

Pezeshkian condemns European approach on US-Israeli aggression

Iran has not requested ceasefire, nor resumption of talks: **FM**

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian criticized the "destructive approach" of some European countries regarding the US-Israeli aggression, urging them to adhere to the rule of international law.

The remarks came during a phone conversation with French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday, as tensions continue to rise following a recent exchange of attacks between Iran on the one side and the US and Israel on the other, president. ir reported.

Pezeshkian attributed the root causes of insecurity and

instability in the region to the hostile actions of Israel, including the ongoing bloodshed in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as two wars with US involvement against Iran.

Macron, in the phone call, called for an end to the conflict and a de-escalation of tensions. He later tweeted that he had called for an immediate halt to Iran's attacks on regional countries. Pezeshkian explained that recent attacks on Iranian islands, Kharg and Abu Musa, are examples of strikes carried out against Iran using the territory of some Persian Gulf countries.

He stated that allowing the US to utilize territory and facilities



Emanuel Macron

Masoud Pezeshkian

ties for "brutal attacks" against Iran is in violation of international law and the principle of good neighborliness.

"The Iranian people, government, and armed forces have never sought tension or conflict," Pezeshkian said, "but there is no doubt that we will confront aggressors and decisively defend our territorial integrity and na-

tional security with popular support and reliance on our national capabilities."

Strait of Hormuz not closed

Macron also tweeted that he had called for the swift restoration of freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Foreign Minister Ab-

bas Araghchi had earlier asserted in an interview with CBS that Iran has not closed the Strait of Hormuz, but ships are avoiding the area due to insecurity caused by US aggression.

He added that Iranian military forces have previously allowed groups of ships from various non-hostile countries to pass safely.

Nevertheless, France, following a US request for assistance in countering Iran in the Strait, has announced it will not deploy warships to the area.

This request has been met with lukewarm responses from other nations. Japan stated that deploying warships to the Strait of Hormuz faces significant obstacles. China only indicated it would play a constructive role in de-escalating tensions and restoring peace as a "friendly neighbor" to Middle Eastern countries. South Korea stated it is reviewing the US request for ship deployment and will consider the matter. The UK has said

it is examining "all options" for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, while Italy has emphasized diplomatic efforts to reduce military tensions.

In his interview, Araghchi also stressed that Iran has not requested a ceasefire, nor has it sought negotiations.

"We are ready to defend ourselves as long as necessary. We have been doing so, and we will continue to do so until President Trump realizes that this is an illegal and unwinnable war."

He later reiterated in a tweet that Iranian armed forces will continue to fire until the US president realizes that the war is wrong and "must never be repeated."

IRGC launches for first time strategic Sejil ballistic missiles at Israel

Regional centers working with USS Gerald Ford deemed 'legitimate target'

International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched Sejil missiles at the Israeli-occupied territories for first time since the outbreak of the US-Israeli war of aggression on February 28.

The IRGC's maiden launch of the advanced missiles was carried out during the 54th wave of retaliatory strikes against the illegal regime as part of Operation True Promise 4.

In a statement, the IRGC's Public Relations Office said the fresh wave of strikes included the launch of super heavy Khorramshahr missiles equipped with a two-ton warhead, along with Khaybar-shekan (Khaybar-buster), Qadr, and Emad missiles.

It noted that for the first time in Operation True Promise 4, the strategic and solid-fuel missile Sejil was fired against the centers of management and decision-making that influence the Israeli regime's air-based operations.

The IRGC also said in another statement that its naval forces simultaneous-



The photo shows the aftermath of Iranian missiles fired at Rishon LeZion, south of Tel Aviv, on March 15, 2026 in retaliatory strikes against the occupied territories amid the ongoing US-Israeli aggression on Iran.

ly targeted four airbases belonging to the terrorist US forces in the region, including Al Dhafra Air Base in the UAE.

In this large-scale operation, the IRGC struck command and control centers, flight control towers, as well as support and equipment warehouses at the US bases, using various precision guided ballistic and cruise missiles equipped with new warheads, and different types of suicide drones, the statement read.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson for the Khatam al-Anbia Central Headquarters of the Iranian Armed Forces that is tasked with the layout and arrangement of operations involving various Iranian military units.

The US and the Israeli regime launched a large-scale unprovoked military campaign against Iran following the assassination of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khomeini, along with several senior military commanders and civilians on February 28.

The attacks have involved extensive aerial strikes on both military and civilian locations across Iran, causing significant casualties and widespread damage to infrastructure.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces have carried out retaliatory operations, targeting American and Israeli positions in the occupied territories and at regional bases with waves of missiles and drones.

ences for the American aircraft carrier are deemed to be the legitimate targets of strikes by the Iranian Armed Forces.

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Iran warns regional countries of assisting US to appease it

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Monday that no regional country should allow its territory or facilities to be used by aggressors against Iran to "appease them," adding that documentation of attacks from neighboring countries is underway.

Addressing his weekly press conference, Baqaei said that Tehran had warned regional countries not to put their territory at the disposal of aggressors against Iran for months and they all assured Iran that such a thing would not happen.

But, "What we have witnessed is the constant use of these countries' facilities by the United States. We have told all these countries that we have no problems with them and will have relations with them forever, but we have been subjected to aggression, and it is our inherent right to defend ourselves. We only target American assets in these countries," Baqaei said.

The Iranian official added that the regional countries know that under the international law, no country is authorized to allow an aggressor country to use its territory for aggression

against other countries.

In response to a question about some Muslim countries' double standards toward the aggression against Iran, especially over a recent UN Security Council resolution against Iran, Baqaei said the resolution passed with the support of Muslim countries is not "defensible".

"History will judge the consequences of any support for law-breaking and aggression against countries, Baqaei said, stressing that the people of Iran will not forget these days.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who joined the press conference at the Foreign Ministry, underlined that Iran has not requested for a ceasefire amid its "honorable resistance" against the aggression.

"When we say we don't want a ceasefire, it's not because we're seeking war, but because this war must end in a way that our enemies never consider repeating these attacks. I think they've already learned a good lesson with whom they are fighting - a nation that doesn't hesitate to defend itself and is prepared to continue the war as far as necessary."

Araghchi said that the country's enemies are



Esmail Baqaei

seeking an "unconditional surrender" of Iran in their new aggression - the goal that they failed to achieve during their June aggression.

The US and Israeli armed forces have launched an aggression against Iran since February 28, claiming the lives of more than 1,000 people in Iran, including the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khomeini and several other high-ranking officials.

Iranian armed forces have decisively retaliated against the strikes by launching barrages of missile and drones against the Israeli-occupied territories as well as US bases in regional countries from which it launches attacks on Iran.

Scourge of war ...

History's painful experiences demonstrate that in many

wars, children become the first victims of violence. From the wars of the twentieth century to contemporary conflicts, schools, hospitals, and civilian infrastructure have repeatedly been damaged or destroyed. Each time such a tragedy occurs, a fundamental question confronts the international community: have the rules of international humanitarian law remained merely words on paper?

The massacre in Minab must be viewed from this perspective. In a world where inter-

national laws and institutions were created to reduce human suffering during war, the occurrence of such a disaster reveals a deep gap between proclaimed principles and the realities on the battlefield. If the international community cannot safeguard the most basic rights of children—the right to life and the right to education in safety—then the foundation of many norms of international law will face serious challenges.

At the same time, the human dimension of this tragedy must not be forgotten. Each of those 165 students had a story, a family, and a future. Note-

books left unfinished, chairs left empty, and classrooms that will no longer echo with laughter and conversation remind us of a painful truth: war does not only alter borders and political calculations; it transforms the lives of innocent people forever. The reality is clear. Killing schoolchildren can never be a source of pride for any military force. Even in the harshest circumstances of war, humanitarian principles and international legal norms must be respected. If schools—the places that should be the safest for children—become battlefields,

then the very concept of human security is called into question.

Today, Minab is no longer just the name of a city. It has become a symbol of a larger question: can the world truly protect children from the violence of war? If the international community remains silent in the face of such tragedies, it will not only endanger human lives but also undermine the credibility of the international legal order itself. Perhaps the most important question after this tragedy is this: if the world cannot protect children in a classroom, what can it protect?

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

