

IRGC Navy chief says Iran never sought closure of Strait of Hormuz



National Desk

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy termed on Friday the Strait of Hormuz as the "world's vital oil and gas artery," underlining that Iran has consistently ensured the security of this strategic waterway and never aimed to disrupt or close it.

Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri underscored the vital importance of the Strait of Hormuz in the global energy market and warned against the "unregulated" presence of extra-regional powers and their nuclear-powered vessels in this strategic waterway.

"This waterway is the oil and gas artery of the world, and Iran has always safeguarded it and never sought to have it closed," Tangsiri stated, adding, "The question remains: is it fair

that the world benefits from this strait while Iran does not?"

He explained that the decision to open or close the Strait of Hormuz lies with the country's high-ranking officials and depends on the pressure on Iran's exports.

"The decision on whether the strait remains open or closed ultimately rests with the country's top leadership and depends on the extent of pressure exerted on Iran's oil exports," he noted.

Tangsiri also criticized the continued presence of certain foreign powers in the region, asserting that "such countries deliberately create tensions and adversaries to justify their presence."

He reiterated that Iran's defense policy is fundamentally defensive, not aggressive.

Tangsiri affirmed that Iran has not attacked any country in over 300 years

and will not seek conflict unless it is provoked.

He further emphasized the vigilance and readiness of Iranian forces stationed in the Persian Gulf.

"Our soldiers in the region, both from the Army Navy and the IRGC Navy, will stand against any threat or action targeting national interests and will defend the nation's dignity until their last breath," he vowed.

Mentioning the 12-day unprovoked Israeli aggression against Iran, he stated that Iran "did not start the war, nor did we request its end; we continue to steadfastly defend the path we were on."

"The enemies know that Iran is not seeking a nuclear bomb; their problem is with Iran's independent existence and scientific progress, not with weapons," he concluded.

Protesters in London call for 'lasting peace' in Gaza

Palestinian groups reject foreign guardianship on Gaza

International Desk

Tens of thousands of pro-Palestine protesters gathered in central London to call for "lasting peace" in Gaza, a day after the cease-fire agreement between Israel and Hamas came into effect.

The demonstration came as tens of thousands of Palestinians began returning to the ruins of their homes in Gaza following the withdrawal of Israeli forces after the US brokered cease-fire took effect on Friday. Protesters chanted "death, death to the IDF" as they marched through central London, referring to Israeli occupation forces.

Around 500,000 people have gathered, according to organizers, despite a US-brokered ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas on Friday. Pro-Palestine activists have continued to express anger at Israel over its military operations in Gaza following the October 7 attacks by Hamas, in which more than 1,200 Israelis were killed. The protest's organizers, who promised to make it the biggest pro-Palestine demonstration in British history, insisted that marches will continue until "a free Palestine" is achieved.

Ben Jamal, the director of Palestine Solidarity Campaign which organized the demonstration, said the march went ahead, despite a cease-fire coming into effect, because the "plan that has been laid out by Donald Trump is not a plan for enduring peace."

He said the plan said "nothing about the root causes of violence" nor anything "about the system of apartheid" in Palestine or the "right to self-determination" for Palestinians.

Jamal added that the group's campaigning and protesting will not end "until the Palestinian people are finally free."

It was the 32nd national demonstration in support of Palestine since October 2023, according to the group.



Displaced Palestinians return home

Tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians made their way back to their Gaza neighborhoods on Saturday, weaving through dust-shrouded streets as bulldozers clawed through the wreckage of two years of war and the cease-fire held in its second day. Aid groups urged Israel to reopen more crossings to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza, and about 200 US troops arrived in Israel to help retrieve hostages and monitor the cease-fire with Hamas.

Israel's military has said that under the truce deal, the 48 captives still in Gaza would be freed on Monday. Israel's war on Gaza has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, flattened entire neighborhoods and displaced around 90% of Gaza's more than 2 million people, some multiple times. In Israel, families were awaiting the return of captives taken in the 2023 Hamas attack. Tel Aviv believes around 20 of the captives remain alive. Meanwhile, questions remain on who will govern Gaza after Israeli troops gradually pull back and whether Hamas will disarm, as called for in the cease-fire agreement.

Future governance of Gaza

Hamas and allied Palestinian factions



People take part in a Palestine Solidarity Campaign march on Westminster Bridge in London on October 11, 2025.

YUI MOK/PA

reiterated that any decision on the future governance of Gaza is "an internal Palestinian matter."

In a joint statement on Friday, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) joined Hamas in lauding the steadfastness of Palestinians, which they said foiled Israel's plans for mass forced displacement in Gaza.

"We renew our rejection to any foreign guardianship, and we stress that the nature of the administration of the Gaza Strip and its institutions are an internal Palestinian matter to be determined by the national component of our people directly," the statement said.

United States President Donald Trump's 20-point Gaza plan includes the creation of a new international body, dubbed the "Board of Peace", that would be tasked with overseeing an interim authority of technocrats to govern Gaza.

According to the scheme, Trump himself would chair the board, which would also include former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Tehran initiates legal process in int'l courts against Israel-US strikes



International Desk

Iran's Vice President for Legal Affairs Majid Ansari announced on Saturday that the country's legal authorities have launched the process of filing legal complaints against Israel and the United States in international courts over their aggression against the Islamic Republic in June.

Ansari noted that the strikes by Israel and the US on Iran, which targeted civilian places, hospitals, universities, journalists and nuclear facilities, have violated various international legal conventions and requires its own specific legal follow-up.

"Each of these illegal acts has its own regulations and conventions, and for this reason, we will pursue them from different legal angles."

The Iranian official stressed that the process is complex and due to the good



People and first-responders gather outside a building that was hit by an Israeli strike in Tehran on June 13, 2025.

MEGHAD MADADI/TASNIM

coordination and cooperation among the country's legal bodies, "We hope to achieve justice for the Iranian nation in this regard."

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 Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law.

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, managed to impose a halt to the terrorist assault.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Europe's new statement ...

Negotiations can no longer be used to string Iran along, nor is Tehran in any mood to offer concessions. As a result, neither side seems keen to engage.

Iran's path forward, therefore, lies in doubling down on the strategy it has pursued for years: offsetting sanctions by building alternative trade frameworks — through organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organiza-

tion and BRICS — and strengthening ties with neighboring markets. Tehran must continue expanding its non-oil exports and promoting trade in local and alternative currencies to cushion itself against Western pressure.

The return of UN sanctions is unlikely to create new obstacles. The US has already imposed far tougher restrictions, and Europe has long ceased meaningful trade with Iran due to its own depen-

dency on US financial systems. Moreover, the UN resolutions focus mainly on nuclear issues, not Iran's oil trade — the country's primary source of revenue. Therefore, the renewed sanctions add little to the economic pressure Iran already faces. Having weathered years of sanctions, Tehran has learned to manage the fallout. The experience of those years, it seems, will once again serve as the country's guide for the road ahead.