

Iran scorns GCC-EU defense statement as 'inappropriate interference'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei on Tuesday strongly rejected claims made in a recent GCC-EU joint statement regarding Iran's defense capabilities as an inappropriate and unacceptable interference in the country's internal affairs.

Baqaei made the remarks after foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union in a joint statement on Monday stressed the importance of what they called ensuring the peaceful nature of the Iranian nuclear program, and ceasing of proliferation of ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles and any technologies that they claimed threaten the security of the region and beyond.

The Iranian official said those who turn the region into an arsenal of advanced, destructive weapons through arms deals worth hundreds

of billions of dollars, while remaining silent toward the hegemony of a genocidal and aggressive regime or even providing it with military and political support, "have no authority to comment on Iran's indigenous defense capabilities."

The GCC-EU statement also repeated the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) baseless claims over the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, expressing concern over the lack of progress about resolving the dispute between the UAE and Iran over the islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa.

Baqaei reaffirmed Iran's undisputed and permanent sovereignty over the islands, emphasizing that they are an integral part of Iran's territory.

Repeating baseless claims in political statements holds no legal validity and cannot alter geographical realities or historical facts, he said.

The Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, and the Greater and Lesser



Esmail Baqaei
● IRNA

Tunbs have historically been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world. However, the United Arab Emirates

has repeatedly laid claim to the islands.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also condemned Europe's "destructive and divisive" interference in Iran's defense and nuclear programs.

No place for trans-regional powers in Caspian Sea: Cmdr.



Shahram Irani
● ISNA

National Desk

Commander of Iran's Navy Rear Admiral Shahram Irani praised close cooperation between the Caspian Sea littoral states, saying they do not need foreign powers to ensure their security.

Irani made the remarks at the meeting of naval commanders of the Caspian Sea littoral states in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

He said the Caspian Sea belongs only to Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, and its issues will be resolved by those countries themselves.

The Iranian commander also said the Caspian Sea states will stage a joint naval exercise in the near future.

US-Israel strikes on Iran's nuclear sites imperil health, ecosystems: UN Envoy



Amir Saeid Irvani
● IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Irvani, once again condemned recent US-Israeli strikes on his country's nuclear facilities, saying that such actions put human health, ecosystems, and vital resources at risk. Irvani made the remarks on Monday during a forceful address at the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly's Second Committee.

"Such unlawful acts not

only constitute grave violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, but also endanger human health, ecosystems, and vital resources by risking the release of radioactive and toxic substances that transcend borders," Irvani said.

"They erode trust, undermine cooperation, and divert the international community from its shared responsibility to protect both present and future generations. It is therefore imperative that these

actions be prevented and unequivocally condemned, so that global efforts to confront environmental challenges can continue undiminished," the Iranian diplomat added.

Irvani said that the attacks also undermined international peace and security, and gravely jeopardized the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians.

The United States also entered the war by bombing three peaceful Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law. 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.

Gov't spox: Necessary decisions made to respond to snapback invocation



Fateme Mohajerani
● IRNA

International Desk

Iran's government spokeswoman Fateme Mohajerani said on Tuesday that the government has made necessary decisions to deal with the consequences of the activation of the snapback mechanism by European powers.

Mohajerani said that government made use of all diplomatic capacities to prevent the activation of the mechanism, which led to reimposition of international sanctions on Iran.

She said that the government had predicted the activation of the mechanism by the three European powers – France, Germany and the UK – and has changed

its approach and made the necessary decisions for the country's current situation. On September 9, Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reached an agreement aimed at paving the way for resumption of cooperation which had been suspended following the unprovoked Israeli-American attacks against key Iranian nuclear facilities in June.

The agreement with the IAEA was signed as a goodwill gesture by Iran to prevent the activation of the snapback mechanism by the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Despite Iran's efforts to prevent the European move, the three countries invoked the mechanism which paved the way for the reimposition of international sanctions that had been removed under the 2015 nuclear agreement.

Iran has rejected the reimposition of sanctions as "entirely unfounded, unlawful, and invalid" claims by the United States and the European countries.

IRGC Aerospace Force ready to confront threats: Commander



Majid Mousavi
● TASNIM

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force affirmed the full preparedness of his forces to decisively respond to any threat or act of aggression following recent confrontations with the Israeli regime. Brigadier General Majid Mousavi highlighted the role of the IRGC Aerospace Force during the 12-day war imposed by Israel in June and the key post-war recovery measures, Tasnim reported. He stated that all damages sustained have been repaired and operational capacities were fully restored.

Gaza inching toward serenity

Peace talks resume on second anniversary of October 7 operation

International Desk

Peace talks between Israel and Hamas resumed at an Egyptian resort city on Tuesday, coinciding with the 2nd anniversary of the beginning of Israel's onslaught on the Palestinian territory that has seen tens of thousands of Palestinians killed in Gaza.

The second day of indirect negotiations in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh were focused on a plan proposed by US President Donald Trump last week that aims to bring about an end to the war in Gaza.

After several hours of talks Monday, an Egyptian official with knowledge of the discussions said the parties agreed on most of the

first-phase terms, which include the release of Israeli captives and establishing a cease-fire.

The plan has received widespread international backing and Trump told reporters on Monday that he thought there was a "really good chance" of a "lasting deal."

"This is beyond Gaza," he said. "Gaza is a big deal, but this is really peace in the Middle East."

Many uncertainties remain, however, including the demand that Hamas disarm and the future governance of Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has long said Hamas must surrender and disarm, but Hamas has not yet commented on whether it would be willing to. The Israeli aggression against Gaza

was triggered by a Hamas operation on the Israeli positions in the occupied territories, which claimed the lives of around 1,200 people.

Analysts believe that the attack was a reaction to decades of the regime's oppression of Palestinians. Israel's devastating war that has upended global politics, has resulted in the deaths of 67,160 Palestinians nearly 170,000 wounded, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, and has left the Gaza Strip in ruins. A growing number of experts, including those commissioned by a UN body, have said Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip amounts to genocide.

Ahead of the resumption of talks on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for an end

to the hostilities, which have created "a humanitarian catastrophe on a scale that defied comprehension." Israel's actions in Gaza have also caused famine the Palestinian territory. Israel has long placed restrictions on goods entering Gaza, and those restrictions increased after the beginning of the war on Gaza.

However, since March 2025, the situation has deteriorated rapidly after Israel introduced a nearly three-month total blockade on goods entering Gaza.

The UN's humanitarian chief, Tom Fletcher, has said the famine was the direct result of Israel's "systematic obstruction" of aid entering Gaza.

Finding food has become a dead-



Displaced people return to Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Jan. 20, 2025, a day after a cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas went into effect.
● JEHAD ALSHRAFI/AP

ly endeavor for Palestinians and they have regularly said they have to choose between starvation and

death, referring to the near-daily shootings of people trying to get aid at distribution sites.