

# Kidnapping Venezuelan president, wife 'gross violation' of int'l law: Iranian envoy

## US critics, allies condemn Maduro's abduction at UNSC

### International Desk

Iranian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Amir Saeid Iravani said on Monday that the kidnapping of Venezuelan president and his wife by the US is a gross violation of international law and is considered a serious attack on the principle of sovereign equality of states. Addressing an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council regarding the US actions in Venezuela, Iravani said the Islamic Republic condemns in the strongest possible terms the military attack carried out by the US against Venezuela. He called the US military aggression as an illegal act against an independent member state of the United Nations, which "establishes a serious breach of regional and international peace and security, with far-reaching consequences for the international system as a whole."



Amir Saeid Iravani  
AFP

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife were kidnapped from their home in the country's capital, Caracas, by US Special Forces early on Saturday morning. The two were then flown to New York, where they're currently being held on charges of narco-terrorism. The Iranian diplomat said the abduction of the Venezuela's

"democratically elected president" and his wife by the US constitutes a flagrant violation of customary international law, including the principles of the inviolability of the immunities accorded to Heads of State and Government under international law, and represents a grave assault on the sovereign equality of States.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran recalls Venezuela's inherent right to self-defense and underscores the legal responsibility of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council, to take immediate measures to halt this unlawful aggression and to ensure accountability for all those responsible." Iravani added that Washington is openly seeking to substitute its domestic law for international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

### Venezuela attack slammed at UNSC

Members of the UN Security Council, including key US allies, also warned that the abduction of Venezuelan president and his wife could be a precedent-setting event for international law. Venezuela's ambassador to the UN, Samuel Moncada, condemned the US operation as "an illegitimate armed attack lack-

ing any legal justification", in remarks echoed by Cuba, Colombia and permanent UNSC members Russia and China.

"[The US] imposes the application of its laws outside its own territory and far from its coasts, where it has no jurisdiction, using assaults and the appropriation of assets," Cuba's ambassador, Ernesto Soberon Guzman, said, adding that such measures negatively affected Cuba. Russia's ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, said the US cannot "proclaim itself as some kind of a supreme judge, which alone bears the right to invade any country, to label culprits, to hand down and to enforce punishments irrespective of notions of international law, sovereignty and non-intervention."

Notable critics at the emergency session included traditional US allies, Mexico and Denmark, both of whom Trump has separately threatened with military action

over the past year.

### Inviolability of borders

Denmark, a longstanding US security ally, said that "no state should seek to influence political outcomes in Venezuela through the use of threat of force or through other means inconsistent with international law."

"The inviolability of borders is not up for negotiation," Denmark's ambassador, Christina Markus Lassen, told the council in an oblique reference to Trump's threat that the US would annex Greenland, a self-governed Danish territory.

France, another permanent member of the UNSC, also criticized the US. "The military operation that has led to the capture of Maduro runs counter to the principle of peaceful dispute resolution and runs counter to the principle of non-use of force," said the French deputy ambassador, Jay Dharmadhikari.

## Iran's Defense Council vows 'decisive' response to intensified threats

Iran's Defense Council condemned escalating threats, rhetoric and meddlesome remarks - particularly on the part of the United States - against the Islamic Republic, warning that any attack on the country's security, independence, or territorial integrity will trigger a proportionate and decisive response. In a statement on Tuesday, the Defense Council denounced intensified threats and rhetoric

against Tehran, stressing that the Islamic Republic's security, independence, and territorial integrity are absolute red lines and that any aggression or continuation of hostile behavior would be met with a firm response, Press TV reported.

The statement comes as a clear response to US President Donald Trump, who in meddling remarks just recently, threatened Iran in a social media post and again



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during a brief interview, saying the US would support Iranian protesters and that he would come to save them. Protests erupted last week after

shopkeepers in Tehran temporarily closed their businesses to protest the sharp fall of the national currency, which plunged to record lows against the US dollar.

Iranian officials have acknowledged the economic pressure facing the public and said peaceful protests are legitimate. At the same time, they have warned that foreign-backed elements are seeking to exploit the situation and fuel violence.

"Any act of aggression against national interests, interference in domestic affairs, or action against Iran's stability will be met with a proportionate, targeted, and decisive reaction. Within the framework of legitimate defense, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not confine itself to responding only after an action has occurred, and it considers tangible signs of threat as part of the security equation," the statement stressed.

In conclusion, the Iranian Defense Council, established following the 12-day Iran-Israel war in June, emphasized that threats and interference amount to hostile conduct, warning that continued pursuit of such a path would bring about significant consequences for which the initiators would bear full responsibility. "The escalation of threatening and meddlesome rhetoric, which goes beyond a mere verbal stance, can be understood as hostile behavior; a path whose continuation will entail a proportionate, firm, and decisive response, and full responsibility for the consequences will rest with the architects of this process," the statement further read.

## President orders full probe into deadly protest incidents in Ilam

### National Desk

Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni sent a truth-finding delegation to Ilam on Tuesday to conduct a comprehensive investigation into recent deadly incidents in the western province, where people have joined widespread protests against economic crises and livelihood problems

across the country. The visit by the Interior Ministry's delegation came after President Masoud Pezeshkian issued an order instructing Momeni to carry out a thorough investigation into all aspects of the incidents. Pezeshkian urged the interior minister to fully examine the causes and factors behind the in-

cidents in the city of Malekshahi, which saw the death and injury of several residents. The chief executive also called for an investigation into the security forces' response to the incidents and submitting a comprehensive report of the findings to the president's office as soon as possible. According to IRNA, several incidents occurred during a protest

gathering in the city of Arkavaz, the center of Malekshahi County on Saturday. Clashes erupted the next day between protesters and security forces following a funeral ceremony held for those killed in the Saturday's protests. Protests in Iran broke out last week after shopkeepers in Tehran temporarily closed their businesses to protest the sharp

fall of the national currency, which plunged to record lows against the US dollar.

Iranian officials have acknowledged the economic pressure facing the public and said peaceful protests are legitimate. At the same time, they have warned that foreign-backed elements are seeking to exploit the situation and fuel violence.



Masoud Pezeshkian  
IRNA



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