

Pezeshkian: Iran not to relinquish even one inch of own territory

Larijani warns of US-Israeli plot to disintegrate nation

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that the United States and the Israeli regime were seeking to push Iran and its neighbors into conflict, stressing that the Islamic Republic will not allow even an inch of its territory to be seized.

Pezeshkian made the comments while reviewing national health-care issues during a meeting with Minister of Health and Medical Education Mohammad-Reza Zafarghandi.

Addressing the Iranian public, the president expressed appreciation for the nation's resilience and unity, saying public presence and solidarity had disappointed Iran's enemies.

Pezeshkian added that their goal is to keep Iran and neighboring countries in a state of war and to sow discord among the regional nations.

He reiterated Iran's long-stated

position toward regional states, noting that, in line with remarks by the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the country considers neighboring states as brothers and seeks constructive relations with them.

Pezeshkian said any attack on Iranian territory would be met with a decisive response, adding that retaliation should not be interpreted as hostility toward other nations or their peoples. If Iran is attacked, Iranians are compelled to respond, the president said. The greater the pressure imposed on the Iranian people and territory, the stronger their response will be, he warned.

He said Iran's Armed Forces and volunteer units remain fully deployed across the country and are prepared to defend the nation, adding that Iran would not bow to bullying, injustice, or aggression.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council of Iran,



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian visits injured people in a hospital in Tehran on March 8, 2026 as US-Israeli strikes target civilian and military facilities across the country. IRNA

Ali Larijani, also warned of plots by the United States and Israel to fragment Iran, stressing that their main issue is not limited to political change but the country itself. In a televised interview on Saturday night, Larijani said Washing-

ton and Tel Aviv's objective from the outset of the conflict had been to destabilize and ultimately divide Iran.

"The issue for the United States and Israel was the disintegration of Iran. They were not looking for

minor changes; they were seeking the fragmentation of Iran, and their problem is with Iran itself," he said.

Larijani said that when the attacks began, they were launched with significant intensity, resulting in the assassination of Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and other senior figures of the Islamic Republic.

He said the attackers may have believed such strikes would create a shock that could lead to the collapse of Iran's political system and pave the way for dividing the country.

Larijani said another objective was to incite ethnic tensions inside Iran, including attempts to encourage Kurdish groups to oppose the government.

"The Kurds are an authentic Iranian community. They know what happened to the Kurds in Syria and how they were abandoned," he said.

"Today, the United States is trapped in the swamp of its own miscalculations and is confronting a nation that has turned this crisis into an opportunity for greater cohesion," he said.

Larijani added that threats issued by US President Donald Trump against the Iranian people failed to produce the reaction Washington had expected.

"Trump does not understand that Iranians may have differences among themselves, but they remain united as Iranians, especially when they see foreign interference," he said.

Larijani also said American citizens should be aware of the costs incurred as a result of Trump's policies.

Larijani also underlined that the image of American power in the region has been weakened.

"Countries in the region now understand that the United States is no longer capable of guaranteeing their security," he said.

Attacks on Tehran, Alborz fuel depots prompt IRGC strike on Israel's Haifa refinery



Firefighters battle flames at a fuel storage facility after enemy warplanes struck five fuel depots in Tehran and Alborz provinces on March 7, 2026. SHANA

International Desk

Five fuel storage and distribution centers in Tehran province and the adjacent Alborz province came under attack overnight, Iran's state fuel distributor said on Sunday, prompting the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) to strike the Haifa oil refinery in Israel with ballistic missiles. Keramat Veis-Karami, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Co. (NIOPDC), told national TV that the facilities were "the entire fuel supply centers" for the two provinces that were pounded by enemy warplanes on Saturday at 10 pm. Veis-Karami added that they belonged to the NIOPDC and

the Iranian Oil Pipelines and Telecommunications Co. (IOP-TC), both subsidiaries of the Iranian Oil Ministry. He said that four fuel tanker drivers were killed and 15 tanker trucks were destroyed in the airstrikes.

In a separate statement, the NIOPDC said that "precautionary measures" had been taken to minimize fuel reserves and that fuel supply to Tehran and Alborz provinces was being maintained from other sources, Shana reported.

The statement said the airstrikes caused fires at the facilities, and firefighters rushed to the scenes to extinguish the flames, with efforts continuing. Since the US and Israeli ag-

gression on Iran on February 28, gasoline consumption has jumped sharply from an average of 135mn litres per day due to people travelling by road from cities under attack to safer areas.

Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Saturday that daily petrol consumption had reached a record of 190mn litres, but there had been "no interruption" to fuel supplies.

Reza Navaz, the spokesman for Iran's Fuel Stations Union, told IRNA on Sunday that the public and private sectors in the supply chain, transport and distribution were working to ensure a "stable fuel supply." Navaz noted that there were enough fuel supplies but urged public cooperation to prevent possible shortages.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described attacks on Iranian infrastructure, as a "dangerous move with grave consequences." Minutes after the airstrikes on fuel depots, the IRGC announced it had targeted the Haifa refinery in Israel with Kheibar ballistic missiles which have 500kg high-explosive warheads.

Tasnim News Agency published footage purportedly showing smoke rising from part of the Haifa refinery.

China calls for immediate ceasefire to prevent spread of war

Armed Forces batter US, Israeli targets by missiles, drones

International Desk

China's top diplomat called for immediate ceasefire between Iran, the United States and the Israeli regime to prevent the spread of the ongoing aggression against the Islamic Republic into the region.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a press conference that the parties should return to the negotiation table as soon as possible to stop the escalation of conflicts. "This was a war that should never have happened and was not in anyone's interest," he said.

The Chinese official called for respect for Iran's sovereignty and security as well as that of the Persian Gulf Arab countries.

Wang Yi also warned that efforts to incite revolution or regime change in Iran do not have popular support, and history in the region has shown that war only creates more crises and problems.

The US and Israeli armed forces began their aggression against Iran on February 28 by attacking 30 targets across the capital Tehran, killing several senior Iranian officials.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was also martyred in the Saturday attack.

Since then, Iranian Armed Forces have decisively retaliated against the strikes by launching barrages of missiles and drones against the Israeli-occupied territories as well as US bases in region.



A missile is fired by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps at enemies' positions during the force's 26th wave of Operation True Promise 4 Operation on March 7, 2026. sepahnews.ir

Iranian officials have stressed that targeting US military bases in the region constitutes "legitimate self-defense."

Iran's attacks on Israel, US bases

On Sunday, Iran's Armed Forces launched new wave of missile and drone attacks against US bases in the regional countries and sites in Israel.

The naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched a drone and ballistic missile strike early Sunday on

the Udairi Base in Kuwait, which hosts US helicopters.

The IRGC said in a statement that the strike inflicted severe damage to the facility. It added that a massive fire broke out at the base following the attack.

The IRGC spokesperson said that Iran's Armed Forces are fully prepared for a full-scale war for at least six months.

Iran's Army also launched a series of drone strikes against the Israeli targets in the occupied territories and the American facilities in Kuwait.

The Army said in a statement that various types of suicide drones targeted locations in Haifa and Tel Aviv, as well as the US' centers and bases at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait.

It added that Iran's drones targeted ammunition depots, equipment warehouses, air defense facilities, signal data collection sites, and accommodation tents at Camp Arifjan.

Earlier on Sunday, the Iranian Army also said its air defense units shot down an Israeli Hermes drone over the Markazi Province.

Iran's air defense forces have shot down many US and Israeli drones since the beginning of the aggression against Iran.

Reversal of strategies...

3. Deterrence via punishment:

Since pre-war deterrence failed to daunt the enemy, Iran has shifted to deterrence during war. The goal is to demonstrate that continuing the war will incur unbearable costs — including dragging the war into neighboring countries hosting US bases and disrupting global energy supply chains.

International engagement

Iran seeks to leverage China's concerns over regional energy stability and exploit Beijing's distrust of US long-term

goals in weakening China's allies. China, the world's largest energy importer, purchases a significant portion of Iran's oil exports. Any instability in the Persian Gulf directly harms Beijing's interests. Russia, meanwhile, views the coalition's victory over Iran as a threat to its own security and interests.

Iran, having learned from bitter experiences of European involvement in past wars, prevent engaging Europe in this conflict. This has deepened the rift between Europe and the US, with the EU now viewing this war as one that brings no benefit and has

severely damaged its energy sector.

Outcome of war

The outcome of this war hinges on two variables: the enemy's stockpiles and will-power. The US and Israeli coalition must demonstrate that they possess sufficient resilience and ammunition to pursue invisible enemies across a vast geography (1.6 million square kilometers). Iran, in turn, must prove that it can sustain its mosaic network despite sanctions and continuous attacks — while delivering heavy daily blows to the coalition.

What distinguishes this war is the "reversal of strategies." The US seeks a short, decisive war, while Iran, as a regional power, leverages innovative military and resilience-based strategies to erode Washington's assets. Victory in this equation is fluid: Iran, backed by a strong popular base, will continue to survive — and a new regional order will emerge from this conflict.

In contrast, if the US achieves any initial goal, it will ultimately be trapped in the quagmire of a war of attrition — and, without doubt, the loser of this conflict.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi

Cartoonist