



FM says all sites involved in Israel-US attack 'legitimate targets'



Abbas Araghchi
IRNA

Political Desk

Tehran denounced Saturday's coordinated US-Israeli aerial assault on Iranian territory as a "blatant crime," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi declared all launch sites "legitimate targets" for retaliatory strikes, and the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) announced the commencement of a "decisive response," while Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei condemned what he called "terrorist attacks" in statements carried by state media.

Araghchi, appearing on Iranian television, warned that armed forces would target "the sites from which the US and Zionist operations were carried out" alongside any locations supporting actions against Iran's defenses.

He framed the aggression as a gross violation of the UN Charter, urging regional governments to uphold their "historical duty" against what he termed a "sinister plot" by the Israeli regime.

In separate calls with counterparts from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Iraq, the foreign minister pressed neighboring states to deny US and Israeli forces use of their territories for further operations, reiterating Iran's commitment to "good-neighborliness" while underscoring the Islamic Republic's inherent right to self-defense under international law.

The Foreign Ministry said Washington and Tel Aviv had launched "terrorist attacks" on defense infrastructure and civilian sites across multiple Iranian cities.

The ministry noted the strikes erupted amid ongoing diplomatic engagement, asserting Iran had entered negotiations "to prove the rightfulness of the Iranian nation" despite anticipating military escalation.

"Now it is time to defend the homeland," the statement declared, vowing the armed forces stand "more prepared than ever" to confront aggressors.

[Page 2 >](#)

Iran pounds US regional bases, Israel in retaliation for joint aggression

Scores killed in strike on girls' school in Hormozgan

[2 >](#)



People gather at the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted an elementary girls' school in Minab, a city in the Hormozgan Province in southern Iran on February 28, 2026.
IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) fired a barrage of missiles against US military bases in the Persian Gulf and Israel's positions in the occupied territories

in retaliation for new US-Israel aggression against Iran. Explosions were reported in Bahrain, Kuwait, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The IRGC said it had targeted the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, other

American interests in the Persian Gulf and Israel after it had repeatedly vowed to retaliate fiercely should Iran be attacked. "The IRGC's missiles and drones have struck the headquarters of the US Navy's Fifth Fleet in Bahrain

and other American bases in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, as well as military and security centers in the heart of the occupied territories, with severe blows," the IRGC said.

[Page 2 >](#)

Reactions pour in after US-Israeli onslaught

Russia, Spain, Pakistan, Iraq, Brazil slam blitz

France calls for urgent UNSC meeting

International Desk

A wave of US and Israeli strikes on Iran on Saturday set off reactions from several countries, calling for an end to the "dangerous" escalation.

Russia condemned the joint strikes on Iran as a "dangerous adventure" that could spark "catastrophe" in the region. "Washington and Tel-Aviv have once again embarked on a dangerous adventure that is rapidly bringing the region to the brink of a humanitarian, economic, and - this cannot be ruled out - radiological catastrophe," Russia's Foreign

Ministry said in a statement. "The aggressors' intentions are clear and openly declared: to destroy the constitutional order and overthrow the government of a state they find undesirable, which has refused to submit to the diktat of force and hegemonism," it added.

"The responsibility for the negative consequences of this man-made crisis, including an unpredictable chain reaction and an escalating spiral of violence, lies entirely with them," the ministry said. Russia said it was "ready to contribute to the search for peaceful solutions"

that are "based on international law, mutual respect and balance of interests." In 2025, Russia and Iran signed a strategic partnership treaty aimed at strengthening ties - including in the military sphere.

Spain rejects attack, calls for dialogue

The Spanish government expressed its disagreement with the strikes launched jointly by the United States and Israel against Iran, following days of troop movements and capabilities.

"We reject the unilateral military action by the US and Israel, which represents an escalation and contributes to a more uncertain and hostile international order," wrote Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on his X account. "We cannot afford another prolonged and devastating war in the Middle East," Sanchez added, demanding "an immediate de-escalation and full respect for international law."

"It is time to resume dialogue and reach a lasting political solution for the region," he pointed out.

[Page 2 >](#)



Iran pounds US ...

On Saturday morning, a number of loud explosions were heard in Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, Karaj, Tabriz, and Kermanshah.

Iran's Mehr News Agency reported that at least two students were killed by an attack that hit a school east of the capital Tehran.

Over 50 students killed in Iran's south

Earlier, an Israeli strike hit an elementary girls' school in Minab, a city in the Hormozgan Province of southern Iran, killing 53 people, state media reported.

In the UAE, the Defense Ministry said Iranian strikes had killed one civilian, and witnesses in Dubai heard an explosion and saw missiles streak across the sky.

Smoke was rising over Tehran's Pasteur district, site of the home of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Iranian president 'safe'
Iranian state television said President Masoud Pezeshkian was "safe and sound", while the Fars news agency said "missile impacts were reported in the Keshvaridoost and Pasteur districts" of Tehran. The attacks came after US President Donald Trump expressed frustration at Iran's stance in negotiations over its nuclear and missile programs.

Trump said Washington's goal was what he called "eliminating imminent threats" from Iran, and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the operation was to remove an "existential threat".

"The United States' military began major combat operations in Iran," Trump said in a video message posted on his social media site while he spent the weekend at his Florida golf club.

"We are going to destroy their missiles and raze their missile industry to the ground. It will be totally, again, obliterated. We're going to annihilate their navy," Trump claimed, warning of possible US casualties.

The Israeli army warned Iranians in or around military infrastructure across Iran to evacuate after announcing it was conducting a "broad strike" on multiple military targets.

Airspaces closed

Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, the UAE and Israel all closed their airspaces to civilian traffic, at least in part, and multiple airlines cancelled flights to the Middle East. US embassies in the Persian Gulf urged American citizens to take shelter.

Explosions were also heard over central Doha and near Al-Udeid military base, the largest US facility in the region, and an AFP journalist saw an interceptor take out one missile in a puff of white smoke, as Qatar's Defense Ministry said it had



Smoke rises in the sky after blasts were heard in Manama, Bahrain on February 28, 2026.

● REUTERS

"repelled a number of attacks". Kuwait and the UAE also reported intercepting incoming Iranian missiles, with Abu Dhabi saying it "reserves its full right to respond" and slamming the attacks as "a dangerous escalation".

A bombing that targeted an Iraqi military base housing a resistance group killed at least two fighters, sources from the group Kataeb Hezbollah told AFP.

"We will soon begin attacking American bases in response to their aggression," the group said.

The US had built up a large military presence in the region in recent weeks in preparation for an attack, including two aircraft carrier strike groups.

Both the US and Israel called for regime change in Iran and urged a popular uprising after Saturday's attacks.

Trump and the Israeli military described their attacks as a pre-emptive strike against Iranian threats.

Operation True Promise 4

The Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters vowed that Operation True Promise 4 that has been launched against the US and



Israel will continue without interruption.

"As we had announced (before), in response to the brazen aggression of the US and Zionist regime against Islamic Iran, all the (Israeli) occupied territories and the bases of the criminal US in the region were targeted by crushing attacks of Iranian missiles," Major General Ali Abdollahi said on Saturday.

"This operation will continue uninterrupted until the absolute defeat of the enemy," he stated.

Major General Abdollahi added

that given the US and Israeli aggression against Iran, all American bases, resources and interests in the entire region will be deemed legitimate targets for the Armed Forces of Iran.

He also urged the brave and heroic Iranian nation to remain calm, vowing that the Armed Forces will decisively and powerfully defend the country, nation and national interests.

Nuclear talks

The aggression against Iran came again in the middle of new round of negotiations

between Iran and the US over Iran's nuclear program.

Back in June, the Israeli regime and the US had launched acts of aggression against Iran, killing more than 1,100 Iranians.

Attacks in June also were carried out in the middle of nuclear negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

Despite the aggression, Iran entered new round of talks to resolve the decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear program. But the US once again launched strikes on Iran in the middle of the negotiations.

Reactions pour in ...

Hours after the attack, Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares reported via social media that he was closely monitoring the situation.

"We call for respect for international law. Violence only brings chaos. De-escalation and dialogue are the path to peace and stability," he wrote.

China urges resumption of talks

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Beijing was "highly concerned" over the strikes against Iran called for an "immediate stop" of the military actions.

"Iran's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity should be respected," spokesperson said, demanding "no further escalation of the tense situation, resumption of dialogue and negotiation, and efforts to uphold peace and stability in the Middle East."

Pakistan slams 'unwarranted' attacks

Pakistan denounced the "unwarranted" attacks against Iran and called for an immediate halt to escalating hostilities.

During a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar "strongly condemned the unwarranted attacks against Iran and called for an immediate halt to escalation through urgent resumption of diplomacy to achieve a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the crisis."

Brazil expresses grave concern

The Brazilian government condemned US-Israel attacks on Iranian targets and expressed grave concern over the military action.

"The attacks occurred amid a negotiation process between the parties,

which is the only viable path to peace, a position traditionally defended by Brazil in the region," the government said in a statement.

The Brazilian government appealed to all parties to respect international law and exercise maximum restraint to avoid escalating hostilities and protect civilians.

Omani FM dismayed

Oman Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, who had been a key player in talks aimed at preventing a war between the US and Iran, expressed dismay at the Saturday morning strikes by the US and Israel.

"I am dismayed. Active and serious negotiations have yet again been undermined," he wrote on X.

"Neither the interests of the United States nor the cause of global peace are well served by this. And I pray for the innocents who will suffer. I urge the United States not to get sucked in further. This is not your war," he wrote.

Macron seeks UNSC meeting

French President Emmanuel Macron called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council after the US and Israeli strikes on Iran and Tehran's retaliation, saying the escalation "must stop."

"France is calling for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council," Macron wrote on X.

"The ongoing escalation is dangerous for everyone. It must stop," he added, warning that the outbreak of war between the United States, Israel and Iran carries "grave consequences for international peace and security."

UN urges all parties to 'see reason'

The United Nations' rights chief deplored strikes in the Middle East and

urged all parties to return to negotiations, saying attacks would only result in "death, destruction and human misery."

"I deplore the military strikes across Iran this morning by Israel and the United States of America, and the subsequent retaliatory strikes by Iran," Volker Turk said in a statement. "Bombs and missiles are not the way to resolve differences but only result in death, destruction and human misery."

"To avert these terrible consequences for civilians, I call for restraint and implore all parties to see reason, to de-escalate, and for a return to the negotiating table where they had been actively seeking a solution only hours earlier," he said.

"Failing to do so risks an even wider conflict, that will inevitably lead to further senseless civilian deaths and destruction on a potentially unimaginable scale, not just in Iran but across the Middle East region."

Iraq raps 'unjustified aggression'

Iraqi authorities denounced US-Israeli strikes on neighboring Iran and warned against drawing Iraq into the conflict.

Sabah al-Numan, the military spokesman for the prime minister, said that Iraq "condemned the unjustified aggression against the Islamic republic", and "warned of the consequences of the blatant aggression" against Iraqi sites.

In Iraq, two people were killed Saturday in airstrikes on a military base housing the powerful pro-Iran group Kataeb Hezbollah, which has threatened the US with an imminent response.

Earlier Saturday, Iraq said it had closed its airspace.

Witnesses and a military source told

FM says all ...

The Supreme National Security Council confirmed Iranian forces had initiated their

"decisive response" to what it termed "cowardly actions" by the "bloodthirsty American regime" and "corrupt Zionist regime."

Advising citizens to maintain calm and avoid crowded areas, the council announced temporary closures of schools and universities nationwide. Banks would continue operations, public offices would function at half-capacity, and authorities assured uninterrupted supplies of essential goods, fuel and medicine.

Iran's Cyber Security Command reported repelling initial enemy "cognitive and cyber operations" aimed at disrupting public life and psychological security. The command affirmed robust defenses were actively protecting national digital borders, thanking citizens for their "patience and support" during heightened tensions.

A government information council statement emphasized state institutions were operating "with full power" alongside the people to maintain daily services. It urged Iranians to disregard "ominous messages" and psychological warfare, framing the moment as a "test of national resistance."

"Today, despite all grievances, we stand united and of one voice against foreign aggression," the council declared, directing citizens to follow official channels for verified updates.