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

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Iran must explore parallel human rights avenues as UN agencies wane

INTERVIEW  
EXCLUSIVE



Mansour Haghighatpour

A special session of the UN Human Rights Council concluded Friday with the passage of a resolution condemning what it termed the "violent suppression" of protests in Iran.

The resolution, stemming from recent economic demonstrations in Iran that escalated into violence and resulted in casualties, was approved by 25 votes, with 14 abstentions, and 7 opposed. Despite Iranian officials' explanations regarding the involvement of Israel- and US-backed terrorist groups in instigating violence and forcing security forces to intervene, the resolution highlighted the Council's continued human rights scrutiny of Iran and proposed extending the mandate of a fact-finding mission and special rapporteur to continue gathering information and issuing reports. Iran's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva condemned the resolution as "politically motivated" and "completely devoid of genuine concern for human rights." Iran Daily spoke with foreign policy expert, Mansour Haghighatpour, to delve into the implications of this development. He believes that Iran must define parallel human rights mechanisms under multilateral organizations of which it is a member to counter such actions, given the weakening of the UN agencies.

**IRAN DAILY:** How do you assess the UN Human Rights Council's performance regarding Iran? Considering the passage of this resolution against Iran and the Council's track record with other countries, can it be said that the Council's standing has been undermined by adopting double standards?

**HAGHIGHATPOUR:** This Council is not only undermined but has a truly ridiculous standing. These international organizations today are completely duplicitous, entirely partisan, and completely instrumentalized. It's a shame to use the title of "human rights" for a Council where some who are not even truly human nor understand human-ity want to comment on these rights, and whose commentary has no authenticity.

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A missile is fired during a military drill by Iran's Army in the country's southern region of Jask. **IRNA**



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# 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

### International Desk

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

### International Desk

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





# Central gas fields hit 240 mcm daily amid national consumption records

Economy Desk

Iran's central gas fields produced 240 million cubic meters of gas daily this week, with more than 2 million cubic meters sourced from flare gas recovery, according to Ali Rezaei, production manager at the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s Central Regions. "More than 2 million cubic meters of this volume comes from collected flare gas, which — after processing and extraction of natural gas liquids — is injected into the national grid," Rezaei told SHANA on Saturday. Of the total output, approximately 28 million cubic meters stemmed from withdrawn stored gas, he added. "Flare gas collection and its reintroduction into the consumption cycle is a critical step toward boosting efficiency, reducing pollution, and safeguarding national assets. Optimizing the use of gas storage fields also remains a con-

tinuous priority for the company." The figures come as Iran's overall gas infrastructure faces peak winter demand. On Wednesday, national gas consumption by households, commercial users, and small industries reached 737 million cubic meters, accounting for 85% of total delivered gas, according to Saeed Tavakoli, managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company. Despite the record draw, Tavakoli said grid stability was maintained through operational efforts. "Gas industry personnel have created a miracle in preserving network stability," he told SHANA. "Adopting an optimal consumption pattern plays a decisive role in sustaining the integrity of the national gas system." By Friday, domestic consumption slightly declined to 715 million cubic meters amid persistently cold weather, still representing 82% of total gas supplied nationwide.

Separately, NIOC CEO Hamid Bovard has announced a new milestone in South Pars field output. "Gas extraction from the South Pars joint field reached an unprecedented 727 million cubic meters today," he said on Wednesday. South Pars is the world's largest natural gas field which Iran shares it with Qatar where it is called North Dome. Bovard linked the achievement to broader efforts to secure future energy supply. "Given the measures underway to procure new rigs and drilling equipment, we hope to guarantee the country's energy production in the coming years," he said. He also urged high-consumption sectors to conserve energy. "We ask all segments, especially major consumers, to help their fellow countrymen working in operational zones and support sustainable energy security by practicing energy savings."



SHANA

## Iran outsmarts Muslims in key digital techs, globally ranked 11 in cloud computing



Economy Desk

The Islamic Republic holds the 11th global position in cloud computing research and 15th in Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC), according to data from the Web of Science database, said Mohammad-Mehdi Alavian-Mehr, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC). "Iran has outperformed other Muslim countries in such technologies," Alavian-Mehr said, citing ISC findings. He emphasized the critical role of digital transformation in today's business environment. "In today's rapidly digitizing business world,

technology is not just a competitive advantage — it is a vital necessity," ISNA reported. Alavian-Mehr outlined how cloud computing emerged as a response to longstanding challenges. "Before the advent of cloud computing, companies had to bear enormous costs for purchasing, maintaining, and managing hardware infrastructure — costs that not only imposed financial burdens but also carried risks such as data loss. These challenges paved the way for cloud computing, a solution that offers scalable and accessible computing resources, revolutionizing information management and

significantly enhancing flexibility and cost efficiency." Given this context, he stressed the importance of tracking Iran's scientific standing in cloud and edge computing through reputable global rankings. According to ISC, Iran also ranks 16th globally in serverless computing, 21st in Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), 23rd in Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS), and 31st in Software-as-a-Service (SaaS). Moreover, based on Web of Science data, Iran leads all leading Islamic countries in IaaS, serverless computing, and Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC).

## Road transit plateau at 12.4m tons despite regional conflicts, logistical shocks

Economy Desk

Iran transited 12.437 million metric tons of goods through its road networks in the first nine months of the current Iranian year, which began on March 21, 2025, according to a senior official at Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization. "Road transit across the country's land borders has remained stable," Javad Hedayati, director general of the Office of Transit and International Transport at the organization told IRNA on Saturday. He noted that the volume showed little difference compared to the same period last year, defying expectations of a 50-60% decline due to multiple disruptions. "Given the challenges — particularly those following (the Israeli-imposed) 12-day war — it was anticipated that transit would suffer a severe drop, but this did not happen, and we even saw growth on certain routes." Hedayati listed the 12-day Israeli aggression in June, a fire at Shahid Rajaee Port, the global oil price crash, and professional protests by truck drivers among the factors that analysts believed could cripple transit



IRNA

operations. "Yet in practice, this did not occur," he said. While oil-related transit volumes have halved during the nine-month period, non-oil cargo transit has followed an upward trend that "remains robust," he added. Hedayati attributed part of this resilience to the establishment of the National Transit Headquarters (Gozar) and the government's focus — particularly by President Masoud Pezeshkian — on simplifying and facilitating transit procedures. In late December, the headquarters formally approved and circulated the "National Transit Plan" to all member agencies, developed under the framework of Iran's Seventh Development Plan Law.

The document is intended to serve as the country's comprehensive roadmap for transit, outlining objectives, strategies, and requirements to strengthen Iran's position in regional and transregional value chains. Infrastructure upgrades and expanded trade ties with neighboring countries have also created new opportunities. "Strengthening road infrastructure and deepening commercial engagement with countries sharing borders with Iran have paved the way for boosting exports and transiting various goods through our territory to other regional markets," Hedayati said. A recent agreement with Tajikistan is expected to further enhance competi-

tiveness. "Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry recently announced that, starting in early March 2026, the two countries will abolish visa requirements for international transport drivers," he said. "This measure, along with reduced documentary and administrative costs, will increase the competitiveness of Iran's transit corridor." According to IRNA, as many as 561,582 international freight trips were carried out through Iran's borders during the nine-month period. Of these, over 10.01 million metric tons of goods were exported via nearly 419,000 trips, while more than 1.913 million metric tons of cargo were imported through over 87,000 freight trips.

## Iran must explore ...

They don't see the 70,000 victims in Gaza. They see the shooters, arsonists of mosques and religious centers, the killing of ordinary people in Iran, and they defend them. They don't see the diminished rights of a nation in Venezuela. The president of a nation was taken from his home, near his family, and spirited out of the country, and the Council said nothing. But today, a group of knife-wielders, shouters, and mosque and Quran burners have become "human beings" in the eyes of this Council, who must be defended. This Council is a very laughable play-

thing and simply operates to serve the interests of the United States and Western colonial powers.

**What repercussions do such actions have for the international order? What threats do they pose?** Such actions breed distrust in the international system regarding what the UNHRC claims to be, and no member of the international community has trust or confidence in it. This pushes the world towards unilateralism, where everyone plays whatever tune they want, and there is no credible and impartial international arbit-

ter to be trusted.

**What tools does Iran have at its disposal to counter such moves against it in international organizations? What other strategies can be considered to strengthen Iran's position in this regard?** Iran should, in multilateral assemblies where it is a member — for example, Shanghai, BRICS, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) — strive to define parallel human rights mechanisms. Iran alone does not have a decisive weight in the world. While it rejects and condemns such resolutions

in the media and statements, if it can define new mechanisms within larger, multilateral frameworks and foster a consensus in resisting such proxy movements in the world with member countries of those organizations, that would be a suitable countermeasure. Furthermore, to facilitate more coordinated response in the world, Iran certainly can cooperate with countries that voted against this resolution and assist them when statements against those countries are to be made at the international level.

**What is your analysis of the role of**

**European countries in proposing and approving this resolution? Can it be seen as a sign of a more hostile stance by Europe or just playing in the hands of the United States and Israel?** Not exactly. Iran's enemies, led by the United States, are using all their tools but don't want to become more discredited, so they put forward a few lightweight countries. This way, they can also display a broader scope of confrontation with Iran across the world. Although these countries appear to be the proposers, the United States certainly has a fundamental role in this process.



# Arabs see Israel as region's primary threat

## Iran should take more realistic view of neighbors

### INTERVIEW

The unrest and protests that erupted in Iran in January 2026, while largely categorized as domestic political developments, have consistently taken on an international dimension. Factors ranging from geopolitical considerations and humanitarian concerns to foreign involvement have repeatedly pushed such internal events onto the global stage. What distinguished the January developments, however, was the way they were perceived across the region and among Iran's neighboring states. The episode reflected a clear and undeniable shift in regional attitudes.

If leaders in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Egypt and Turkey had stood by Iran during the 12-day military confrontation launched by Israel and the United States in June, issuing statements opposing the aggression, then during the January unrest they stepped up efforts to prevent any form of US military intervention in Iran. Available evidence suggests those efforts were effective. For a region that only a decade ago often encouraged extra-regional powers to intervene politically or militarily against Tehran whenever protests emerged inside Iran, such change represents a clear "paradigm shift." Whether this shift reflects a temporary tactical calculation or a lasting strategic realignment remains an open question.

Hadi Borhani, a professor at the Faculty of World Studies at the University of Tehran and a regional affairs analyst, argues that from the perspective of regional states, the principal danger today is Israel's growing power. In this interview, he says regional coordination is aimed at preventing Israel from expanding its influence and extending its military reach, and that recent alignment with Iran should be understood within this broader context.

In recent days, there has been an unprecedented level of diplomatic activity by regional countries aimed at thwarting military threats against Iran. Why are these countries making such an effort to prevent conflict?

**BORHANI:** The regional push to prevent war is a major and highly consequential shift—one that played a decisive role in shaping both the trajectory and the outcome of recent developments. This approach stands in sharp contrast to what we have seen over the past few years in these countries' relations with Iran. It was both unexpected and significant.

If we look back at Arab positions in previous years, some countries were openly urging the United States to, as they put it, "cut off the snake's head". Moving from that stance to actively working to prevent a US attack on Iran represents a profound transformation. Many analysts were taken by surprise, and it appears Israel itself was also caught off guard. Tel Aviv did not anticipate that, during an assault carried out against Iran [in June], regional countries—particularly Arab states—would react with this level of insistence.

Understanding why Arab states shifted their position requires examining two parallel perceptions: their view of Iran and their view of Israel. Both are central to understanding the change.

Regarding Iran, the reality is that in recent years Tehran adopted a new regional approach, emphasizing neighborhood diplomacy and a more positive engagement with Arab states. Efforts were made to reach out and pursue reconciliation. Over time, relations improved, most notably with the restoration of ties with Saudi Arabia, which was a milestone.

Previously, many Arab governments viewed the Axis of Resistance as a Shia empire seeking to expand its influence among Sunni-majority countries and marginalize them. That concern has now diminished to some extent. The Axis of Resistance itself has undergone changes and no longer plays the same role it once did in shaping regional dynamics. As a result, Iran is no longer perceived as the primary threat it once was. By contrast, Israel's actions over recent years have come into sharper focus and deeply alarmed regional states. Israel has attacked Gaza and carried out genocide, launched military strikes against Lebanon and Syria, and occupied parts of those countries. In recent years, Israel has also issued threats against Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey.

From this perspective, regional governments now see Israel's



Hadi Borhani

growing power as the main danger. They are therefore coordinating efforts to prevent that power from expanding further and to stop Israel from extending its aggression across the region. Under current conditions, weakening Iran in the face of Israel has become a negative factor in regional calculations. If Iran's resistance were broken through a direct Israeli or US attack—or a joint assault—forcing Iran to its knees, this would translate into a major increase in Israel's regional power. That, in turn, would place Israel in a stronger position to threaten neighboring countries and impose its will on them.

**Is this concern about rising tensions and the alignment with Tehran a temporary re-**

**sponse, or do these countries genuinely want a calm Iran free from military confrontation?**

As I mentioned, the shift in regional attitudes toward Iran is serious and impactful, and its effects have already been visible in recent weeks. Whether this trend continues or reverses depends, in my view, in part on Iran's own behavior.

If Tehran chooses to act as a revolutionary power intent on exporting its revolution, or as a Shia power seeking to export Shia values to Sunni-majority countries—as we have seen in previous years—this will inevitably obstruct the development of relations and could even reverse recent progress.

The reality is that Iran shares common ground with regional countries. We are all concerned

about Israel's growing power and its aggressive behavior. We are all Muslim societies that uphold Islamic values. If Iran tone down its rhetoric toward regional states, moves away from slogans portraying them as agents of the United States, and adopts a realistic view of countries such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Qatar, these states can be defined as partners. Tehran could then coordinate more effectively with them.

There is vast and largely untapped potential for cooperation. Ultimately, regional decisions toward Iran will depend on whether Tehran draws lessons from recent years—specifically, that adopting a positive and pragmatic stance can create the conditions for cooperation and even collective resistance to Israeli policies.

If such an approach is pursued, there is reason to believe that these relationships will not only

endure but deepen and enter more substantive and effective phases.

**Amid widespread speculation, some argue that Arab countries played a decisive role in halting US President Donald Trump's military operation against Iran. Is this assessment accurate? And if so, have Arab states gained influence over the US president?**

In my assessment, the positions and diplomatic moves of Arab countries played a decisive role in stopping the attack. I view Israel's reported opposition to a strike on Iran as largely a fabricated and propaganda narrative.

Even when we examine the sequence of events, opposition from Arab states emerged first. Only after it became clear that Trump's decision had changed did some reports suggest that Israel had also told Washington it was not ready to proceed with an attack. Israel's objective in trumpeting this narrative was to counter the argument that Arab countries had successfully blocked a US strike on Iran and influenced Trump. They oppose the narrative that "the United States sided with Arab countries, which opposed the attack, rather than Israel, which supported it."

From my perspective, Arab countries do wield influence over the US president. For Trump, economic considerations and American financial interests in the region are paramount. Countries such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates deliver substantial economic benefits to the United States.

Moreover, Trump maintains extensive personal relationships with regional leaders—particularly with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, UAE leader Mohammed bin Zayed, and the Turkish president. These personal ties, in my view, have a tangible impact on his decisions.

**If a conflict were to break out and Iran were to target US bases in West Asia, how would regional countries respond?**

Regional countries see this scenario as a direct threat to their own security. Even if Iran were to strike a US base in the UAE or Qatar, the damage would not be limited to the United States. The security and interests of Qatar and the UAE themselves would also be affected—even if only the base were hit.

For this reason, regional governments strongly prefer to avoid war altogether, so they themselves are not drawn into instability and damage.

*This interview first appeared on IRNA in Persian.*



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on October 9, 2024.

● AFP



Weakening Iran in the face of Israel has become a negative factor in regional calculations. If Iran's resistance were broken through a direct Israeli or US attack—or a joint assault—forcing Iran to its knees, this would translate into a major increase in Israel's regional power. That, in turn, would place Israel in a stronger position to threaten neighboring countries and impose its will on them.

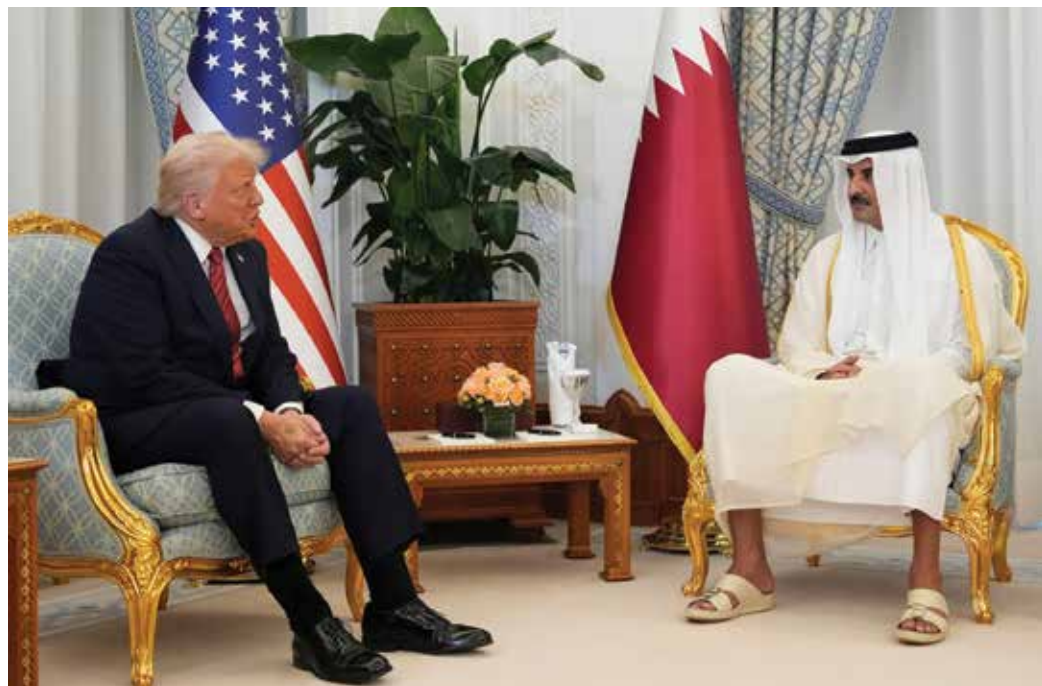


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US President Donald Trump (L) and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani meet at the Amiri Diwan in Doha, Qatar on May 14, 2025.

● AP





# Documenting US actions, countering dangerous narrative-building should be Foreign Ministry's top priority

## INTERVIEW

As Iran moved past two weeks of heightened unrest, an assessment of the causes and drivers of these tensions reveals indications of foreign government involvement in their escalation—evident in several statements and, at times, explicit or inadvertent admissions. While the unrest in Iran initially took place against the backdrop of economic woes and livelihood challenges facing the population, certain actions and remarks by current and former US officials contributed to what became one of the most difficult periods in recent Iranian history. At a time when the Iranian government, while acknowledging and lending legitimacy to public protests and economic demands, sought to move toward easing economic hardships, figures such as former US secretary of state Mike Pompeo openly spoke of Mossad agents operating on the streets of Tehran. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump, through a series of intermittent, ambiguous and contradictory posts on his social media platform Truth Social, claimed to be supporting the Iranian people and protesters.

Incitement to rebellion against Iran's governing organizations and bodies, threats against the government and the existing political system, alongside political and economic pressure and admissions regarding Israeli operative's presence in Iran, constitute clear examples of interference in the internal affairs of another state—conduct that is prohibited under international law and established international norms.

To examine the relevant international legal frameworks governing such interference, the following interview was conducted with Reza Nasri, an international law expert and senior analyst of international relations.

In recent weeks, and alongside protests in Iran, US and Israeli officials made statements that appeared to influence the trajectory of these protests. From the perspective of international law, what are the consequences of inciting unrest in another country, and are there legal rules governing such interventions?

**NASRI:** The principle of non-intervention is one of the peremptory and foundational norms of customary international law. It is enshrined in Article 2(7) of the United Nations Charter and has been reaffirmed in subsequent interpretive instruments. Under this principle, any coercive or non-coercive interference by states in the internal or external affairs of another state—including its political, economic, social or cultural system—is prohibited.

UN General Assembly Resolution 2625, known as the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations among States, explicitly states that no state has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatsoever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state. The actions taken by the United States in recent weeks constitute clear examples of such prohibited intervention.

In addition, the "threat" of the use of force, just like the actual use of force, violates Article 2(4) of the UN Charter. In this regard as well, the United States has breached the Charter. This article obliges UN member states to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

Even the threat of military intervention, absent any actual use of force, constitutes a violation of this provision and invalidates the legality of any subsequent action against a country such as Iran. The deliberate inclusion of the word "threat" alongside "use" reflects the clear intent of the Charter's drafters to prevent all forms of political and military pressure on states.

In short, Iran is an independent state, and interference in its internal affairs constitutes a violation of international law; the threat of force is prohibited; the US government has no legal justification for military intervention; and the creation of a crisis in order to justify intervention is itself unlawful.

**From a legal standpoint, and in light of the events of recent weeks in Iran, what steps should the Islamic Republic take to document these actions?**

From a legal perspective, and given recent developments, the Iranian government can and should adopt a coherent, multi-layered



Reza Nasri

approach to documenting events and pursuing legal accountability. As a first step, comprehensive and standardized documentation is of fundamental importance. This includes the systematic collection of all material and digital evidence, such as photographs and videos, forensic medical reports, witness statements, telecommunications data, and official documents from law enforcement and judicial bodies. Accurately recording the timing, location and sequence of events, as well as clearly establishing the causal link between provocative statements by foreign officials and the actions of organized armed groups inside the country, is essential to ensure that these materials are admissible and credible in international organizations.

Alongside this, drawing a clear legal distinction between peaceful protests and violent or armed actions is critically important. The right to peaceful protest, as

a fundamental human right, must be explicitly recognized. This distinction plays a key role—both in domestic law and in the international legal narrative—in preventing conceptual confusion and political exploitation.

In this context, reliance on established frameworks of international law, particularly the UN Charter and the rules governing the international responsibility of states, is essential for legally framing the issue. The publication of official, well-documented judicial reports—written in precise legal language and accessible to international audiences—serves as a key reference point within this framework.

Finally, active legal diplomacy and evidence-based dissimulation of information play a complementary yet vital role. Submitting substantiated reports to the UN Secretariat, the Human Rights Council and other relevant mechanisms, coupled with targeted engagement with international media based on verifiable docu-

mentation, can help prevent the distortion of events.

Consistently emphasizing the government's commitment to protecting the lives and rights of peaceful protesters, ensuring transparency in statistics and reporting, and demonstrating accountability for any potential violations are not only human rights obligations but also important assets for strengthening the country's legal position at regional and international levels.

Another issue that must be taken seriously is countering the dangerous narrative-building that has emerged in recent days concerning Iran's political independence and territorial integrity. In recent days, some US think tanks and media outlets have spoken about the necessity of occupying Kharg Island and seizing Iran's oil resources. While these remarks were not made by official authorities, such narratives and proposals must not be allowed to gain traction or be normalized in the international arena.

It is essential both to inform the

public about the hostile schemes of the opposing side and to respond, in the international media space, to such verbal provocations and planning directed against Iran's rights, interests and security. The public should be aware that the monarchist movement—and Mr. Reza Pahlavi, [the exiled son of the deposed shah], who at one point wrote to National Geographic magazine to prevent the Persian Gulf from being renamed the "Gulf" in an effort to appear "national"—has today aligned itself under the banner of overtly anti-Iranian movements and lacks even the courage to respond to such blatant affronts to Iran's territorial integrity.

**How effective can Iran's legal actions be in this context, and to what extent can they move beyond symbolic gestures toward holding intervening actors accountable? What should be the Iranian Foreign Ministry's main priority and mission under current conditions?**

The reality is that a remarkable number of international organizations—particularly those with executive or quasi-judicial authority—are, in practice, influenced by the structural power imbalance, political pressure and disproportionate influence of the United States. This influence manifests not only in decision-making processes but also in the setting of priorities, agenda-building and even the interpretation of international legal rules.

As a result, securing a binding resolution or enforceable decision against the United States—especially on issues that directly affect its strategic interests—appears unlikely under current international conditions.

That said, this reality should not lead to abandoning or downplaying engagement with international organizations. On the contrary, legal and diplomatic recourse to these bodies, even when a negative outcome is anticipated, serves important strategic functions. First, it contributes to formally documenting the country's legal positions and leaves behind a written, citable record for history. Second, such engagement helps inform global public opinion and challenges the dominant narrative advanced by powerful states. In effect, even defeat within formal institutions can translate into success in the arena of public opinion.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no instrument other than diplomacy at its disposal, and it must deploy that instrument to the fullest extent possible to reduce tensions and neutralize threats.

*This interview first appeared on IRNA in Persian.*



The photo shows a wall in the conference hall of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

IRNA



The "threat" of the use of force, just like the actual use of force, violates Article 2(4) of the UN Charter. In this regard as well, the United States has breached the Charter. This article obliges UN member states to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.



In recent days, some US think tanks and media outlets have spoken about the necessity of occupying Kharg Island and seizing Iran's oil resources. While these remarks were not made by official authorities, such narratives and proposals must not be allowed to gain traction or be normalized in the international arena.



A building and several cars are set ablaze during riots in Tehran, Iran on January 9, 2026.

FARS





## Persian Gulf Pro League:

## Uzbek impact inspires Reds to triumph in snow-hit Iranian Clasico

## Sports Desk

Uzbekistan internationals Oston Urunov and Igor Sergeev were on target as Persepolis defeated Sepahan 2-1 in a snow-affected Iranian Clasico at home on Friday, leapfrogging their familiar foe to the top of the Persian Gulf Pro League table.

Esteghlal, meanwhile, missed the opportunity to go top of the standings following a goalless stalemate against Zob Ahan at Isfahan's Fooladshahr Stadium later in the day. The result saw Esteghlal drop to fourth in a tight title race, in which the top five teams are separated by only two points.

## Urunov masterclass

Sepahan started strongly at Tehran's Pas Qavamin Stadium and was somewhat unlucky not to take the lead before halftime after wasting a couple of clear-cut chances through Mohammad Mahdi Lotfi and Kaveh Rezaei.

However, the halftime introduction of Sergeev and Montenegrin midfielder Marko Bakić inspired the Capital Reds' much-improved performance in the second half, with Urunov breaking the deadlock in the 53rd minute. The Uzbek winger was played in behind the Sepahan back-



Persepolis striker Igor Sergeev (18) celebrates his goal during a 2-1 win against Sepahan in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Tehran, Iran, on January 23, 2026. ● [fc-persepolis.com](https://www.fc-persepolis.com)

line by Milad Mohammadi before his composed strike from inside the box found the bottom corner – the first goal conceded by Sepahan in seven visits to Persepolis.

Sepahan had goalkeeper Seyyed Hossein Hosseini to thank for producing a heroic save to deny Mohammad Amin Kazemian

in the 70th minute, but there was more to come from Urunov two minutes later. The winger wizard swept past two Sepahan defenders and provided his international teammate with a delicate back-heel touch before Sergeev slotted home from close range to open his Reds account in his second appearance

since joining the club earlier in the month.

His celebrations were cut short minutes later as he was sent off after a VAR review in the 95th minute for stamping Sepahan center-back Mohammad Dane-shgar.

A second VAR intervention saw Sepahan awarded a 99th-minute penalty for a

foul by goalkeeper Payam Niazmand on Majid Aliyari. Portuguese midfielder Ricardo Alves sent Niazmand the wrong way from the spot to reduce the deficit, though it proved to be just a consolation as Persepolis completed a league double over their rivals, having been winless against Sepahan in the league for 1,335

days before the reverse fixture last August.

Persepolis leads the table with 31 points from 17 games – level on points with Sepahan but ahead on head-to-head record.

"The three points were crucial in our quest for the title. My team didn't perform as I wanted in the first half, but we improved tactically in the second half and capitalized on our chances," said Persepolis head coach Osmar Loss Vieira.

"We made the halftime substitutions to create a '3 vs. 2' overload against the opponent's midfielders in the center of the pitch. I asked my players to push higher, press the opponent's defensive line, and fortunately, we scored from exactly that kind of situation. With better transitions and more precision in the final third, we could have scored four or five," added the Brazilian. Sepahan boss Moharram Navidkia, meanwhile, rued the missed chances in the first half and refused to blame the weather conditions for the defeat.

"It was a game of two different halves. We were exceptional in the first half and created numerous chances, but unfortunately, we failed to convert them. We should have finished the game in that first period," Navidkia said.

"After their well-taken goal, our team's structure fell apart. We tried our best to calm our players down, but the lads were no longer playing in their positions," added the club legend.

"It's true we played much better in the first half, but I am not going to blame the snowy weather for our second-half collapse, as it is part of football. My players were desperate to make up for the defeat in the reverse fixture, but when you are playing against opposition of that caliber, it is crucial to stay focused until the very last second and not let emotions get the better of you," Navidkia said after his team failed to win in the league for a third consecutive game.

Elsewhere, second-half goals from Mahdi Tikdari and Pouria Shahrabadi helped Golgozar Sirjan continue its impressive run of form with a 2-0 home win against Fajr Sepasi, moving Mahdi Tartar's men to fifth in the table – level on 29 points with third-placed Tractor and Esteghlal but behind on goal difference.

Esteghlal Khuzestan played to a goalless draw at home against Paykan, mirroring the result between Chadormalou and Shams Azar Qazvin at Yazd's Shahid Nassiri Stadium.

## Sports Desk

Iran remained on course for a consolation ninth-place finish in the Asian Men's Handball Championship after hammering Australia 37-17 in Da'iya, Kuwait, on Friday.

A second rout of Australia in the competition lifted Iran to the top spot in Group IV of the Martyr Fakhad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Cup – where seven teams fight for 9th-15th places – drawing level on four points with China ahead of the meeting between the two sides at the Kuwait Handball Association Hall today.

Mehran Rahnama scored a game-high eight goals for Iran, with Alireza Dadvand adding seven, while Taha Shokouhipour, Reza Ezzati, and Omid Enayatjoo chipped in four apiece. Timothy Anderson and Alex Verdier each scored five to top the scoring for the Aussies.

Iran opened the tournament with a 24-22 loss to four-time bronze medalist Saudi Arabia in Group D of the preliminary round but rebounded to thrash Australia 39-13 in its second outing in the 22nd edition of the event.

A draw against Japan in its final preliminary game would have been enough for Iran to secure a main-round spot. However, Spanish head coach Rafael Guijosa's men relinquished a five-goal lead in the second half, with Daisuke Tanaka's winner at the death sealing a 30-29 victory for the two-time champion, which finished runner-up to Saudi Arabia in the group.

Iran still managed to recover to beat India 39-16 in its Group IV opener on Thursday.

Elsewhere, South Korea defeated Iraq 35-30 to sit atop the main-round Group I table with three points, leading on goal difference over Japan, which edged out the host country 28-27 earlier on Friday.

In Group II, Bahrain defeated defending champion Qatar 31-28 to sit atop the table ahead of today's crunch encounter against Saudi Arabia, which is second on two points after beating the United Arab Emirates 33-19.

The flagship continental event also serves as a qualifier for the 2027 World Championship in Germany, with the four semifinalists securing berths.

## Asian Men's Handball Championship:

## Iran on consolation course after second Aussies thrashing



● [IRIHF](https://www.iri-hf.com)

## UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup:

## Safdarian, Beheshtirad secure all-Iranian one-two in men's speed

## Sports Desk

Iranian climbers Mohammadreza Safdarian and Mohsen Beheshtirad claimed a gold and silver medal, respectively, in the men's speed competition at the second UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup event of the 2026 season in Saas-Fee, Switzerland, on Friday.

After clocking the third-best qualification time of 9.93 seconds, Safdarian produced a blistering ascent of 8.60 seconds in the final to add another World Cup gold to the one he won in the season opener in Cheongsong, South Korea, a fortnight ago.

In his previous three visits to the resort in the Swiss Alps, Safdarian had collected a gold, silver and a bronze, with a mesmerizing sub-eight second climb earning him the World Cup title last season.

Beheshtirad, who took bronze in Cheongsong, secured silver this time with a time of 9.06 seconds, despite having recorded the fastest time overall (8.55 seconds) in qualification. Florian Gantner of Liechtenstein finished third in



Iran's Mohammadreza Safdarian won his second men's speed gold of the 2026 UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup season in Saas-Fee, Switzerland. ● [UIAA](https://www.uiiaa.com)

9.14 seconds.

The Saas-Fee event deployed a solo format – climber against the clock – rather than the usual head-to-head duel, with each finalist given three attempts.

Mojtaba Hashemi was the other Iranian competitor in the men's speed event but narrowly missed the 16-man final, finishing 17th in qualification with a time of 13.94 seconds.

In the women's speed contest, Mahin Khalil represented Iran. She posted 28.46 seconds to qualify for the final and ultimately finished 10th with 20.47

seconds.

Mongolia's Selenge Nyamdoo won the women's title in 11.29 seconds, followed by Liechtenstein's Lorena Beck (13.13 seconds) and Czech climber Aneta Louzecka (13.29 seconds).

The three-day competition in Saas-Fee featured 137 athletes from 19 countries across the men's and women's speed and lead disciplines.

The third World Cup event of the season will be held in Longmont, Colorado, USA, from February 20-22, followed by the season finale in Edmonton, Canada, from February 26-28.



# Kalpurgan becomes global address for pottery art

## Iranica Desk

In southeastern Iran, where soil and sun tell stories of history, the wheel of pottery still turns; but not on a wheel, but in the hands of women who have been guardians of the soil for thousands of years.

In Sistan and Baluchestan Province, pottery continues in a way that has traversed millennia, preserving its authenticity without relying on modern tools; an art that is not only a handicraft but a living narrative of Baluch culture and identity. Located 25 kilometers from Saravan, Kalpurgan village stands; a name that has transcended a mere point on a map to become a global address for pottery art. The 7,000-year-old Kalpurgan pottery, crafted by hand without the use of a wheel, has gained such fame that in November 2016, UNESCO experts traveled to this village to assess its potential for global registration; a journey that culminated in the global registration of this historic village and the presentation of a registration plaque to its people.

Kalpurgan is a tourist village where talented Baluch women, with humility and strength, create their art in front of visitors' eyes. The name Kalpurgan is derived from a medicinal native plant of Baluchestan; just as the pottery of this village has its roots in the nature and traditional lifestyle of the region, according to chtn.ir.

Although agriculture and products like dates, citrus fruits, and vegetables are the main occupations of the locals, what sets Kalpurgan apart from other villages is its pottery art; an ancient art that dates back between 4,000 to 6,000 years and has remained untouched, counting as the only active pottery workshop in the world that still works in a primitive manner.

The Kalpurgan pottery is a relic from the millennia before Christ and a symbol of the continuity of a certain type of red pottery; a masterpiece of the thoughts and tastes of the women of Sistan and Baluchestan Province. This art has been passed down from generation to generation, from mothers to daughters, and while time has not diminished its authenticity, it has added to its artistic values. Simple yet profound geometric patterns reflect beliefs, spiritual desires, and the connection of humans to their surrounding nature; silent narratives that have come to life on the pottery bodies.

One of the female artists from Saravan said that the global registration of this village has boosted the pottery market, "The hand-made pottery of the women of Kalpurgan today has applicants from various parts of the world." Zinat Monfared stated, "The patterns used on Kalpurgan pottery are the result of the minds and beliefs of the people of the region, which have been passed down from generation to generation and have a lot of harmony with pre-historic pottery."

Referring to the difference between Kalpurgan pottery and other parts of the country, he added, "All the delicate stages of pottery are done by women, and men only participate in preparing the clay, shaping the clay, and baking the pottery; in addition, this pottery is not made using a wheel, and all stages are performed traditionally and by hand."

The artisan said, "Using the potential of the virtual space in introducing and marketing products has attracted foreign customers from countries like Germany and China."

The global registration of Kalpurgan, in addition to encouraging the local people, has had an effective role in promoting tourism



● chtn.ir



and introducing this ancient art to the world, and many domestic and foreign tourists visit this village every year.

Mohammed Sadeq Dehvari, a cultural heritage expert in Saravan, stated that the pottery of Kalpurgan village has gained international fame. He said, "These artifacts are masterpieces of thought and art by the women of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, passed down from mothers to daughters over generations.

The passage of time has not only preserved their authenticity but also added to their artistic value."

He further noted that the creators of Kalpurgan pottery have always been women throughout history, and this ancient art is shaped by hand without the use of a potter's wheel. The decorations on these pottery pieces are derived from long-standing geometric patterns rooted in the culture and beliefs of the local people. Kalpurgan pottery is devoid of glaze, and

the clay used is sourced from an area located two kilometers from the village, with a unique composition that turns red after firing. Referring to the patterns on the pottery as symbolic and abstract, he added, "These patterns reflect the artist's inner desires and, in some cases, convey beliefs and beliefs that arise from the surrounding environment."

He said that the female potters prepare the special clay by collecting it, pounding, sifting, and traditionally purifying it before using it to create their pottery, a process that is entirely done using traditional and primitive methods.

He added, the prepared clay is placed in a ceramic container, and the artist shapes the desired pottery by hand and by spinning the lower container; in such a way that the little finger of the foot plays the role of the potter's wheel motor, and a new container is born in this museum. Dehvari, stating that Kalpurgan village is among the target villages for tourism in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, noted, Kalpurgan Pottery Museum will be open

during Nowruz and is ready to host domestic and foreign tourists.

The head of the cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts department of Saravan, said that the Kalpurgan Clay Museum is one of the most significant cultural capacities of the regio. In this museum, located in the global village of Kalpurgan, Baluch potters perform the living art of pottery, dating back seven thousand years, and tourists can get to know the production process of this unique art from close range.

Mahvash Asadi added, the live Kalpurgan Pottery Museum is currently active, and while potters from this village are actively working, they are generating income through this art.

Pottery training in Kalpurgan has a long history, and children become familiar with this art from a young age, which is why pottery in this village has been passed down from generation to generation. He, referring to the actions taken to strengthen and dynamize the village of Kalpurgan, stated, in order to develop the market for handicrafts, a permanent handicraft market has been established, and stalls will soon be allocated to applicants. Also, sending potters and artisans to provincial, national, and international exhibitions is one of the most important marketing programs in this field.

He stated that media and cultural programs aimed at promoting Kalpurgan and attracting tourists are on the agenda, continuing: These programs, with the goal of strengthening the position of this global village as a tourist destination, are being pursued continuously and seriously. He emphasized that currently, 57 women from Kalpurgan village are directly involved in pottery, and 12 cooperative companies have been formed.

# Fereydunshahr aims to redefine Iran's winter tourism

## Iranica Desk

The establishment of a comprehensive tourism and recreational complex centered on the Fereydunshahr ski resort in Isfahan Province represents a distinct opportunity for revenue generation and functions as a pivotal instrument for fortifying Isfahan's natural tourism brand at both national and international levels.

Mohammad Tamannaei, a faculty member at Isfahan University of Technology, underscored Isfahan's strategic position within the North-South Transport Corridor. He noted that, despite possessing considerable potential in winter tourism, Iran contends with a deficiency in adequately equipped ski slopes and appropriate lodging facilities, according to IRNA.

He elaborated further, stating, "At present, a significant number of Iranian and international tourists opt for destinations

such as Turkey and Armenia for their winter travel due to the absence of standardized amenities. However, the development of integrated facilities like the Fereydunshahr ski complex would not only capture a greater share of this market but also prolong the duration of tourist stays within Isfahan Province."

He clarified, "Fereydunshahr is located at an elevation of 2,500 meters above sea level. This topographical characteristic results in extended snow retention compared to other ski areas across Iran."

The academic pointed out, "In contrast to certain ski resorts dependent on artificial snow production, Fereydunshahr benefits from a naturally adequate snow cover throughout the winter season without requiring snowmaking systems. Moreover, while some slopes are operational for merely two to three months annually, the utility of the Fereydunshahr ski



● kojara.com

resort is not confined exclusively to the winter months."

He added, "Owing to its high altitude and consistently low temperatures, the Fereydunshahr ski resort typically maintains snowy conditions for a period of four to five months. This represents a critically important competitive edge for in-

vestments in skiing and winter sports infrastructure within the region."

Tamannaei emphasized, "From an economic standpoint, projections indicate that the 'development of a tourism and recreational complex centered on the Fereydunshahr ski resort' will yield satisfactory returns

for investors via accommodation rentals, the provision of recreational and sporting services, sales of skiing equipment, and hospitality offerings in restaurants. Concurrently, governmental support in the tourism sector, including tax exemptions and the provision of banking facilities, may serve

as additional incentives for investment in this initiative."

He further commented, "Collectively, the execution of this project will not only establish a prominent winter tourism hub in Fereydunshahr but will also elevate Isfahan Province's competitive standing in the tourism domain, foster the development of regional infrastructure, and augment sustainable income streams for investors and local enterprises."

The professor also recalled, "Fereydunshahr, by virtue of its picturesque natural landscape and distinctive mountainous terrain, also possesses inherent capacity to draw tourists during the summer season. Throughout the warmer months, amenities such as mountaineering, mountain biking, and camping can be developed and promoted within the area."

As reported by IRNA, the Fereydunshahr ski resort is situated 180 kilometers west of Isfahan on the slopes of Tsikhe Mountain. It stands as the sole standard ski resort within the province, featuring slopes with gradients of 35 degrees, and in certain sections, up to 70 degrees. It is acknowledged as the highest-altitude ski resort in Iran.





## A stage that never closes

# Street theater, 50-year legacy of 44th Fadjr Int'l Theater Festival



*Iranian actors perform in the street theater 'Ghalamestan,' directed by Maryam Doosti, at Rudaki Cultural and Artistic Hall in Tehran, January 23, 2026.*

● theater.ir

simply consider the festival's theatrical essence, the Fadjr theater festival is a defining, impactful, and crucial event within the national theatrical landscape and our profession.

**As director of the street theater section for this year's festival, could you tell us about that section?**

The street theater section, like the other theatrical sections included in this year's festival call and among the 10 sections of the festival, exists due to the inclination and preference of artists active in this field, and the importance of street theater itself. There are numerous applicants for theater, and a diverse range of avenues for activity exist, but street theater is one of the first sections to consistently attract a dedicated following and enthusiasts. One might even say that many theater enthusiasts who lacked the opportunity for stage performances have gravitated towards street theater. Among them are exceptionally gifted and creative individuals who wish to bring their flair and ingenuity to the open space of the streets. Therefore, from my perspective, street theater is an incredibly impactful section.

**In your view, what is the significance of street theater?**

The significance of street theater, perhaps from a unique perspective, lies in the fact that the street always exists. Stage performances may occasionally be suspended for various reasons, or venues may become inaccessible, but the street is perpetually present. The events that unfold in the street actually provide the sustenance and backdrop for theater. Even as we stand here, conducting this interview, it could be the foundation for a theatrical event, and our story could be written later. Therefore,

theater never truly dies, because there are always events and occurrences, and the most fundamental and authentic theatrical events have always originated from the street.

**How do street theater and stage theater differ, and what factors influence a group's choice of venue?**

Street theater, as its name suggests, takes place in the street. The primary difference is that simple: Stage theater occurs within a closed and defined environment (the stage), while street theater unfolds in the open and public space of the street.

Of course, some might bring a stage work to the street, but the true nature of street theater is that it should be designed spontaneously, creatively, and specifically for the street environment. Because in the street, the performer doesn't choose their audience, and the audience hasn't chosen the performance in advance. The two

encounter each other by chance: A force performs in the street, and a passerby suddenly comes face-to-face with that performance. If the street theater captures their interest, the pedestrian will stop and, depending on the work's appeal, watch a portion or all of it; otherwise, they'll simply pass by the performance. Therefore, the essence of street theater is that the performer must conclude that this work, given its characteristics, absolutely must be performed in the street and is capable of attracting a street audience.

**What makes a piece of theater truly suited for the street?**

As I mentioned, this theater should be performed for an audience that hasn't chosen to attend. Therefore, the design should be such that if a spectator approaches the performance from any point, they shouldn't feel like they've missed anything. They should be able to grasp the subject matter from the moment they ar-

rive, and the performance should offer something of value to them.

**Do international festivals typically feature street theater? Why is it valuable for the Fadjr festival to include this section?**

In international festivals I've attended, there has always been a street event, because such occurrences serve as a showcase for a festival. A festival, regardless of how it's organized, is a socio-cultural event, and street theater adorns the city or region hosting the festival with its performances. The thoroughfares leading to the main hall or festival areas should be embellished with artistic elements like photo galleries, puppet shows, and, of course, street theater performances. This creates a unified and vibrant artistic atmosphere throughout the city, conveying the message that a theatrical event isn't limited to the confines of a closed venue or a specific demographic, and that you can experience theater in an open environment.

By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

### INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

For nearly half a century, the Fadjr International Theater Festival has stood as a cornerstone of Iranian artistic life, now celebrating its 44th edition. More than a recurring event, it's a deeply respected institution, a vibrant showcase for Iranian theater and the foremost platform for recognizing and celebrating the nation's performing arts achievements. Revered as the country's most significant theatrical event, the festival embodies the power of theater to transcend the confines of traditional venues and forge a direct connection with the community. This vital link is perhaps most vividly expressed through its street theater section, a dynamic realm that breathes life into the city's alleyways and public spaces. As Maryam Kazemi, director of the street theater section for the 44th Fadjr International Theater Festival, observes, "Street theater is the most vibrant and palpable embodiment of theater within society. Its stage is 'the street,' a perpetual present and life-giving space,



Maryam Kazemi  
"Street theater is the most vibrant and palpable embodiment of theater within society. Its stage is 'the street,' a perpetual present and life-giving space,

## Tehran cartoon biennial draws artists from 70 nations, resuming after eight-year hiatus

### Arts & Culture Desk

The 12th Tehran International Cartoon Biennial showcases works from artists representing 70 countries, according to Aidin Mehdizadeh, Director-General of the Visual Arts Office at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

The biennial was jointly organized by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and the Tehran Municipality's Art and Culture Organization. The resumption of the biennial, a cornerstone of Iran's visual arts scene and a globally recognized platform for cartoonists, has been hailed as a testament to the dedication of Iranian artists and the collaborative spirit between governmental and municipal bodies.



Mehdizadeh, the event's high international standing attracted submissions from a broad spectrum of nations, with many Iranian artists residing abroad opting to participate under the Iranian flag. The collaborative effort between the ministry and the Tehran Municipality, spearheaded by Deputy Artistic Affairs Mehdi Khorsani Zadeh, was instrumental in overcoming logistical challenges and ensuring the

biennial's timely realization. Mehdizadeh emphasized the importance of such inter-agency cooperation, noting that it should extend beyond the arts to encompass all cultural initiatives. "This event belongs to all Iranians, artists, and institutions," he stated. The biennial boasts the highest monetary prize for cartoonists globally, awarding a total of €26,000 in foreign currency and approximately 5 billion Iranian rials in domestic currency. The exhibition, curated by Masoud Shojaei Tabatabaei and managed by Abbas Ghazi Zahedi, remains open to the public at the Saba Cultural and Artistic Institute until February 10, 2026. Following the awards ceremony, a display of finalist and winning works will be available for viewing.

**اعلان تمدید مزایده صادراتی بیلت آلیاژی ریخته‌گری مداوم**  
**شرکت فولاد آلیاژی ایران**  
مورخ: 1404/10/18 به شماره: IASCO-EXPT-06 شرکت فولاد آلیاژی ایران

شرکت فولاد آلیاژی ایران (IASCO) در راستای فراهم‌سازی فرصت مناسب برای بررسی و ارائه پیشنهادات رقابتی، مهلت ارائه پیشنهاد قیمت در مزایده عمومی فروش صادراتی بیلت آلیاژی ریخته‌گری مداوم را تمدید نموده است. خاطرنشان می‌سازد، عرضه مذکور در گزید منتخب و مطابق با مشخصات و شرایط مندرج در اسناد مزایده (به شماره: IASCO-EXPT-06) انجام خواهد شد. از علاقمندان به شرکت در مزایده مزبور دعوت بعمل می‌آید برای دریافت اطلاعات و راهنمایی‌های لازم با واحد صادرات به شماره تماس‌های ۰۳۱۲۲۴۶۷۵-۹۸۳۵ و ۰۸۸۳۲۲۶۲۱-۹۸۲۱ و نشانی ایمیل Salesexp@iasco.net در ارتباط باشند. مهلت جدید ارائه پیشنهاد قیمت مزایده یادشده حداکثر ساعت ۱۵:۰۰ روز دوشنبه مورخ ۱۴۰۴/۱۱/۱۳ می‌باشد.

**Iran Alloy Steel Company**  
**Tender Announcement - Deadline Extension for Export of CC-Alloy Steel Billet**  
Tender Ref. No.: IASCO-EXPT-06 Date: 01/08/2026

Please be informed that **Iran Alloy Steel Company (IASCO)** has **extended the submission deadline** of its General Tender for the export of **CC-Alloy Steel Billets** (Tender Ref. No.: IASCO-EXPT-06), under the following terms and conditions:

**1. Product Specifications and Commercial terms:**

Main Tender Grades & Quality	Acc. to attached specification No.
94031	C07KU9403140408A030

Other Grades may also be considered By Customer Request with related premium price. (Please clearly specify the desired grade, analysis and etc).

● **Size & Dimensions:** (130\*130) \* 12,000 mm  
● **Quantity:** 20.000 MT (±10%).  
● **Delivery Time:** approximately 25 days after receipt of advance payment.  
● **Delivery Term:** FCA Yazd.  
**Note:** FOB Bandar Abbas or may also be considered upon buyer's request, subject to amended delivery time and mutual agreement.

**2. Tender General Conditions:**

- The offer must remain valid for at least **seven (7) Iranian working days** from the submission deadline.
- Vague, conditional or incomplete offers will not be considered.
- The buyers company must be legally registered outside the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- IASCO reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion.
- All payments shall be deemed valid only upon the Seller's receipt of official bank confirmation.
- Submission of offer implies full acceptance of all tender terms and conditions.

**3. Offer Submission:**  
For instructions and further information, kindly contact the Export Department using the following details:  
**Tel:** +9835-31222675 & +9821-88322621.  
**Email:** Salesexp@iasco.net (For registration only, not to send any offer).

**4. Revised Closing Date:**  
**Extended Deadline for Offer Submission: Monday, February 2, 2026 - by 3:00 p.m. (Tehran Local Time)**