

Iran raps UN resolution as political, devoid of genuine concern for rights

International Desk

Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva rejected a resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council against Iran as political and unacceptable move which is devoid of genuine concern for human rights.

The UN Human Rights Council on Friday adopted a resolution that extended the mandate of the so-called Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Iran for two years, and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran for one year.

The resolution also called for an urgent investigation by the Fact-Finding Mission, in the context of what it called the crackdown of the recent foreign-backed unrest in Iran.

The resolution, proposed by Iceland, Germany, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, and the United Kingdom, was adopted by a vote of 25 in favor, seven against, and 14 abstentions.

Pakistan, China, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Iraq, and Vietnam voted against it. Late last month, widespread econom-

ic hardships compounded by years of Western sanctions sparked peaceful protests by merchants across Tehran and other cities.

Iranian authorities initially acknowledged the legitimacy of some demands, but officials said demonstrations were hijacked by US- and Israeli-backed rioters aiming to incite violence and disorder.

Iranian authorities said on Wednesday that 3,117 people died during the unrest, including 2,427 civilians and security personnel, noting that many innocents were killed by organized terrorist elements.

Iran's mission said Tehran views the United Nations Human Rights Council's special session and its outcome as an overtly political act and entirely devoid of genuine concern for human rights and rejects it.

The mission added that the initiators of the move have never been sincerely concerned about the rights of the Iranian people, otherwise they would not have imposed inhumane sanctions that seriously violate fundamental rights and

they would not have ignored the Israel's aggression against the Islamic Republic that killed and injured more than 5,000 Iranians.

The statement said that Iran has strong, independent, and effective national accountability mechanisms and therefore rejects any pretext for politicized external intervention.

President Masoud Pezeshkian has also ordered a comprehensive investigation into the root causes of recent incidents in Iran, the statement added.

"The cases of detainees will be handled with justice, fairness and compassion. The rights of Iranian citizens are guaranteed only through independent legal processes based on national sovereignty."

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations office in Geneva, Ali Bahreini, also slammed the Friday's meeting as "posturing" and "a pressure tool against Iran."

A number of countries also came to Iran's defense, accusing the council of being "politicized" and showing "double standards."



Cuban ambassador Rodolfo Benitez slammed the session as an "act of supreme cynicism," while China's Amba-

sador Jia Guide said Beijing "opposed interference in other countries' internal affairs on the pretext of human rights."

Iran's military officials warn of 'decisive response' to hostile actions

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Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Deputy Commander Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi said on Saturday that Iran is fully prepared to respond decisively to any hostile action against the country, amid military threats by the United States over recent unrest in Iran.

Addressing the National Congress of the 12,000 Western Units in the northwestern city of Urmia, Vahidi stated that Iran had already thwarted enemy plans during the 12-day US-Israeli aggression in June and the recent foreign-backed riots inside the country. "Just as in the 12-day war and the recent sedition, all enemy schemes to defeat Islamic Iran failed, we are ready to deliver a regret-inducing response to any reckless action by the sworn enemies of the Iranian nation," Vahidi said.

He noted that Iran's adversaries, after suffering setbacks during the 12-day war, attempted to compensate through internal unrest, but were again defeated due to



national unity and public solidarity.

Sporadic economic protests that had begun in late December in Iran were soon infiltrated by riotous, foreign-backed elements aiming to hijack them towards inciting unrest. The elements were confirmed by Iranian intelligence to receive American and Israeli intelligence, arms, and logistical support, prompting Iranian forces to round up ringleaders and confiscate firearms, including weapons bound for the capital, Tehran.

US President Donald Trump claimed that the United States would resort to military aggression against Iran in the event of what the US president called the Is-

lamic Republic's use of violence against protesters.

Vahidi slammed foreign powers for acting against the Iranian population while publicly claiming to support them. He pointed to sanctions imposed on Iran and acts of violence during recent unrest as examples of long-standing hostility toward the Iranian nation.

He further asserted that the ultimate objective of the United States and its allies was to weaken Iran, undermine national cohesion, and bring the country under foreign influence.

Further cooperation urged among Armed Forces

Meanwhile, commanders

of the ground forces of the Iranian Army, and the IRGC called for further cooperation between the country's Armed Forces to improve the combat readiness in the face of enemy threats.

Brigadier General Ali Jahanshahi, the commander of the Army's Ground Force, and Brigadier General Mohammad Karami, the commander of the IRGC Ground Force, issued the call during a meeting held on Saturday.

General Jahanshahi emphasized that such meetings play an effective role in enhancing the level of cooperation between the armed forces, as well as increasing efficiency, especially in the implementation of joint and strategic missions, including defending the country's borders.

He cited last year's 12-day war and the recent unrest as examples where the cohesion and unity of the armed forces foiled "ominous plots" against Iran.

General Karami, for his part, also stressed the need for unity between ground forces against enemies' plots.

Araghchi decries US double standard over Iran's response to riots

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The Iranian foreign minister pushed back against US criticism of Tehran's handling of recent unrest in the country, invoking remarks by US Vice President J.D. Vance to argue that no government would tolerate large-scale violence against public institutions, religious sites, and civilians.

In a post on his X account on Friday, Abbas Araghchi defended Iran's security measures as a response to the coordinated terrorist campaign that left thousands dead and caused extensive damage across the country.

Pointing to Vance's statement that those who storm churches or assault federal officers should be imprisoned, Araghchi suggested that Washington applies a double standard when judging Iran's actions.

He then listed the scale of destruction and casualties



from the unrest to underscore Tehran's assertion that its measures were aimed at restoring public order.

Late last month, widespread economic problems sparked nationwide protests.

Iranian authorities initially acknowledged the legitimacy of some demands, but officials said demonstrations were hijacked by US- and Israeli-backed rioters aiming to incite violence and disorder.

At least 3,117 people died during the unrest, including 2,427 civilians and security personnel. The

riots also damaged thousands of public and private properties.

"Mayhem of the recent terrorist operation in Iran: (destruction of) 305 ambulances and buses; 24 gas stations; 700 convenience stores; 300 private homes; 750 banks; 414 government buildings; 749 police stations; 120 Basij centers; 200 schools; 350 mosques; 15 libraries; 2 Armenian churches; 253 bus stations; 600 ATMs; 800 private cars; Total death toll: 3,117; Civilians and security forces: 2,427; Terrorists: 690," Araghchi said in his post on X.

Thousands in Minneapolis brave bitter cold to protest ICE crackdown

Thousands of people braved icy conditions on Friday to protest the Trump administration's immigration crackdown in Minneapolis and businesses closed their doors amid anger over the detention of a five-year-old migrant boy.

Dozens of eateries, attraction sites and other businesses shuttered as part of a day of coordinated action to defy the weeks-long federal immigration operation underway in Minnesota, AFP reported.

Images of an apparently terrified pre-schooler, Liam Conejo Ramos, being held by immigration officers who

were seeking to arrest the boy's father have rekindled public outrage at the federal crackdown, during which an agent shot and killed a US citizen.

The superintendent of Columbia Heights Public Schools, where Ramos was a preschool student, said the child and his Ecuadoran father, Adrian Conejo Arias – both asylum seekers – were taken from their driveway as they arrived home on Tuesday. Ramos was then used as "bait" by officers to draw out those inside his home, superintendent Zena Stenvik added. Thousands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have

been deployed to the Democratic-led city, as President Donald Trump presses his campaign to deport undocumented immigrants across the country.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk called on US authorities to end the "harmful treatment of migrants and refugees."

Minneapolis has been rocked by increasingly tense protests since federal agents shot and killed US citizen Renee Good on January 7.

The officer who fired the shots that killed Good, Jonathan Ross, has neither been suspended nor charged.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

