

UK Supreme Court accepts Iran's appeal over London building confiscation

The British Supreme Court has officially docketed the National Iranian Oil Company's (NIOC) appeal in the Crescent legal, a major legal development that could prevent the confiscation of a valuable property belonging to Iran's Oil Industry Employees Pension Fund in London.

According to information published on the court's official website, the UK Supreme Court registered NIOC's appeal under case ID UKSC/2025/0190, placing the dispute on its docket for review. The appeal has been admitted "as of right," meaning it did not require special permission and was filed in line with legal procedures and deadlines.

This comes at a time when the British Court of Appeal had previously ruled in favor of the Emirati company Crescent, which increased the likelihood of enforcing the confiscation order for the building known as "Oil House" on London's Victoria Street.

Crescent claims that the National Iranian Oil Company transferred the proper-

ty to the Oil Industry Employees Pension and Welfare Fund to remove its assets from the reach of creditors after an international arbitration ruling was issued in the company's favor.

Last year, the London High Court ruled that the transfer was made "for less than true value" and with the intention of blocking debt recovery.

Although the Court of Appeal confirmed that ruling in October 2024, disagreement among its three judges created grounds for escalation to the Supreme Court.

On October 11, Iranian legal representatives submitted their appeal, which the Supreme Court has now formally accepted, injecting new hope into Iran's efforts to overturn the confiscation order. With the case now before the UK's highest judicial authority, any action involving the disputed building will depend on the forthcoming Supreme Court judgment.

Meanwhile, more than 15,000 Iranian oil industry employees and retirees



The photo shows a building belonging to Iran's Oil Industry Employees' Pension Fund in Victoria Street in London, Britain.

● IRNA

have signed a petition demanding recognition of the pension fund's ownership of the London property. They argue the building was purchased using pension fund assets and that its income supports pensions, insurance, and healthcare for over 200,000 workers.

Reports published in the Iranian media have estimated that the NIOC House in London is worth £100 million (\$125 million).

The Crescent case dates back to the 2001 gas contract between the National Iranian Oil Company and the Crescent Group, which was not implemented, and the dispute between the parties was referred to international arbitration, and ultimately a verdict was issued in favor of the Emirati company.



IRGC Navy chief: Range of newly tested missile goes beyond Persian Gulf



A rocket is fired during a military drill carried out by naval forces of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in the Sea of Oman on December 4, 2025.

● sepahnews.ir

National Desk

The commander of naval forces of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said his forces tested a new missile during the latest military exercises, which has a range exceeding the length of the Persian Gulf.

"The Persian Gulf is 1,375 kilometers long – this missile's range is beyond that," Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri said in an interview with state television. He added that the missile, built by the IRGC Navy, is fully indigenous and "can be guided after launch."

His remarks came as the IRGC carried out a two-day naval drill in the Sea of Oman.

Tangsiri said all weapons used in the drill were domestically made, including a new ballistic missile with "very high precision," adding, "Our

enemies have seen its accuracy," he said.

"We achieved all the objectives we had set for the exercise," he said. Stressing that IRGC's Navy demonstrated a portion of its capabilities during the drills, Tangsiri said if the enemies seek to violate Iran's interests, they will certainly be dealt a harsh blow.

On Friday, the IRGC naval forces launched ballistic and cruise missiles from inland sites during the second phase of the military drill, striking predetermined targets in the Sea of Oman with high precision.

Various cruise missiles — Qadr 110, Qadr 380, Qadir — as well as the ballistic missile 303 were launched simultaneously from multiple points deep inside the country during the new phase of the IRGC Navy's "Eghtedar" (authority)

exercise.

All designated targets in the Sea of Oman were struck with high precision.

At the same time, participating drone systems carried out successful attacks against simulated enemy bases, destroying the intended targets.

On the first day of the event, naval units conveyed their firm message by issuing warnings to American ships present in the region.

The exercise, code-named Shahid Mohammad Nazeri, took place across the Persian Gulf, the Nazeat maritime zone — Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Siri islands, the Strait of Hormuz, as well as the Sea of Oman.

Showcasing its capabilities and signaling deterrence against foreign powers, the Iranian Navy frequently conducts large-scale drills in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Egypt calls for renewed diplomatic engagement between Iran, IAEA

Abdelatty, Araghchi discuss Iran's nuclear program



International Desk

Egypt's foreign minister in a phone call with chief of the UN nuclear agency on Saturday called for renewed diplomatic engagement between Iran and the agency aimed at reaching a comprehensive agreement that secures the interests of all parties and bolsters regional security.

Badr Abdelatty stressed the need to continue efforts to reduce tensions, build confidence and maintain conditions that support continuing cooperation between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Abdelatty also held a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart

Abbas Araghchi, during which the two sides discussed a range of issues including Iran's nuclear program, bilateral ties as well as developments in the region.

Earlier efforts by Egypt had resulted in an agreement in Cairo in September, driving the continuation of cooperation between Iran and the IAEA which had suspended following the June's strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran's nuclear facilities.

However, Iran's foreign minister announced the end of the agreement on November 20 after the passage of an anti-Iran resolution at the agency's Board of Governors. Iran now considers the



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

● AFP

Cairo understanding with the IAEA terminated, Araghchi said at the time. The IAEA's Board of Governors narrowly approved the resolution drafted by the European Troika – France, Germany and the UK – and the United States, that urges Tehran to "without delay" report on its enriched uranium stockpile and facilities damaged in the June aggression by Israel and the US, while omitting any mention of Iran's longstanding cooperation with the agency.

Araghchi condemned the move, calling the resolution "illegal and unjustified." He said the measure was adopted "under pressure from these four countries" despite opposition or abstentions from 15 board members. Araghchi said the action undermined the IAEA's "credibility and independence" and would disrupt the agency's cooperation with Iran.

He added that although the Cairo understanding had "effectively lost its basis" after the three European countries sought to trigger the return of cancelled UN Security Council resolutions, Tehran has now formally notified the IAEA's director general that the arrangement "is no longer valid and is considered terminated."

Tensions between Tehran and the West have increased in recent months, especially after the three European parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal triggered the so-called snapback mechanism embedded in the nuclear agreement on August 28, which led to the reimposition of international sanctions against Iran.

They accused Iran of not honoring its obligations under the nuclear deal from which the US unilaterally withdrew in 2018 and the European trio failed to fulfil their commitments.

Tehran has repeatedly said it was the United States and its European allies who undermined the nuclear deal by failing to live up to their commitments.

America's endless cycle ...

Those who speak of diplomacy with the United States as a path to stability misunderstand the fundamental logic of American strategy. For Washington, negotiations are a tactical instrument designed to extract unilateral concessions, freeze Iran's progress, and create internal political divisions. They are not a strategic effort to build a sustainable, respectful relationship. The United States negotiates only when pressure fails; and even then, its goal is not equilibrium; it is dominance.

Therefore, should Iran ever choose to engage in discussions again, it must do so from a position of absolute clarity: America's promises hold value only when backed

by verifiable guarantees insulated from the suicidal volatility of US domestic politics. No signature from Washington has meaning unless it is reinforced through mechanisms that prevent another impulsive withdrawal. Iran must no longer trust words. It must trust only enforceable reality.

Moreover, Iran must never confuse diplomacy with weakness. Diplomacy succeeds only when backed by undeniable power. Iran's defense capabilities, regional deterrence posture, and technological advancements are not bargaining chips; they are shields against American aggression. Any dismantling of these assets in exchange for temporary political calm would be a historic mistake.

Iran does not need American approval to secure its future. It needs strategic independence, economic resilience, and an unwavering commitment to national dignity. These pillars—not Western promises—have carried Iran through decades of pressure. And they will continue to carry Iran long after America's political theater has exhausted itself.

Washington's message is clear: "We make promises when convenient, and we break them when convenient." Iran must internalize this reality, not debate it. The time for illusions is over. The time for strategic sobriety is now.

As the world undergoes profound geopolitical shifts, Iran stands at a crossroad. One

path leads back to naïve trust in Washington's ever-changing moods—a path proven disastrous. The other path, the path of strength, realism, and sovereignty, demands that Iran engage the United States with suspicion, not optimism; with caution, not enthusiasm; and with the full weight of its strategic capabilities, not with misplaced expectations of American goodwill.

Iran must never again gamble its national security on the integrity of a government that has repeatedly violated its commitments, weaponized diplomacy, and treated Iran's sovereignty as negotiable. America's history is not a warning sign; it is a complete record.

Iran must learn from its failed experienc-

es, not repeat them. Washington does not change. It only adapts its tactics. And until the United States proves, through actions, not empty rhetoric, that it is capable of honoring an international agreement, Iran must approach every negotiation with the certainty that betrayal is not a possibility; it is an inevitability.

Only when Iran enters diplomacy with this hardened understanding can it protect its interests and prevent another era of trusting the untrustworthy. If the United States seeks genuine engagement, it must earn it. Iran owes Washington nothing, not trust, not concessions, and certainly not another opportunity to repeat the same cycle of deception.