

# IRGC likens US humiliating defeat to 1980 Tabas Operation fiasco

## Parliament speaker derides Trump's 'victory' bluster in rescue op.

### International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced on Sunday that the United States has once again suffered a "humiliating defeat" on Iranian soil, likening the failed American mission to the 1980 "Operation Tabas" disaster. "Following desperate measures by the American enemy to rescue the pilot of a downed fighter jet, and the subsequent entry of enemy aircraft into the central regions of the country, a joint operation was launched by the IRGC Aerospace and Ground Forces, alongside popular volunteer units (Basij) and Law Enforcement

Forces (FARAJA)," the IRGC Public Relations Department said in a statement.

The statement confirmed that the enemy aircraft were intercepted and destroyed, asserting that "the United States has once again incurred a humiliating defeat, mirroring the failure of the Tabas Operation."

The IRGC further noted that US President Donald Trump had previously claimed in a tweet that a "special operation" was underway to rescue the pilot of the aircraft downed in Iran, an attempt the IRGC characterized as a "cover-up" for a heavy strategic failure.

Referencing the historical failure of the 1980 US rescue mission in the Tabas desert, the statement concluded with a direct warning, "Trump the gambler, the God of the sands of Tabas still exists."

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf also mocked on Sunday Trump's claims regarding last night's failed rescue operation by posting images of the downed American helicopters.

Sharing photos of a destroyed US aircraft — wrecked during a joint operation by Iran's Armed Forces — on his official X account, Qalibaf said, "If the United States achieves three

more such 'victories,' it will be completely destroyed." Earlier, Lieutenant Colonel Ebrahim Zolfaghari, spokesperson for the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, announced that the "desperate efforts" by the enemy to rescue their downed fighter pilot had failed due to the timely joint operations of the IRGC, the Army, the Basij, and Law Enforcement Forces. He confirmed that the aggressor aircraft, including two Black Hawk helicopters and one C-130 military transport plane, were struck in southern Isfahan and were seen burning following the successful defense by the "warriors of Islam."

The Army also announced the successful interception and destruction of a Hermes 900 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) in the skies over Isfahan.

"An hour ago, a 'Hermes 900' drone belonging to the US-Israeli aggressors was intercepted and destroyed by a successful strike from the Army's Air Defense Force systems in the general area of Isfahan," the Army's Public Relations Department stated.

With the downing of this aircraft, the total number of enemy drones destroyed by the integrated network of the country's Joint Air Defense Headquarters has reached 162.



The combo pictures show the site of two Black Hawk helicopters and one C-130 military transport plane struck by Iran's Armed Forces in southern Isfahan on April 5, 2026.

## SCO ministers caution against regional impacts of Iran war



The SCO's seventh environmental meeting was held in Kyrgyzstan on April 2-3, 2026. IRNA

### International Desk

Ministers and environmental officials from member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) have expressed grave concern over the environmental consequences of recent attacks by the United States and Israel on Iran.

The concerns were formally raised during the organization's seventh environmental meeting, held in Kyrgyzstan on April 2-3. In the final protocol of the session, the member states condemned attacks targeting Iran's energy and vaccine production infrastructure, warning that the resulting biological and environmental hazards pose a threat to the entire region.

Iran's Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, Gholamhossein Yadegari, who represented Iran in the meeting, condemned the military aggression against non-military sites, including oil and gas facilities and vaccine production centers. The US-Israeli aggression, which began on February 28, have recently focused on civilian infrastructure. Reported targets have included universities, hospitals, and schools. Specific sites of concern are the Pasteur Institute of Iran, a major vaccine production center where damage could create public health risks, and the Mahshahr Petrochemical complex, where strikes risk the release of hazardous chemicals.

The SCO meeting primarily focused on sustainable resource management, climate change, biodiversity protection, and cross-border environmental cooperation.

In such circumstances, we can say that although we have suffered serious blows on the battlefield — whether in offensive and defensive operations, infrastructure and facilities — but in the strategic field, which ultimately determines the result of the war, Iran holds the upper hand. The achievement of the current conflict, whose full effects may unfold in the coming years, is Iran's dominance over the Strait of Hormuz. This control grants Iran a power tool comparable to the Suez Canal for Egypt or the Strait of Malacca for the United States. It also creates

## FM warns UN of catastrophic risk from strikes on peaceful nuclear sites

### IAEA chief's data disclosure could fuel attacks on nuclear facilities: Araghchi

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned about the severe humanitarian and environmental consequences of ongoing military attacks by the United States and Israel on Iran's safeguarded, peaceful nuclear facilities.

In a formal letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the Security Council on April 5, Araghchi condemned the strikes, which occurred during a 12-day conflict in June and have continued since the latest escalation began on February 28, according to IRNA.

He stressed that these illegal actions, particularly those targeting the operational Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant—a facility dedicated exclusively to peaceful purposes under the full safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—pose a grave risk of radioactive contamination for the entire region.

The letter detailed a series of attacks throughout March on sites including the Natanz nuclear facility, the Bushehr plant, the heavy water produc-



Abbas Araghchi IRNA

tion plant in Khondab, and the Shahid Ahmadi Roshan uranium enrichment site.

Araghchi expressed deep regret that these actions have not been met with explicit condemnation from relevant international bodies, criticizing the UN Security Council, the IAEA Board of Governors, and its Director General for failing to take effective measures or even denounce the violations.

He highlighted the extreme danger of repeated strikes near the Bushehr plant, stating that the "deliberate targeting of areas adjacent to such facilities, with full knowledge

of the inherent risk of radiological release, constitutes a clear violation of the Agency's safeguards regime and exposes civilian populations—both within Iran and across the region—to severe and unprecedented peril."

The minister further warned that the warfare methods employed risk massive environmental devastation, including potential radioactive pollution of the Persian Gulf, the regional atmosphere, terrestrial ecosystems, and vital natural resources. Such damage, he argued, would inevitably cross national borders, threatening public health, ecological bal-

ance, and economic stability for the broader population.

### IAEA chief under fire

Araghchi also criticized recent statements by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, accusing him of a serious deviation from his mandate, violating the IAEA statute and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA).

Araghchi asserted that during a media interview in March, Grossi disclosed sensitive safeguards-related information about Iran's peaceful nuclear program, which, based on past experience, could facilitate further attacks on Iran's safeguarded facilities.

He also labeled as "deeply concerning and alarming" Grossi's recent remarks alluding to the potential use of nuclear weapons against Iran, which he said implicitly normalize such threats against an NPT member state engaged in peaceful nuclear energy use.

The letter concluded with regret that there is no indication the IAEA intends to correct its past mistakes or return to a professional, impartial, and technically grounded approach consistent with its founding statute and the CSA.

## Iran gains strategic ...

In response to the aggression and the support provided by some Persian Gulf states to the enemy, including hosting US bases and personnel, Iran moved to block the Strait of Hormuz. This action is seen as a major strategic victory. Its significance lies in its potential to impact the entire world, influencing global fuel and energy prices, food security, and economic stability from West Africa to North America, Australia, Japan, and China. The effects of this move are already being felt worldwide.

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a dynamic of military and competitive influence similar to what Russia and Turkey wield over the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits. Consequently, Iran has transformed itself into an unchallenged power in global energy security. Countries worldwide must now coordinate with Tehran for passage through the Strait of Hormuz — a great strategic victory. In light of this development, the US President Donald Trump, to avoid further losses and prevent the conflict from escalating to other critical waterways like the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, should

swiftly seek a face-saving exit from the war. Otherwise, if the situation escalates to controlling the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, then Iran can assert itself as a global power. Therefore, the reasonable course of action for Donald Trump is to moderate his conditions and accept Iran's terms and declare the end of the war sooner. Otherwise, while continuing this path may indeed inflict significant infrastructural damage on Iran, in the future, the consequences of prolonging the war could strike blows to American hegemony — costs that would be far greater for the US than any other war expenses.

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