

Iran blacklists EU naval, air forces in tit-for-tat move over IRGC

International Desk

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday that Tehran has designated the naval and air forces of all European Union member states as "terrorist organizations" in a tit-for-tat move after the bloc's move to add the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) to its terrorist list.

The statement said the "reciprocal" move comes following the EU member states' "unlawful and unjustified" decision to label a part of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces.

It added that the EU member states have designated the IRGC, which is recognized as one of the pillars of Iran's Armed Forces, as a "terrorist" organization, contrary to the fundamental principles and rules of the United Nations Charter and international law.

The statement emphasized that, based on the principle of reciprocal action and a parliamentary law, the Iranian government is compelled to respond with proportional legal measures.

The ministry was referring to Article VII of a law passed by the Iranian Parliament in April 2019 regarding reciprocal actions in response to the US designation of the IRGC.



France's Charles De Gaulle nuclear powered aircraft carrier is seen in a photo released on Jan. 27, 2026.

● FRENCH ARMED FORCES

According to the article, all countries that in any way follow or support the decision of the United States to designate the IRGC as a "terrorist organization" shall be subject to reciprocal action.

The European Union added the IRGC to its list in response to Iran's measures against foreign-backed rioters who wreaked havoc across the country during protests over economic problems in the country in late December and early January.

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. On Thursday, the EU Foreign Affairs Council formally added the IRGC to the bloc's "terrorist" list following a political agreement reached by the council on January 29.

The IRGC will also be subject to restrictive measures under the EU counterterrorism sanctions regime. This includes the freezing of its funds and other fi-



ancial assets or economic resources in EU member states, and the prohibition for EU operators to make funds

and economic resources available to the group. There are now 13 persons and 23

groups and entities subject to the restrictive measures under the so-called EU terrorist list.

Araghchi: Tehran working on draft agreement, ready for 'fast deal' on Thursday

International Desk

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday that Iran is still working on a draft agreement with the United States on Iran's nuclear program, expressing hope for a swift deal.

"We are still working on it and are trying to set it up in a way that includes elements which can accommodate the concerns and interests of both sides," the Iranian foreign minister said in an interview with CBS.

Araghchi expressed hope that both sides would be able to work on the elements, prepare a good text, and reach a "fast deal" when he said they "will likely meet again this Thursday in Geneva."

Iran's foreign minister said that he thought there was still a "good chance" his country's standoff with the United States over its nuclear program could be resolved through diplomacy.



Abbas Araghchi
● IRNA

"I believe that still there is a good chance to have a diplomatic solution which is based on a win-win game," Araghchi told the US broadcaster. As for Iran's uranium enrichment, which the US opposes, Araghchi said, "As a sovereign country, we have every right to decide for ourselves, by ourselves."

Iran's foreign minister warned that his country would be forced to strike back at US interests in West Asia in response to any renewed aggression.

"If the US attacks us, then we have every right to defend ourselves. If the US attacks us, that is the act of

aggression. What we do in response is an act of self-defense," Araghchi said.

"It is justified, legitimate. So, our missiles cannot hit the American soil. So obviously we have to do something else. We have to hit, you know, the American base in the region."

His remarks came after Iranian and American officials held two rounds of Oman-mediated talks on February 6 and 17, following weeks of escalating tensions.

The ongoing talks are aimed at resolving a decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

The US, which has deployed aircraft carriers and warships to the region, has threatened Iran with military action if no deal is made.

Iran has declared its conditions and vowed not bow to excessive demands including the US push for zero uranium enrichment. Iran has also said that it will hit back forcefully to any aggression.

Iran Daily sits ...

It is not. Trump does not seem to be bluffing. The US side may also be miscalculating: The US military certainly has a list of targets which they are able to destroy, but it is not so clear whether they also have a strategy once major targets are destroyed. A military conflict between the US and Iran could lead to chaos in Iran itself, and in the region, and drag the United States into a much longer engagement than President Trump would want to see.

In your assessment, can confidence-building measures substantially reduce the significant trust deficit that has developed in recent years?

It is possible to see the ongoing negotiations themselves as attempts to build confidence. The lead negotiators - US envoy Wittkoff, and Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi - have certainly made some progress here. The acceptance of direct negotiations by Iran could certainly help. But it is no guarantee for success without

speedy progress on substance.

What constructive role could European actors or multilateral frameworks play in promoting a stable and viable agreement?

Other powers are basically watching: Russia and China will not come to Iran's help. They would publicly denounce US military strikes, but not make any attempt to prevent it. Europe will not support US military strikes, and they will warn any rash action that could create more instability in the region. European powers still regret President Trump's decision, in his first term, to abrogate the JCPOA, but they have also become increasingly dissatisfied with Iranian non-compliance. They would be prepared to re-engage in serious negotiations about a new comprehensive agreement. But they also understand that at this time, both Washington and Tehran do not seek Europe's participation. The UN would be able to mediate, probably in cooperation with regional states like Oman. But there

doesn't seem to be any willingness in Washington or Tehran to allow the UN to do this.

To what extent do regional dynamics - in particular the role of the Persian Gulf states, Israel, and the increasing great-power rivalry - influence the respective negotiating positions of Tehran and Washington?

Regional states play a role. Israel is encouraging the United States to take a hard-line position and make sure that any deal would include an end to Iranian enrichment and at least a substantial reduction of Iran's ballistic missile capabilities. The Persian Gulf Arab states want stability. Although they seem to be happy that Iran's geopolitical project, the "Axis of Resistance", has been broken, and Iranian influence in the region has been decimated, they don't want a regional war, nor do they want chaos, revolution or civil war in Iran. They are therefore encouraging and facilitating US-Iran negotiations.

Iran tests Sayyad-3G air defense missile in southern waters

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy on Saturday tested the Sayyad-3G naval air defense missile during the "Smart Control" military drills in the Strait of Hormuz amid growing tensions between Iran and the United States over Iran's nuclear program.

According to a footage released during the drills on Saturday, the missile was fired from the vessel Shahid Sayyad Shirazi, marking the system's operational debut at sea.

The Sayyad-3G is the naval variant of Iran's Sayyad-3 air defense missile and features a vertical launch system with a reported range of 150 kilometers (93 miles), Press TV reported.

Iranian officials said the missile offers medium-to-long-range air defense coverage and facilitates the establishment of a regional air defense umbrella for vessels of the Shahid Soleimani class.

Authorities stated that the system is capable of independently detecting and engaging aerial threats, while also being integrated into a broader command-and-control network. This dual capability, they said, enhances the survivability of naval units against a range of air threats.

With a declared 150-kilometer range, the Sayyad-3G is designed to intercept and de-



● MEHR

stroy various airborne targets, including fighter jets, high-altitude unmanned aerial vehicles, support aircraft, maritime patrol aircraft, and cruise missiles. Iranian officials described the missile as adding long-range defensive capacity to the country's naval operations.

The Strait of Hormuz - one of the world's most critical energy transit chokepoints - was the location of the three-day "Smart Control" drills, which began on February 16. The IRGC naval forces started military drills off the country's southern coast on Monday, practicing smart control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The drills come amid heightened regional tensions and repeated US threats to attack Iran if it does not accept its nuclear demands, among others.



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