

## Larijani: Upholding missile ascendancy safeguards national interests

### National Desk

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council said the Islamic Republic's determination to maintain its missile power and not slash its strategic range in exchange for reaching a deal to prevent the so-called snapback mechanism of sanctions exemplified protection of the country's national interests and dismissal of capitulation to foreign pressure.

Ali Larijani made the statement at a local event in Tehran on Thursday as he pointed to the efforts made by Tehran to prevent the invocation of the snapback mechanism by the three European signatories to the 2015 Iran deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Larijani said in the issue of the snapback mechanism, all efforts were made to reach an agreement; however, the Western countries set a condition that the Islamic Republic must reduce the range of its missiles to below 500 kilometers.

"In the matter of snapback as well, all efforts were made so that negotiations would result in a conclusion, but the Westerners stipulated that Iran reduce the range of its missiles to under 500 km, and in effect, they wanted to take the most important defensive weapon of the Iranian nation," he said.

"The request to reduce missile range is in fact considered a demand for surrender and the forfeit of national security," he added. "Resistance and maintaining missile capability are examples of protecting national interests and public security."



Larijani said if "we want national resistance to continue, we must stand united and speak with one voice," emphasizing that "national security belongs to all people and defending it is a collective duty."

The top security chief also said the West believes it can weaken Iran's resilience through economic pressure. However, he added, the Iranian nation will overcome such difficulties with resistance and faith.

"The West imagines that with economic pressure it can reduce Iran's resilience," Larijani said. "The nation of Iran, with resistance and faith, will pass through this stage as well." Iran has rejected the legality of E3 (France, Germany, UK) triggering the snapback of UN sanctions, calling the mechanism "null and void" and a "fabricated" term after Tehran announced on Saturday the expiration of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and its relevant provisions and restrictions.

Iran's Foreign Ministry emphasized that with the conclusion of the 10-



Ali Larijani, the secretary of Supreme National Security Council, addresses a ceremony to commemorate Martyr Hossein Hamedani in Tehran on October 23, 2025.

● DEFA PRESS

year period set by the resolution on October 18, the Islamic Republic's nuclear program must now be treated like that of any other non-nuclear-weapon state under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Iran has faced sustained economic pressure in recent years, particularly after the United States unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 and re-imposed sweeping sanctions under the so-called "maximum pressure" policy.

Despite these pressures, Iran has sought to adapt through increased domestic production, non-dollar trade mechanisms, and expanding economic ties with partners in Asia and neighboring states.

## Araghchi to Grossi: Failed anti-Iran threats to bring nothing but another defeat

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday warned the head of the UN nuclear agency, Rafael Grossi, against making "failed threats" toward Tehran, saying such remarks would bring "nothing but another defeat."

Araghchi's comments came after Grossi told Swiss daily Le Temps that despite US strikes in June that hit Iran's key nuclear facilities, the country's technical expertise remained intact.

"I don't know whether he made that statement out of concern or as a threat," Araghchi said, according to Iranian media. "But those who make such threats must realize that repeating a failed experience will yield nothing but another defeat for them."

Grossi told Le Temps that while the attacks had caused "considerable damage" to Iran's facilities in Isfahan, Natanz and Fordow, the country's enrichment capabilities could be restored and its scientific know-how preserved.

He said Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium — about 400 kilograms enriched to 60% — remained below weapons-grade and within levels consistent with peaceful use.

"Even so, we have no evidence whatsoever that Tehran intends to build a nuclear weapon," he said, adding that most of the material remained securely stored at monitored sites.

Grossi reiterated that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) seeks to resume full inspections in Iran but said current satellite monitoring continues to



IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi (L) and Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi shake hands after signing an agreement in Cairo, Egypt, on September 9, 2025.

● Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

show stability in the country's nuclear activities.

The exchange came as Iran's Foreign Ministry announced the expiration of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal and imposed restrictions that Tehran says no longer apply.

The developments follow large-scale US and Israeli strikes in June targeting Iranian nuclear and military sites — the first such coordinated attacks. Iran responded with missile and drone strikes on Israeli-occupied territories and a US base in Qatar.

US President Donald Trump justified the attacks by claiming Iran was close to producing nuclear weapons, though he provided no evidence. Tehran has consistently said its nuclear program is aimed solely at peaceful purposes.

## OIC, Arab League, Iran condemn Israel's West Bank annexation bill



A view of the illegal Israeli Ma'ale Adumim settlement east of al-Quds in the Israeli-occupied territories

● REUTERS

colonial settlements is strongly condemned as a clear violation of international law, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 2334, which condemns all Israeli measures changing the demographic structure, character, and status of the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, since 1967," the OIC and the Arab League said in a joint written statement.

"It also violates the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which confirms the illegality of Israel's occupation and invalidates settlement construction and annexation measures in the West Bank. The parties reaffirm once again that Israel has no sovereignty over the occupied Palestinian territories," the statement added.

The statement underlined that the ICJ reminded Israel of its obligation to respect the prohibition against using starvation as a method of warfare, considering Israel's restrictions on aid to Gaza. It also reiterated the court's reaffirmation of the prohibition of forced displacement and deportation, including imposing unlivable conditions.

The ICJ reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state, while recalling that Israel's territorial claims over East Jerusalem have been declared "null and void" by the UN Security Council.

It warned against Israel's continuation of unilateral and illegal policies and practices and called on the international community to take up its legal and moral responsibilities to compel Israel to halt its dangerous escalation and unlawful actions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The joint statement underlined that

supporting the Palestinian people's legitimate right to establish an independent and sovereign state based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem al-Quds as its capital, is the only way to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, as well as ensuring security and stability.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei said in a statement that the bill is another step in the path of the regime's colonial and criminal expansionism, which continues eight decades of continuous violation of the fundamental right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Baghaei added that these policies adopted by Israel confirm the Israeli regime's plan for comprehensive ethnic cleansing throughout occupied Palestine.

The spokesman also highlighted the continuing gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law in the West Bank and the genocide in Gaza.

## Venezuela deploys forces as US-Caribbean tensions escalate

### International Desk

Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez announced on Thursday that the armed forces were deployed along the country's coastline as the United States had ramped up military buildup in the Caribbean.

Lopez said Venezuela's army is seeking to achieve the "optimal point" of coordination and readiness to respond to the US actions in the region.

Venezuela's military efforts include "reconnaissance operations on land routes, aerial surveillance, exploration and radio operations, drone surveys, and



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amphibious maneuvers" across coastal regions, he added.

Earlier on Thursday, two US Air Force B-1 bombers flew near the coast of Venezuela.

Last week, at least two US B-52 bombers flew for several hours off the Venezuelan coast in what one senior American official called "a show of force."

Washington has already deployed eight warships, a nuclear-powered submarine and fighter jets to the Caribbean under the pretext of combating drug smuggling into the United States.

For at least nine times, the US military has conducted strikes against suspected drug boats, killing 37 people.

On Wednesday, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said his country had 5,000 Russian-made Igla-S anti-aircraft missiles in "key air defense positions."

Maduro also emphasized that the massive stockpile is intended to guarantee "the peace, stability and tranquility" of the Venezuelan people.



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