

Europe's 'hostile' acts against Iran 'stain' on diplomacy: *Russian FM*

International Desk

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Monday criticized Europe's "hostile and illegal acts" against Iran over the past year and a half, describing them as "deceptive" and a "stain" on European diplomacy. Despite Iran's adherence to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the European parties – Britain, France and Germany (E3) – to the accord have tried to put the blame for the collapse of the agreement on the Islamic Republic, Lavrov said in an interview with the Iranian state broadcaster IRIB. Lavrov, who is scheduled to host his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi in Moscow today, said

that the JCPOA "was thrown into the trash" by the United States after it walked out of it in 2018 and then the European trio followed in the footsteps of the US and began to accuse Iran of not complying with the deal. "It was clear that the West resorted to deceptive tactics to pressure Iran," he said. The top diplomat added that Europe's decision to restore international sanctions on Iran by instigating the so-called snapback mechanism under the JCPOA was a "stain" on European diplomacy. Back in August, the E3 triggered the mechanism that restored UN sanctions against Iran. The trio accused Iran of not honoring its obligations under the nuclear deal, though they had been unable to fulfil their own

commitments after the US unilateral withdrawal. Tehran has repeatedly said it was the US and its European allies who undermined the JCPOA by failing to honor their commitments, not Iran. Iran's nuclear program has been a source of contention with Western 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 have long expressed concern that Tehran could be seeking the capability to develop nuclear weapons.

Sergey Lavrov
TASS



Iranian envoy calls for 'fair process' in selecting next UN chief



Amir Saeid Iravani
AFP

International Desk

Iran called for a fair process to select the next UN secretary-general, warning that candidates who remained silent on unlawful military attacks against Iran's peaceful nuclear program are unfit — in an apparent reference to the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi. In a statement during a Security Council session on Monday, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, articulated Iran's vision for principled and effective UN leadership, grounding his remarks in the core provisions of the UN Charter, Press TV reported. He stated that the power granted

by Article 99, allowing the Secretary-General to bring threats to international peace before the Council, has been "paralyzed by the veto of a permanent member over the past two years." This period, he said, included "the genocidal war and grave war crimes committed by the Israeli regime in Gaza, the killing of UN humanitarian personnel and UN peacekeepers, and acts of aggression against regional countries." He added that in these critical moments, the exceptional authority entrusted to the Secretary-General under Article 99 of the Charter "has not been exercised fully, in a timely manner, or with the rigor required by the circumstances." Turning to Article 100, Iravani emphasized that the next Secre-

tary-General must embody "independence and integrity." He warned that "a candidate who has deliberately failed to uphold the UN Charter—or to condemn unlawful military attacks against safeguarded, peaceful nuclear facilities ... undermines confidence in his ability to serve as a faithful guardian of the Charter and to discharge his duties independently, impartially, and without political bias or fear of powerful States, as required under the Charter." The envoy was referring to the June strikes carried out by the US and Israel against Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, which were under the UN supervision. These illegal acts of aggression also targeted Iranian nuclear scientists. Yet the IAEA, whose director general, Rafael Grossi, has now announced his candidacy for the role of UN Secretary-General, chose not to condemn the attacks. The ambassador also highlighted Article 105 of the Charter, stating that the Secretary-General has a clear responsibility to safeguard the rights and privileges of representatives and to ensure the full and equal participation of all Member States. He said violations such as visa denials, movement restrictions, or harassment must be addressed decisively and without selectivity by the UN Secretariat, noting that such protections are legally binding on the host country.

Tehran urges 'serious' int'l action to counter Israeli threat to global peace, stability

International Desk

Iran called for serious action by regional countries and the international community to confront Israel's constant threat to peace and stability in the region and the world. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei strongly condemned the continuation of the Israeli genocide in Gaza through the regime's incessant bombardments and the blockade of humanitarian aid entry into the war-torn territory, saying Israel's backers are complicit in the genocide. He said the international community, topped by the United Nations, is responsible for taking immediate and effective measures to stop Israel's crimes and hold the perpetrators to account. He categorically condemned Israel's blatant violations of international humanitarian law, and the regime's war crimes, and crimes against humanity, stressing the need to end its impunity. Baqaei said the US and other countries providing Israel with arms and political



AFP

support are complicit in the regime's crimes in the occupied Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria. He added that despite its ceasefire agreements with Gaza and Lebanon, Israel continues to commit savage crimes against both nations due to Washington's unbridled support and the inaction of the ceasefire guarantors. "Despite the declaration of an alleged ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, the Zionist regime, with the full support of the US and the indifference of the guarantors of the ceasefire in Lebanon and Gaza, continues to commit brutal crimes in occupied Palestine and Lebanon," Baqaei said. He called for serious mea-

sures to confront Israel's threats to regional and international peace and security. Despite the ceasefire, Israeli attacks have persisted, resulting in at least 390 Palestinian deaths since October 10. Large areas of Gaza remain inaccessible due to the continued presence of Israeli occupation forces. Baqaei's statement came after Israel's weekend assassination strike that killed Raed Saad, a high-ranking Hamas military commander. Senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan said that the movement reserves the right to respond to the Zionist occupation's violations of the ceasefire agreement, notably the assassination of Saad.

Iran-IAEA re-engagement ...

Would agreeing to visit these sites under a specific protocol amount to a revival of the Cairo understanding?

As to whether an agreement to visit these sites could be construed as reviving the Cairo understanding, this must be addressed with legal precision. The Cairo understanding was the product of specific temporal and political circumstances, and Iran has consistently stressed that no understanding can be revived automatically or implicitly. If discussions today concern limited visits to certain sites, this can only be defined as a new, independent and clearly specified executive arrangement, not as a return to past agreements. The line between voluntary cooperation and the acceptance of obligations beyond established legal

frameworks must remain clear and not open to interpretation. Iran will not allow ad hoc technical cooperation to be turned into a precedent for permanent demands or the creation of a new practice that undermines the country's established rights.

What impact will this issue have on the future of Iran's cooperation with the agency, as well as on nuclear negotiations or Iran's relations with other countries?

There is no doubt that the way this issue is managed will have a direct impact on the future of Iran-IAEA cooperation and on the broader atmosphere surrounding nuclear negotiations. If the agency adopts a technical, impartial approach, refrains from political pressure, and recognizes Iran's legitimate rights and concerns, the con-

tinuation, and even strengthening, of cooperation is possible. Such a path could help dial down tensions, wrap up outstanding allegations, and foster a more rational environment in international interactions. Conversely, if inspections are turned into instruments of political pressure or a means to recycle settled accusations, it is only natural that this will negatively affect the level of cooperation, mutual trust and the negotiation process. Iran has consistently shown that it is willing to engage and cooperate, but this cooperation is neither unlimited, nor one-sided, nor outside the framework of international law. In sum, the future of Iran-IAEA engagement depends above all on the agency's commitment to its technical mission and its avoidance of political considerations, a course which, if chosen wisely, will serve the interests of all parties.

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