

# Iran reserves right to counter 'insolent' US piracy: UN envoy

## US bears 'full responsibility' for fallout from seizure of vessels

### International Desk

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations underlined that Iran reserves all rights to duly confront the United States' seizure of Iranian vessels as part of Washington's continued illegal blockade against the country.

In a letter dated Wednesday, Amir Saeid Iravani said he was writing "to bring to the urgent attention" of the UN Security Council the "continuing internationally wrongful acts of the United States through yet another piracy-style seizure and deliberate targeting of commercial vessels, namely the M/T Majestic and M/T Tifani."

Iravani pointed to a public statement released earlier by a US attorney, describing it as "an explicit and deliberate admission of internationally wrongful conduct." He noted how the attorney had "boasted of the pirate-style seizure" of the two vessels and the subsequent stealing of 3.8 million barrels of Iranian oil.

"The US attorney's statement clearly confirms that the United States armed forces

have interdicted, boarded, and forcibly seized Iran's commercial vessels on the high seas on the basis of their bullying attitude," the letter read.

"Such conduct is nothing but another clear example of US addiction to lawlessness and constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 2(4)," he added.

Such actions against vessels engaged in legitimate commercial activity also pose a direct threat to maritime safety and security, and escalate the volatile situation in the region, the ambassador underscored. The United States bears full and undeniable international responsibility for the consequences of such atrocities, Iravani noted, stressing, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has every right, in accordance with international law, to counter these insolent actions."

He called on the Security Council to condemn the seizures, demand the immediate and unconditional release of all seized vessels, cargo, and property, and take measures to prevent their recurrence.

The United States began taking such



US forces seize a Guyana-flagged tanker in the Indian Ocean on April 23, 2026.  
● US Department of Defense

measures against Iranian vessels, despite President Donald Trump's announcement on April 7 of a two-week lull in unprovoked American aggression against the Islamic Republic. Tehran has condemned the blockade as a violation of the terms of the ceasefire and reciprocated by closing down the strategic Strait of Hormuz to all traffic with the exception of the vessels that manage to obtain permission from relevant Iranian authorities for transit through the chokepoint. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei also condemned the US for what he called the "outright legalization of piracy and armed robbery on the high seas."

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



ment," he said on Monday. "The United States must be held fully accountable for this brazenly lawless behavior, which strikes at the heart of international law and international free

trade, and threatens the basic principles of maritime security," he added. Iran's military has vowed to decisively retaliate the acts of "piracy" by the US military forces against Iranian ships.

## Iran to ICRC: US-Israeli strikes amount to war crimes

### Deputy FM says int'l humanitarian law exists 'in name only'

### International Desk

Iran's deputy foreign minister told the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Wednesday that US and Israeli military actions against Iran constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, including attacks on civilian structures.

Kazem Gharibabadi met with ICRC President Mirjana Spoljarik in Tehran, where he detailed "130,000 civilian, residential, hospital, school and infrastructure targets" which were hit by US and Israeli militaries during the recent aggressions against Iran. He cited specifically a deadly attack on the Minab school in southern Iran, which he said was carried out intentionally.

At least 167 people, most of the students, were killed in the missile attack on the Minab school. "If these actions represent the civilization the West and the US champion and seek to impose on other nations under the guise of democracy, human rights and their own way of life, then the people of the world reject that civilization," Gharibabadi said.



Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi (R) and the Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross Mirjana Spoljarik pose for a photo during a meeting in Tehran, Iran, on April 29, 2026.  
● IRNA

He added that international law and international humanitarian law "exist in name only," accusing aggressors of disregarding them entirely. He also criticized international bodies for failing to respond adequately or condemn the unlawful aggression and war crimes committed by the US and Israel against Iran. Gharibabadi further said that some regional countries had supported military aggression against Iran by providing territory, facilities and military assets. "With these documented forms of support, certain neighboring states cannot be considered neutral," he said. "Legally, they are part of this aggression, and Iran was left with no choice but to respond proportionally to deter and repel attacks originating from those countries."

Spoljarik, who arrived in Tehran to meet with Iranian officials, emphasized the need for all parties to respect international humanitarian law in armed conflicts. She expressed hope that continued diplomacy and talks could lead to an end to hostilities and bring peace and stability to the region. Accompanied by Iran's head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society Pirhossein Kolivand, she also visited several sites in the capital Tehran, where severely targeted by the US and Israeli militaries during the recent aggression. Earlier on the day, she also held a separate meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi. During the recent aggression, the US and the Israeli regime intentionally targeted Iran's infrastructure, nuclear sites, hospitals, schools, scientific centers and many other civilian structures.

## IRGC to unlock US arms tech from 15 unexploded missiles in south

### International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said it has discovered 15 unexploded US missiles in the southern Iranian province of Hormozgan and thousands of bomblets in the northern province of Zanzan, less than a month after a US-Israeli aggression on Iran halted with a ceasefire.

The IRGC's Imam Sajjad Corps, based in the provincial capital of Bandar Abbas in Hormozgan, said in a Sunday statement that its bomb disposal teams had successfully neutralized more than 15 heavy American missiles in the province. The statement said the missiles were mostly of the GBU and BLU types and other advanced models, adding that the weapons had been transferred to technical and research units of the IRGC for reverse engineering.

It said the Imam Sajjad Corps had neutralized or destroyed more than 60 missiles and drones, including bunker busters, cruise missiles, and advanced drones, since the beginning of the US-Israeli aggression in late February.

The force said that it had successfully concluded bomb disposal operations related to the recent war of aggression in all areas of Hormozgan province.

Meanwhile, IRGC's Ansar al-Mahdi Corps, based in the provincial capital of Zanzan, also issued a statement on Sunday, saying that its bomb disposal teams had recovered more than 9,500 bomblets in various parts of the province.

The statement said that the small munitions had been dropped during the US-Israeli aggression through the use of cluster bombs as part of aerial mining operations, with the purpose of contaminating critical and sensitive locations across the



province. It said IRGC bomb disposal teams in Zanzan had also neutralized or destroyed some 55 rockets and missiles during the recent US-Israeli aggression, including a GBU-57 bunker buster, which was successfully defused and handed over to qualified authorities.

The precedent is not theoretical, because Iran's 2011 capture of a single intact American RQ-170 Sentinel stealth drone near Kashmar produced a decade-long expansion of indigenous stealth UAV capability, resulting in the operational Shahed-171 Simorgh and Shahed-191 Saeqeh combat drone fleet. This time, however, Iran is not studying one stealth aircraft but a broader portfolio of American strike systems, including GBU-series bunker busters, BLU cluster munitions, cruise missiles, precision-guided bombs, and reportedly even neutralized MQ-9 Reaper and Harop-type unmanned systems.

The GBU-57, weighing approximately 30,000 pounds or roughly 13.6 tones, represents the US most powerful non-nuclear bunker-buster and was specifically designed to destroy deeply buried hardened targets such as Fordow and Natanz.

## Iraq PM-designate faces ...

Given the fallout from the recent war, economic pressures on Iraq, and al-Zaidi's economic background, can it be said Baghdad is trying to shift priorities from geopolitical files toward economics and reconstruction?

Since 2018, after Iraq was able to fully defeat the ISIS, the Iraqi governing establishment and political actors reached the conclusion that security and political matters should no longer override economic priorities.

In fact, all governments that came after 2018 placed economic concerns at the forefront, and the parties supporting them shared those priorities. Naturally, they sought to advance Iraq's development partly because it generates political popularity. Bringing in a figure with an economic profile fits precisely within that framework, where the

economy remains the primary tool for Iraq's development.

That stems from a conviction among Iraqi decision-makers and leaders that the economy produces security for Iraq. Al-Sudani, for example, managed to attract \$100 billion in investment and launch multiple projects. It is natural that al-Zaidi, should he win parliament's confidence, would proceed along the same track.

**What impact will this choice have on resistance groups, particularly the position of the Popular Mobilization Forces and their relationship with the central government?**

Al-Zaidi's name was originally raised at a meeting attended by Nouri al-Maliki and al-Sudani at the home of Faleh al-Fayyadh, head of the Popular Mobilization Forces. It would therefore be difficult to expect al-Zaidi, if appointed

prime minister, to take decisions contrary to the positions of the PMF.

At the same time, given pressure from the US government, developments in Iraq are likely to move toward the resistance factions and the PMF taking on a more organized and institutionalized form, with weapons, financial ties, economic relations and military structures all becoming clearly defined to the state.

Whoever becomes prime minister will be compelled, because of intense US pressure — particularly over dollar transfers to Iraqi banks, which could trigger economic difficulties — to regulate the PMF and Iraq's resistance groups. But naturally, that is unlikely to lead to excessive tension. These matters will be managed through negotiations and dialogue between Iraqi domestic leaders and resistance leaders.



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