

Larijani: Iran's leaders never been hostile toward West

Missile issue used as 'tool' to pressure Tehran

International Desk

Iran's top security official said Iranian leaders have never been hostile toward the West but it is the West's policy toward political and security issues that has created crisis in relations. Addressing a conference named "We and the West" on Monday, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani said the West was Iran's primary trading partner for many years and the Leader has no problem with economic interactions between the two sides. However, he said that Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei believes that the West uses economic issues to interfere in matters such as the range of Iran's missiles or its nuclear capabilities.

"Iran is neither seeking control [over other nations] nor is submissive to the dominance of any power," Larijani stressed. Larijani underscored the importance of maintaining Iran's independence "because freedom, culture, and economy will not remain stable in the absence of independence." He also said the West is using the country's missile capabilities as a means of pressure, stressing it is in no position to comment on the issue. "The current debate on Iran's missiles is not out of genuine security concerns but rather serves as a tool to exert pressure and restrict the country's defense power," Larijani said. "What does it have to do with the West that it comments on the range of Iran's missiles?" he asked.



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani addresses a conference titled "We and the West" in Tehran on November 10, 2025.

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Larijani, who was a former nuclear negotiator, emphasized that Western countries also use the nuclear issue as a pretext to harbor animosity towards the Iranian nation, saying the US and Europe are raising issues about the range of Iran's missiles with the aim of imposing control and dominance.

"No country is entitled to interfere in the Iranian nation's defensive power," which is a matter of independence, Larijani pointed out. The United States and its European allies have repeatedly called for any future agreement on Iran's nuclear activ-



ities to include its ballistic missile program as well.

Tehran has consistently rejected that demand, saying

its military capabilities are non-negotiable.

West has no choice but to recognize Iran as 'hub' of nuclear industry: FM

National Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Monday that Western countries would have no choice but to recognize Iran as a scientific 'hub' in the field of peaceful nuclear industry.

The top diplomat said Western countries had been trying to deprive Iran of nuclear capability.

"Their main objective is to force Iran to relinquish its nuclear capability and keep everything under their own monopoly," Araghchi said during a visit to an exhibition showcasing the latest achievements of the country's nuclear industry at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI). He hailed Iranian nuclear scientists for developing a "highly complex and advanced global science," calling it a "major accomplishment that no one can ignore."



"We have worked hard for these achievements and the scientific progress made in the nuclear industry. People have shed blood for it and fought for it. Undoubtedly, no one in Iran will ever give up this right," the Iranian foreign minister said. Iran's nuclear program has been a source of contention with West-

ern countries for more than two decades. While Iran insists that its nuclear activities are entirely peaceful and aimed at civilian purposes such as energy production and medical research, Western powers—particularly the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany—have long expressed



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (c), accompanied by chief the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami (2nd R), visits an exhibition of Iran's nuclear industry in Tehran on November 10, 2025.

● www.aeo.org.ir

concern that Tehran could be seeking the capability to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran confirms IAEA inspections of nuclear sites last week

International Desk

Inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) visited several nuclear facilities in Iran last week, including the Tehran Research Reactor, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

"As long as we are a member of the NPT, we will abide by our commitments," ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said, referring to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. He did not specify which other sites had been inspected.

"Regarding other nuclear facilities, the procedures and related regulations are clear. Based on the law passed by Parliament, we are obliged to decide on any IAEA inspection request after coordination with the Supreme National Security Council," Baqaei added. The IAEA has conducted nearly a dozen inspections since Israel attacked Iran in June, followed by US airstrikes targeting the Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan nuclear facilities. The announcement came just days after IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi urged Tehran to "seriously improve" its coop-

eration with the agency.

"These visits demonstrate our constructive engagement, despite the provocations from the Zionist regime [of Israel] and its backers," Baqaei said, adding that June attacks had placed Iran in special circumstances.

"Due to the aggressive actions of the Zionist regime and the United States, we are facing exceptional conditions, and the agency must understand that the situation is not normal," he said. Iranian officials have rebuked the IAEA for providing justification for Israel's aggression, which triggered the 12-day war against Iran. Israeli airstrikes began the day after the IAEA Board of Governors voted to declare Iran in violation of its NPT obligations.

Following the Israeli and US attacks, Iran's Parliament passed a law suspending IAEA inspectors from entering its nuclear sites. However, Tehran later reached an agreement with the agency to resume limited cooperation, described as a goodwill gesture to prevent European signatories of the 2015 nuclear accord, known as the JCPOA, from triggering



the snapback mechanism. Despite that effort, Britain, France and Germany went ahead and invoked the mechanism, paving the way for the reimposition of UN sanctions that had been lifted under the nuclear deal.

Baqaei said Iran had maintained "normal cooperation" with the IAEA prior to the "military aggression of the Zionist regime and the United States," and later reached an understanding "under the Cairo arrangement" to continue working with the agency under new conditions.

"The parties that should be blamed are the European sides, which sought to misuse the JCPOA dispute resolution mechanism to restore the previously lifted Security Council resolutions," he added.

Balancing East & West ...

Iran's regional influence, when channeled toward its national interest, is another valuable asset. Its role in Middle Eastern security architecture offers the chance to help shape stable regional arrangements that reinforce, rather than endanger, its own security. Dialogue with neighbors and the resolution of longstanding tensions are not signs of weakness, but of diplomatic maturity.

To act as a responsible regional power, Iran must pursue stability as a strategic objective, not a tactical concession.

Globally, the Second Cold War is increasingly intertwined with new

domains — cyber rivalry, artificial intelligence, and data security. Effective participation in these arenas means preserving technological independence and digital sovereignty. Iran must invest in science and innovation alongside its defense capabilities, for in the new world order, knowledge itself is power. Ultimately, the meaning of "national interest" in this emerging era has become far more complex. It no longer refers solely to protecting borders or military capacity, but also to economic resilience, political stability, cultural soft power, and multilateral diplomacy. Iran can play a role that goes beyond a regional actor —

provided its foreign policy rests on three principles: independence in decision-making, balance in partnerships, and flexibility in diplomacy. As Barry Buzan reminds us, the world is moving toward a deeply pluralist order — one in which no single power can dominate. In such a system, those nations that treat change not as a threat but as an opportunity to rebuild their national strength will emerge as the true winners. By placing its national interests as the compass of its foreign policy, Iran will not only withstand the turbulence of the Second Cold War, but can also emerge as one of the pillars of stability in the new global order.



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CARTOON

