air defense units proved during the last month US-Israel's aggression that they will make enemies regret "any mistake".

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief of the General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, visited the national air defense headquarters on Friday, where he honored the "martyrs, wounded, and war veterans" of the recent aggression and expressed gratitude to all air defense personnel for their service.

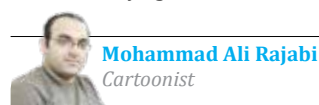
"Air defense, standing on the front line of our sky's protection, has proven its ability to withstand all levels of threats and to make the enemies of the Iranian nation regret their mistakes," he said on the sidelines of the visit. His remarks come in the aftermath of a blatant and unprovoked Israeli aggression that began on June 13, targeting senior Iranian military officials, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The US later came to help Israel in the illegal aggression by striking three Iranian peaceful nuclear facilities. Iran responded by targeting key locations across the occupied Palestinian territories and launching attacks on the US Al-Udeid air base in Qatar — Washington's largest military installation in West Asia. Iran's retaliatory campaign compelled the Israeli regime to announce a unilateral ceasefire on June 24. Mousavi added that the downing of a large number of enemy aircraft demonstrated not only Iran's operational strength but also the determination and courage of its air defense forces. "If the enemy ever dares to attack our beloved country again, with God's help, it will



Chief of the General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi (3rd L) visits national air defense headquarters in Tehran on July 18, 2025.

IRNA

be met with even harsher blows and suffer a greater defeat than before," he stressed. He also pointed to the need to keep pace with evolving threats, calling for continuous updates and modernization of defense systems, along with innovation, agility, and reliance on domestic scientific and technological capacity. Meanwhile, the IRGC chief said on Thursday emphasized full preparedness of the Islamic Republic to strike the enemy once again. Major General Mohammad Pakpour, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) chief commander, made the remarks during a meeting with Iran's Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami. Major General Hatami, for his part, condemned the Israeli regime for being the main threat to peace and security in West Asia. "We pledge that, God willing, the Army and the IRGC will stand side by side and hand in hand—as a divine army—to work for the elevation of Iran's proud flag and the security and power of Islamic Iran," Hatami added.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Iran rejects US accusations of supplying arms to Yemen

Iran firmly dismissed US allegations of supplying military equipment to Yemen, labeling them as "unfounded" and part of Washington's ongoing media campaign against Tehran. On Thursday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei described the US claims as a deceitful attempt to distract from the true issues plaguing the region, namely the Israeli regime's acts of aggression and its crimes against regional

nations. The US Central Command (CENTCOM) claimed in a post on X on Wednesday that a military group known as the Yemeni National Resistance Forces (NRF) seized a 'massive' Iranian weapons shipment bound for Yemen's Ansarullah movement. He noted that Washington is trying to justify its military presence and provide excuses for its destabilizing actions in partnership with Israel.

According to Baqaei, the military and political support the United States provides to Israel has enabled the regime to escalate its genocidal campaign in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, while simultaneously violating the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Syria and Lebanon. Israel has carried out acts of aggression against Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and Iran.

