

Tehran asserts 'inherent right' to counter US naval moves: *UN envoy*



Amir-Saeid Iravani, Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, speaks at a Security Council meeting at UN headquarters in New York on April 7, 2026.
● AFP

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations underlined the Islamic Republic's "inherent right" to self-defense and taking due

protective measures in the face of the US's hostile measures targeting the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Amir-Saeid Iravani made the remarks in a letter addressed to the UN secretary-general and the president of the world body's Security Council on Friday. The envoy cited aggressive military actions carried out recently by American troops against two Iranian oil tankers

near the port of Jask and the Strait of Hormuz, as well as attacks against several locations in Iran's coastal areas overlooking the waterway. "These aggressive and provocative acts, which the president of the United States has openly acknowledged, constitute a clear violation of the April 8, 2026 ceasefire and a blatant breach of Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations," he noted. Donald Trump announced the ceasefire on that day following 40 days of unprovoked aggression against Iran. He later ordered continuation of an illegal blockade of Iranian vessels and ports in violation of the ceasefire's terms. The official cautioned that the consequences of continuation of such aggression could be "catastrophic," extending far beyond the region and undermining international peace and security, "for which the United States will bear full re-



sponsibility." Iravani further expressed strong condemnation of the blockade, during which American forces have ventured repeated attacks against Iranian commercial vessels, resorted to their unlawful seizure, and taken those on board hostage. "Such unlawful acts amount to piracy and violate the international law and the UN Charter," he asserted. "Such conduct is wholly incompatible with the responsibilities of a permanent member of the Security Council that claims commitment to freedom of navigation. Rather than safeguarding maritime security, these actions undermine it and violate the fundamental principles of the international law." Such inclination towards aggression, the official stated, indicates that the United States prefers coercion over restraint, diplomacy, and dialogue, which are urgently and immediately needed. Iran calls on the United Nations to explicitly and unequivocally condemn the unlawful actions, and urge the United States to abide by its obligations under the international law and refrain from any further provocative actions, Iravani concluded.

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Iran maintains diplomatic path to achieve fair deal: *Ambassador*



Iranian Ambassador to Italy Mohammad Reza Sabouri (c) attends an international seminar on Iran held in Rome, Italy, on May 9, 2026.
● IRNA

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to Italy emphasized that military campaign against Tehran has failed and the Islamic Republic, relying on its defensive capabilities and national cohesion, has kept the path of diplomacy open to achieve a fair agreement.

"While fully prepared to defend its national interests, the Islamic Republic continues to keep the diplomatic door open for a fair agreement, provided that aggressors learn from recent failures and respect international law," Mohammad Reza Sabouri said at an international seminar on Iran held in Rome on Saturday.

The Iranian ambassador added that pressures and hostilities of recent decades against Iran are not merely a political disagreement but arise from the major powers' efforts to control the world's strategic regions. Referring to the acts of aggression against Iran by the US and Israel in 2025 and 2026, Sabouri said that after failing in campaigns of sanctions and Iranophobia, Iran's adversaries have resorted to military aggression to achieve their goals.

Sabouri said Iran entered negotiations in good faith, but the US and Israel betrayed diplomacy in the midst of the talks. He added that the Islamic Republic managed to

prevent aggressors from achieving their goals by relying on its domestic defensive capabilities and internal cohesion. Diplomatic efforts are underway to put an end to the conflict between Iran and the US in the region after both countries' first attempt failed to produce an agreement.

Qatar's prime minister called on Friday for renewed diplomacy on an agreement with Iran as he met in Washington with Vice President JD Vance.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani met with Vance and discussed Pakistani-led efforts to broker a permanent peace amid a shaky ceasefire.

The Qatari prime minister "stressed the need for all parties to engage with the ongoing mediation efforts, to pave the way for addressing the root causes of the crisis through peaceful means and dialogue, leading to a comprehensive agreement that achieves lasting peace in the region," the Qatari Foreign Ministry said on X.

CIA assessment says Iran can endure US blockade for months

International Desk

A US intelligence analysis has concluded Iran could withstand for months a naval blockade that the US has imposed on Iran's ports, casting doubt on Donald Trump's claim that Tehran needs the war to end imminently.

The CIA assessment indicated that Iran would not suffer severe economic pressure from a US blockade of Iranian ports for about another four months, according to a US official familiar with the matter, suggesting that US leverage over Tehran remains limited as the two sides seek to end a conflict that has been unpopular with US voters.

The confidential report was delivered to officials in the Trump administration earlier this week, four people familiar with the document told The Washington Post. By storing some of its oil in floating storage aboard tanker ships and decreasing the flows in its oil fields, it has enabled its wells to remain functional, one person said. It may also be able to sell oil through overland routes by truck and rail, the report said. "There's a belief they could begin moving some oil via rail through Central Asia," one official said.

The CIA estimate that Iran could survive between 90 to 120 days — and maybe longer — before facing more severe economic hardship, the four people familiar with the analysis said. Tehran also retains 75 percent of its prewar inventories of mobile launchers and around 70 percent of its prewar stockpiles of missiles, a US official said. The intelligence runs con-

trary to president Trump's statements about the country's rapidly diminishing weapons cache.

The official said there is evidence that the country has been able to recover and reopen almost all of its underground storage facilities, repair some damaged missiles and even assemble some new missiles that were nearly complete when the war began.

Trump, however, offered a more upbeat assessment Wednesday.

"Their missiles are mostly decimated," he said. "They have probably 18, 19%, but not a lot by comparison to what they had."

The US imposed the blockade on Iran on April 13 after Pakistan-mediated talks failed to produce an agreement to end the US-Israeli aggression on Iran. After the blockade was imposed about a month ago, Trump and top officials in his administration suggested it would produce an immediate crisis for Iran's oil sector. Trump said last month that Iran's oil infrastructure could "explode" possibly within three days because the blockade meant Tehran could not export the oil it is pumping from wells.

That scenario did not materialize. But the naval blockade has prevented dozens of Iranian tankers off the coast from moving through the Strait of Hormuz.

US officials say the blockade is designed to cut off Iran's oil exports — the country's economic lifeline — and force Tehran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and bow to US demands at the negotiating table.

Parliament to hold first session since US-Israeli onslaught

National Desk

Iran's Parliament is scheduled to convene today for the first time since the United States and Israel launched their aggression against Iran on February 28.

The session will be held via webinar, according to Abbas Goudarzi, spokesman for the presiding board of Parliament.

The last open session of Iran's Parliament took place on February 16, meaning the new meeting will be held after an 82-day hiatus.

According to Parliament, the session's agenda will focus on "market



turmoil, public concerns, and recent price hikes."

In its last session, Parliament had discussed amendments to the budget bill for the Iranian year 1405 (beginning March 2026).

The delay in holding parliamentary sessions has been attributed to "security issues," officials said.

The US and Israel initiated an unprovoked war of aggression against Iran since February 28 after assassinating Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and several high-ranking military commanders.

During the aggression, the US and Israel targeted many governmental buildings, military sites and residential buildings across the country.

Attacks on government's sites forces the country's officials to cancel the public meetings.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

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