

IRGC warns repeat of aggression spurs war 'far beyond region'

Trump's 'big hit' rant to be met with Iran's 'many more surprises'

International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) warned on Wednesday that the war with Iran would spread far beyond the region if the United States and Israel resume their aggression against Iran after the US president threatened to strike again unless a deal is reached.

A ceasefire on April 8 brought a halt to the conflict, which has roiled the global economy, but with Washington and Tehran seemingly reluctant to resume the fighting a war of words has taken its place. US President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened Tehran with renewed military action, while Iranian officials have hit back with their own warnings of devastating action.

Nevertheless, despite sporadic outbursts of violence, the two countries have continued to take part in diplomatic exchanges, mediated by Pakistan, aimed at bringing a formal end to the war.

"If the aggression against Iran is repeated, the promised regional war will this time spread far beyond the



Israelis look at an impacted site following missile attack from Iran in Bnei Brak, Palestinians' occupied territories on June 16, 2025.
● REUTERS

region, and our devastating blows will crush you," the IRGC said in a statement.

"The American-Zionist enemy... must know that despite the offensive carried out against us using the full capabilities of the world's two most expensive armies, we have not deployed the full power of the Islamic revolution," the IRGC added.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also warned earlier on Wednesday

that any return to war with Iran would bring "many more surprises."

'US seeking to restart war'

Iran's Parliament Speaker and chief negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Wednesday said the US was seeking to restart the war and hoping the Islamic republic would surrender. "The enemy's movements, both overt and clandestine, show that despite econom-

ic and political pressure, it has not abandoned its military objectives and is seeking to start a new war," Qalibaf said in an audio message on his official website.

He said Iran's military forces have utilized the ceasefire to strengthen their capabilities, warning the enemies that the armed forces are in such a readiness that will certainly make them regret any renewed aggression against

Iran. On Tuesday, Trump claimed that the US retained the upper hand and that Iran was desperate for peace.

"I hope we don't have to do the war, but we may have to give them another big hit. I'm not sure yet." He has previously made similar claims without a deal being concluded.

The US president is himself under pressure, with rising energy costs beginning to bite at home.

While the ceasefire brought a halt to the fighting, it has not reopened the vital Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas usually pass.

The future of the waterway is a key sticking point in negotiations, but without a deal fears are growing for the global economy as pre-war stockpiles of oil are used up.

Rising fuel prices have caused widespread pain, with protests erupting even in Kenya, which like many African countries is dependent on imports from the Persian Gulf and where the public transport system has ground to a halt.

Leader extols Iranian resistance against 'two global terrorist forces'



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei
● IRNA

National Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei said on Wednesday that the Iranian nation is currently resisting "two global terrorist armies," urging the country's officials to redouble their efforts to resolve the nation's problems. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks on the second anniversary of the death of former president Ebrahim Raeisi who died in a helicopter crash in April 2024. "Now, we stand before the epic-making feats of the Iranian nation in their unique and historical resistance against the two global terrorist armies," Ayatollah Khamenei said, in an apparent reference to the United States and Israel. He underlined that this matter bears heavier burden on the officials from the leadership and heads of the branches of government down to all levels of management to address people's problems.

The blessing of Iran's national unity, the Leader said, now demands that officials redouble their ef-

orts to resolve the public's economic concerns, make direct and on-the-ground appearances, and define a serious role for the Iranian people in the country's progress toward a bright future.

The message comes as Iran continues to face heightened threats from the United States and Israel, following their unprovoked strikes in late February and ongoing threats of renewed aggression.

The message, released by the Leader's office on Wednesday, also paid tribute to the martyrs of the April flight – at their head president Raeisi – saying they are "a reminder of the martyrdom of a multitude of servant-martyrs in the Islamic Republic of Iran".

In the 2024 helicopter crash, Mohammad Ali Ale-Hashem, the Leader's representative in East Azarbaijan Province, and Hossein Amir-Abdollahi-an, Iran's foreign minister, were also killed alongside Raeisi when their helicopter went down in mountainous terrain in north-western province of East Azarbaijan.

Pakistani minister in Tehran as US-Iran talks hover in stalemate



Mohsin Naqvi
● IRNA

International Desk

Pakistan's interior minister headed to Iran on Wednesday for the second time this week amid an impasse between Tehran and Washington over a proposal to end the war, Iranian state

media reported.

"Mohsin Naqvi travelled to Tehran to meet officials from the Islamic Republic," Iran's official IRNA news agency reported, citing diplomatic sources in Islamabad.

Pakistan has been mediating between Iran and the United States, with Naqvi previously in Tehran on Saturday to "facilitate" the process between Tehran and Washington, according to Iranian media.

Since a ceasefire between Iran and the US took hold on April 8, Tehran and Washington have held a single round of talks which failed to culminate in a deal.

However, the two sides have been exchanging proposals to resolve disagreements and end the war in the

region.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Monday that the US has sent a set of "revised" points and considerations to Iran through mediator Pakistan despite publicly rejecting Tehran's 14-point peace proposal.

"After Iran sent its 14-point plan, the US side conveyed its considerations. We also presented our considerations in return. Although the American side publicly announced that this plan was rejected, we received from the Pakistani mediator a set of revised points and considerations from their point of view," Esmail Baqaei said during his weekly press conference.

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said on Tuesday that Tehran's latest peace proposal to the

US involves ending hostilities on all fronts including Lebanon, the exit of US forces from areas close to Iran, and reparations for destruction caused by the US-Israeli war.

He added that Tehran also sought the lifting of sanctions, the release of frozen funds and an end to the US marine blockade on the country.

Vance boasts of 'a lot of progress' in talks

US Vice President JD Vance also said on Tuesday the US and Iran have made a lot of progress in their talks and neither side wants to see a resumption of the military campaign.

"We think that we've made a lot of progress. We think the Iranians want to make a deal," Vance told reporters

at a White House briefing.

Vance said he had just spoken to US President Donald Trump, who stressed that the core issue for the US is that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon. If that happens, Vance said, countries around the Persian Gulf would then want their own weapon, then other countries across the world would as well.

On Tuesday, Trump offered a deadline of several days for resuming strikes if a deal is not agreed. He had claimed a day earlier that Persian Gulf Arab leaders asked him to hold off on an attack at the 11th hour.

"I'm saying two or three days, maybe Friday, Saturday, Sunday, something, maybe early next week, a limited period of time," he said.

FM spox blasts CENTCOM's 'shameless distortion' on Minab massacre



The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman rejected as totally "baseless" the US Central Command (CENTCOM)'s narrative regarding the missile strike on Minab's Shajareh Tayyebeh school, saying the US is attempting to shun accountability for the massacre of more than 170 students and teachers.

In a post on his X account early Wednesday, Esmail Baqaei said that the "claim by US Central Command (CENTCOM) that the targeted #Shajareh_Tayyebeh Elementary School in #Minab was locat-

ed within a 'missile launch facility' is a baseless fabrication and an appalling lie."

On the very first day of the unprovoked war of aggression by a US-Israeli military coalition on February 28, US Tomahawk missiles struck Shajareh Tayyebeh Girls' Elementary School in Minab, in southern Iran, killing at least 175 people, most of them schoolgirls, Press TV reported.

Baqaei's remarks came after Adm. Brad Cooper, the CENTCOM commander, claimed during a House committee hearing that the school was located near an active Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) cruise missile base.

"This shameless distortion is a clear attempt to obscure the severe reality of the 28 February missile attacks, which resulted in the tragic slaughtering of over 170 school children and their teachers," Baqaei stressed.

"Targeting an active educational institu-

tion during school hours constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian law and is a clear war crime. The civilian nature of the site cannot be obscured by technical misrepresentations." "The military commanders and United States authorities responsible for ordering and executing this catastrophic assault must be held fully accountable under international law," the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasized.

Multiple independent investigations, including visual analyses by CBC News and satellite imagery from Planet Labs, revealed a pattern of precision-guided munitions striking the school. Former Pentagon expert Wes Bryant concluded the attack was "absolutely deliberately targeted." President Donald Trump had claimed without evidence that, "That was done by Iran, because they're very inaccurate with their munitions."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

