

Iran's top military brass vows crushing response to 'enemy's mistake'



National Desk

Iran's top military command assured Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei that the country's Armed Forces are fully prepared to confront any "strategic mistake" or aggression by the "American-Zionist enemy." According to a Sunday statement by the General Staff of

the Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Ali Abdollahi, commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, met with Ayatollah Khamenei and presented a report on the readiness of Iran's Armed Forces, including the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), law enforcement and border forces, the Defense Ministry, and Basij volunteer forces.

Abdollahi said "all fighters of Islam" possess high readiness in terms of morale, defensive and offensive preparedness, strategic plans, and the equipment and weaponry required to confront hostile actions by the "American-Zionist enemies." He warned that if the enemies commit any "strategic mistake, aggression, or invasion," Iranian forces would respond "swiftly,

intensely, and powerfully." During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei praised the country's military and issued new directives for continuing action and confronting enemies decisively following the 40-day US-Israeli war against the country.

The unprovoked US-Israeli war on February 28 touched off days of bombing of Iran's military and civilian infrastructure, intended to bring down the Islamic Republic.

Meanwhile, spokesperson for the Iranian Armed Forces, Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, said on Sunday that the country's Armed Forces have the upper hand in the region, despite US acts of aggression and mischief.

"Despite the United States' provocations, thankfully the initiative remains in the hands of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the combat capabilities of Iran's fighters are at a very high level," Shekarchi said.

He also warned certain regional countries about the adverse consequences of siding with the "fascist" US military.

Warning to regional countries

"Any country which takes action against Iran will face a decisive response from our country's Armed Forces," the general pointed out.

The remarks were also echoed by the commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force.

Brigadier General Majid Mousavi said the force's missiles and drones have been locked onto enemy targets and are awaiting the order to fire. "The (IRGC) Aerospace Force's missiles and drones have been locked onto American targets in the region and the vessels of the aggressor enemy," Mousavi said in a message released on Saturday night.

Despite a ceasefire in place since April 8, the US military has repeatedly violated the agreement. In the latest of such violations, the US struck two Iranian oil tankers near the port of Jask and the Strait of Hormuz, and carried out assaults on several coastal areas overlooking the strategic waterway on May 7-8, which were met with a powerful re-

sponse from Iran.

Moreover, Army spokesman Brigadier General Mohammad Akraminia warned that countries complying with US sanctions against Iran will "certainly face problems" in passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran shut down the Strait of Hormuz to enemies and their allies following the launch of the US-Israeli aggression.

It began exercising far stricter controls last month after US President Donald Trump announced an illegal blockade of Iranian vessels and ports in violation of the terms of a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire.

Akraminia said the Americans tried to break Iran's control on the Strait of Hormuz by escorting destroyers and ships, but they encountered the Iranian Armed Forces, whose strong resistance led Trump to abandon his military campaign to reopen the waterway. Akraminia also warned that other surprising options await the enemy if it makes a new miscalculation and attacks Iran again.

Pezeshkian: Talks meant to uphold national rights, not surrender

Tehran replies to US proposal on ending aggression



International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday that any negotiations are aimed at securing the nation's rights and firmly defending national interests, stressing that dialogue does not mean surrender or retreat.

Speaking during a meeting of the task force for reconstruction of structures damaged during the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, Pezeshkian said the Iranian nation "will never bow before the enemy."

"If there is any talk of dialogue or negotiation, it does not mean surrender or backing down, but rather the goal is to secure the rights of the Iranian nation and powerfully defend national interests," he said.

His remarks came as regional efforts are underway to end the ongoing tensions in the region, which have been caused by a US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28.

On April 11-12, Iran and the United States held the first round of negotiations brokered by Pakistan, days after Islamabad mediated a ceasefire to halt the aggression on Iran. However, it failed to produce an agreement due to the US excessive demands.

Efforts to bring back the sides to the negotiating table also failed after Iran refused to take part in the second round due to the US violation of the ceasefire.

However, the two countries have been

exchanging proposals through mediator Pakistan to find a way out of the crisis which has also disrupted global economy.

Reply to US proposal

IRNA reported on Sunday that Iran submitted its official reply to the latest US proposal for reaching a deal that allows a permanent end to the US-Israeli war of aggression against the country.

The news agency said the response insists that current negotiations between Iran and the US should solely focus on efforts to end the war, and other issues, including disputes surrounding Iran's nuclear program, should be discussed at later stages of the talks.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry announced earlier this week that the country would submit its final response to the US proposal after carrying out deliberations and thorough examinations.

The US proposal had come in response to a 14-article plan submitted by Iran to allow a complete halt to the US-Israeli war of aggression. Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency said in a Sunday report that the latest Iranian reply is focused on efforts to end the aggression and to guarantee the security of shipping activities in the Persian Gulf.

A key sticking point in the current negotiations between Iran and the US

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (4th L) attends a meeting of the task force for reconstruction of structures damaged during the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in Tehran on May 10, 2026.

is the restoration of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway in the Persian Gulf, which has come under Iranian control since the early days of the aggression.

Iran has indicated it is ready to reopen the Strait if the aggression ends permanently and the US lifts its illegal sanctions and blockade on the country.

US President Donald Trump declared a ceasefire with Iran on April 8, following 40 days of the unprovoked aggression. However, he later ordered the continuation of an illegal blockade of Iranian vessels and ports in violation of the ceasefire's terms.

'Comprehensive agreement'

Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani held talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on regional developments and efforts to end the ongoing war, according to a Qatari government statement.

During the meeting in Miami, Sheikh Mohammed called on all parties to pay attention to mediation efforts and address "the root causes of the crisis through peaceful means," the statement said.

Qatar is seeking a "comprehensive agreement" for lasting peace in the region, it added.

Hours after his meeting with the US secretary of state, the Qatari prime minister also held a phone conversation with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

The two sides discussed "the latest regional developments and ongoing diplomatic processes," but did not provide further details, according to IRNA.

Deliberate threats to civilians 'indefensible, inhumane': ICRC

International Desk

President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric Egger said intentional threats against civilians are devastating for entire populations, emphasizing that "endless wars" should not be normalized.

"Any deliberate threats against civilians – in rhetoric and in action – are indefensible, inhumane and devastating for entire populations. We cannot normalize endless war. We need to bring humanity back into the conversation on conflict," Spoljaric said in an exclusive interview with IRNA published on Sunday. Spoljaric visited Iran less than two weeks ago to discuss humanitarian consequences of a recent aggression by the US and Israel against Iran.

During her visit, she visited some of the residential and civilian areas damaged in the US-Israeli attacks in the capital, Tehran.

In response to a question about the ICRC's position about the US's attack on a school in southern Iran on the first day of the war, which led to the killing of more than 120 children, Spoljaric stressed that the loss of civilian lives, especially children, is deeply tragic.



"Schools and universities must remain sanctuaries for learning. All parties must respect and ensure respect for the protection granted to schools under international humanitarian law," she said.

Referring to US threats of targeting Iran's infrastructure, the ICRC's president said international humanitarian law sets limits on how wars are fought.

"I have already said that any deliberate threats against civilians – in rhetoric and in action – are indefensible, inhumane and devastating for entire populations. We cannot normalize endless wars. We need to bring humanity back into the conversation on conflict. Civilians and the infrastructure they rely on to survive need to be protected," she said.

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