

# Iran vows huge payback to enemy's 'miscalculation'

## International Desk

Iranian officials on Monday reiterated the readiness of all sectors of the country, including Armed Forces, to respond to any "miscalculation" by the enemy. Addressing a conference of top state companies, First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said that the Islamic Republic will resolutely defend its people against any threat. Aref said that Iran is not seeking war and has no intention of initiating conflict, but it will not hesitate to defend itself.

"God willing, there will be no war today as well; however, if the enemy makes a miscalculation, the government has a wartime economic plan and specific mechanisms in place to manage wartime conditions."

Commander of the Army's Ground Forces Brigadier General Ali Jahanshahi also announced the force's readiness

to confront the enemies' conspiracies and defend the "sacred soil of our country" with full strength.

## FM spox warns of 'regret-inducing response'

Speaking during his weekly press conference, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei also warned that the country would deliver a "regret-inducing response" to any act of aggression, stressing that Iran is now more capable than in the past. Reacting to recent US military moves in the region, especially conducting a joint military drill with the Persian Gulf Arab states, Baqaei said that countries in the region are aware that any insecurity in the region is not directed solely at Iran, which is why there is a shared concern among regional states.

"Iran has confidence in its own capabilities and has also kept the experiences of June in mind, and it will respond to



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref speaks during a conference of top state companies in Tehran on January 26, 2026.

● IRNA

any aggression more powerfully than in the past with a regret-inducing response," he added.

"We have faced, and continue to face, a form of hybrid warfare. Following the June aggression, over the past few months, we have been confronted with new threats from the United States and the Zionist regime," he said.

Foreign-instigated riots in Iran escalated on January 8 and continued for several days, following peaceful protests in Iranian bazaars and markets where traders called for government action to halt the devaluation of the Iranian rial.

The violence, encouraged openly by the Israeli regime and US President Donald Trump, resulted in extensive



damage to public and private property, with widespread destruction of shops, government institutions, public service

facilities, and the killing of thousands of civilians, including women and children, as well as security forces.

## Senior MP says US paralyzing int'l bodies to control global resources



Iran's Deputy Parliament Speaker Hamidreza Haji Babaei addresses the 16th General Assembly of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly in Manama, Bahrain, on January 26, 2026.

● IRNA

pressure, and threats". He said the United Nations Security Council, specialized international forums, human rights bodies and other international bodies are now facing pressure, sanctions and threats from the US. Haji Babaei said that Iran has been one of the main targets of this US "malicious strategy."

"Actions by the United States that are contrary to the UN Charter — including threats to use force, illegal sanctions, and direct and indirect aggressive measures against my country — have intensified in recent years", particularly in the recent months, he added.

The direct military attack by the US on peaceful nuclear facilities of Iran in June "is a clear example of this lawlessness."

Hamidreza Haji Babaei made the remarks in an address to the main plenary of the 16th General Assembly of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in Bahrain's capital, Manama.

"The message of this policy is clear: no country, regardless of its size, power, or history of relations with the United States, will be immune from excessive demands,

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Iran's deputy parliament speaker said on Monday that the United States is deliberately weakening, discrediting and even paralyzing international organizations in a bid to control natural resources, wealth, markets, and strategic capacities of other countries, especially in Asia's strategic regions.

## Russia urges Iran, US to exercise restraint; says war will destabilize region

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Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that a possible US military strike on Iran on the pretext of supporting Iranian protesters would further destabilize West Asia region, calling on both sides to show restraint and focus exclusively on peaceful negotiations. "Russia continues its efforts to de-escalate tensions. In this situation, we would like to see restraint from all parties involved as well as their focus exclusively on peaceful negotiations to address the issues they consider relevant," Peskov said. Peskov added that such a move would represent "another step toward serious destabilization in the

region."

The comments came as tensions have been on the rise between Tehran and Washington over the US meddling remarks about recent protests in Iran. Foreign-instigated riots in Iran escalated on January 8 and continued for several days, following peaceful protests in Iranian bazaars and markets where traders called for government action to halt the devaluation of the Iranian rial. The violence, encouraged openly by the Israeli regime and US President Donald Trump, resulted in extensive damage to public and private property, with widespread destruction of shops, government institutions, public service facilities,



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● TASS

and the killing of thousands of civilians, including women and children, as well as security forces.

Iranian authorities have confirmed that US and Israeli spy agencies were directly involved, providing funding, training, and media support to rioters and armed terrorists acting on the streets. Since then, Trump has repeatedly threatened Iran with military attack over what he calls Tehran's suppression of protests.

## Iranian Navy acts as an 'anchor' of regional stability: Cmdr.

Commander of the Iranian Army's Naval Force, Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, said the Iranian Navy acts as an anchor of stability and security in the region. Irani underscored the importance and status of the Army Navy in the region and beyond while addressing the students at Imam Ali Military University on Monday, IRNA reported. Referring to the continuous and powerful presence of the Iranian Navy in the open waters, he said that the



Shahram Irani  
● IRNA

waving of the national flag thousands of kilometers away from the country's maritime borders is a clear message of "peace and friendship" for neighbors, and a "serious warning" to ill-wishers.

He stressed that the Navy not only ensures the security of commercial lines, but also solidifies Iran's position as a maritime power in the new geometry of global power equation. The naval commander underlined that today the Navy is much more advanced and more powerful in international waters and at the country's maritime borders than it was during the Iraq-imposed war in the 1980s.

## US military drill ...

However, given the current tense conditions, the US disinterest in a full-scale war with Iran, and its desire for Israel to initiate the conflict alone, it is possible that the US would take advantage of this exercise to place GCC member states in a fait accompli and to prevent them from backing out of a collective war with Iran, potentially leading to the commencement of Israeli attacks during the exercise.

## What kind of reactions could be expected from Iran in the event of any provocative action?

With US unlikely to initiate military action, should any such move occur from Israel and drag GCC member states into war, the necessity of Iran entering combined military actions against US military bases and equipment in regional countries and Israel would be unavoidable. This would also include cyberattacks and the involvement of Shiite movements aligned with the Islamic Republic of

Iran, threatening the economic targets of GCC member states, the US, and Europe in the Persian Gulf.

## In your opinion, what is the best way to deter and prevent the escalation of tensions?

Currently, the US is applying diplomatic and psychological pressure on Iran in the most aggressive manner possible. Moreover, the conditions the US has set for diplomatic engagement and de-escalation are essentially a zero-sum game. Therefore, the only way to create deterrence for the US is to convey the sense of incurring a prohibitive cost and engaging in a full-scale war, so that Washington, due to its lack of interest in entering a widespread conflict and the risk to its own national interests and security, will back down from its positions. The use of deterrent language by Iranian officials and actions that reflect Iran's seriousness in responding to any malice from the US and Israel will both discourage Washington

and Tel Aviv to enter a war with Iran and will also cause the GCC member states to calculate correctly about not joining the US game.

## How would you characterize the cooperation of the GCC member states in this exercise? Is this cooperation an action to prepare for potential threats?

Given that this exercise is designed to send a multi-layered message to regional actors in the Persian Gulf, GCC member states will not only benefit from US logistical, arms, and training support, but will also see themselves as operational allies of the US, who will not be alone in the event of a crisis and will see the US as an active security partner. Participating in this joint exercise, given their concerns about potential Iranian attacks on US bases in their countries, is a bid to send a message of strong willingness to avoid tensions with Iran and deter Tehran from engaging in retaliatory operations in their territories.

