

# Iran: US-Israeli strikes erode core principles of int'l system

Washington suffering from 'maniacal hubris'

## International Desk

The spokesperson for Iran's Defense Ministry said the recent US-Israeli aggression against Iran has seriously undermined the concept of trust, norms, and accepted principles in the international system.

Addressing a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defense Ministers in Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek, on Tuesday, Brigadier General Reza Taleai-Nik warned that the consequence of such acts of aggressions would be chaos, insecurity, and the weakening of the foundations of global order.

"The world today is too complex to resolve issues through threats and force. The US government, in its current approach, has crossed all boundaries of humanity, ethics, and culture, and is speaking to other nations with the language of accusation, threat, and insult." Taleai-Nik said that Iran believes the US has become strangely and rapidly unbalanced and struggling with "maniacal hubris" to the point where its president openly speaks of seizing oth-

er countries' natural resources, wiping out civilizations, renaming geographic locations, claiming ownership over other countries' territories, and changing legal establishments in countries such as Venezuela and, more recently, Cuba. Unfortunately, the persistence of such an approach could push the world toward a dangerous, uncontrollable, and unpredictable situation, the Iranian official said. Taleai-Nik said that such approaches would impose major political and security costs on other countries and regional and international organizations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

## International system's ineffectiveness

He said that recent developments have once again exposed the international system's ineffectiveness in implementing the UN Charter and confronting aggressors.

What is needed to resolve this situation is genuine commitment to dialogue, respect for national sovereignty, and avoidance of any unilateral action, adding that escalating tensions and con-



Spokesperson for Iran's Defense Ministry Brigadier General Reza Taleai-Nik (R) attends a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Defense Ministers in Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek, on April 28, 2026.

● IRNA

tinuous threats would undermine any legitimate efforts to establish peace in the world, the spokesperson for Iran's Defense Ministry said.

## Strait of Hormuz

Regarding Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf following the aggression against Iran in February, he said the country would allow passage through the strait after the conclusion of the US-Israeli aggression under protocols that protect Iran's security. Taleai-Nik said Iran recognizes international concerns about the current restrictions it has imposed on passage through the Strait of Hormuz.

Taleai-Nik said, however, that the restrictions are a response to the US-Israeli attacks on the country, which began in late February and halted with a



ceasefire on April 8. "Allowing the smooth transit of commercial ships will be on the agenda after the end of the war, provided that protocols that do not jeopardize Iran's

security are observed," he said. The comments come amid efforts in the Iranian government and parliament to introduce a new legal regime for transit in the Strait of Hormuz.

## Tehran scolds US 'outright legalization of piracy' on high seas

### International Desk

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned the United States for the outright legalization of piracy and armed robbery on the high seas, following the interception of Iranian oil tankers by US forces under the pretext of so-called "seizure warrants."

Esmaeil Baqaei issued a statement on Monday in response to announcements by US authorities claiming the interdiction of vessels such as the M/T Majestic (formerly M/T Phoenix) and M/T Tifani in the Indian Ocean.

These ships were reportedly carrying approximately 1.9 million barrels of Iranian oil each, seized under so-called federal warrants issued by US courts as part of Washington's unilateral sanctions regime.

"This is the outright legalization of piracy and armed robbery on the high seas," Baqaei stated.

"Welcome to the return of the pirates — only now, they operate with government-issued warrants, sail under official flags, and call their plunder 'law enforcement,'" he stated.

"The United States must be held fully accountable for this brazenly lawless behavior, which strikes



Esmaeil Baqaei  
● IRNA

at the heart of international law and international free trade, and threatens the basic principles of maritime security," he added.

The US has imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports and ships in response to Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian officials have said the blockade is unlawful and a breach of a ceasefire that took effect on April 8 and was again unilaterally extended by US President Doland Trump hours before it was set to expire on April 22.

Iran has repeatedly warned that these provocative measures not only violate core principles of international law but also risk escalating tensions in critical maritime chokepoints.

Iran's military vowed to decisively retaliate the latest act of "piracy" by the US military forces against an Iranian commercial vessel and two oil tankers in the Sea of Oman.

## US responsible for disruption in Hormuz: Envoy

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN, Amir Saeed Irvani, said on Monday that any disruption or obstruction in maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters is the direct responsibility of the United States and its allies, whose reckless and illegal actions have turned a vital international waterway into a zone of heightened tension and danger.

He made the remarks during a United Nations Security Council high-level open debate on the safety and protection of waterways in the maritime domain.

The Iranian envoy emphasized that the Islamic Republic has always upheld freedom of navigation and maritime security in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman.

For decades, Iran has responsibly fulfilled its duties as a coastal state, guaranteeing the safety of sea lanes and the smooth flow of international shipping, he said.

Irvani pointed out that the current crisis stems from the widespread and unjustified war of aggression launched by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran since February 28.

## Iraq president nominates Ali al-Zaidi as PM-designate

### International Desk

Iraq's dominant parliamentary bloc on Monday nominated Ali al-Zaidi, a businessman and political newcomer, to be the country's prime minister.

The announcement by the Coordination Framework, a coalition of Shia parties, followed a meeting at the government palace. It came after weeks of internal debate among its member parties aimed at selecting a compromise candidate to lead the next government, AP reported.

President Nizar Amidi then tasked al-Zaidi with forming a government. Even with the backing of the dominant bloc, the new government is not assured of receiving the required number of votes.

The coalition had previously said it would back former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. US President Donald Trump publicly announced his opposition to Al-Maliki and threatened to cut off aid to Iraq if he was appointed.

While Al-Maliki remained defiant after Trump's intervention, the bloc decided to shift to a compromise candidate.

In a statement announcing Al-Zaidi's nomination, the Coordination Framework thanked Al-Maliki and incumbent Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani for their "historic and responsible positions"



Ali al-Zaidi  
● AP

in withdrawing their candidacies to help overcome the political deadlock. Al-Sudani issued a statement congratulating Al-Zaidi. Al-Zaidi, who is chairman of Al-Janoob Islamic Bank, emerged in the final stages of discussions as one of the leading candidates, bolstered by his economic background and business and investment connections. He has not previously held political office.

Following his nomination, Al-Zaidi promised to focus on making Iraq "a balanced country, regionally and internationally."

"This appointment comes at a sensitive time that requires concerted efforts from all political and social forces," he said.

Under the constitution, the designated prime minister has 30 days to present a Cabinet lineup to the parliament, which requires 167 votes to secure a vote of confidence.

## Global consensus on anti-Iran resolutions at UNSC 'gone': Grossi

### International Desk

Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi said that there is no more consensus over resolutions against Iran at the UN Security Council.

"We have to be reminded of the fact that until 2016 or 2017, resolutions at the UN Security Council on Iran were adopted by consensus without a vote, all right? And I think this question allows us to be reminded that that consensus is gone. And I don't see it coming back, perhaps for a long, long time," Grossi said in an interview published by the Council on Foreign Relations.



Rafael Grossi  
● cfr.org

Emphasizing the complexity of efforts to end tensions between Iran and the United States, Grossi said the diplomatic path must continue and that sufficient time should be allowed to reach political solutions. The IAEA chief also warned that any potential agreement on Iran's nuclear program would be essen-

tially incomplete without a clear and effective role for the agency in the monitoring process, adding that parties could fall into an "illusion of reaching a deal."

He further stressed the need for the IAEA's involvement from the outset of any agreement, saying any mechanism established without the agency's oversight would lack the necessary effectiveness.

Grossi, who is a candidate for the presidency of the UN secretary-general, also said the inability to find "common ground" is not limited to the Iran case but reflects a broader structural crisis in the UN Security Council.

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