

IRGC strikes US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain after anti-Iran attacks

Tehran raps US aggression as 'flagrant' breach of ceasefire

International Desk

Iran launched a salvo of missiles at US military bases in Bahrain and Kuwait on Saturday in response to renewed American strikes on the country.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said in a statement that it targeted two US air bases in Kuwait and the remaining facilities of the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain in response to the latest US aggression.

The IRGC said that at 1:30 am, four violating oil tankers, instigated and guided by the aggressive American army and without coordination or attention to repeated warnings from the IRGC Navy, attempted to illegally exit the Strait of Hormuz.

Following warnings, one of the tankers was targeted and stopped, and the other violating vessels turned back, it said. According to the statement, following this incident, at 02:30 a.m., American drones struck a telecommunications mast on Qeshm Island and another mast in Sirik with two projectiles. It added that in response to the Amer-

ican onslaught, the IRGC's Aerospace Force immediately launched ballistic missiles toward two US air bases in Kuwait, identifying one of them as Ali Al Salem, as well as important remaining facilities of the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain. The IRGC also warned the US that "If such acts of villainy are repeated, the response will not be limited."

Earlier, US Central Command wrote in a post on X that "moments ago, CENTCOM forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones that were launched toward the Strait of Hormuz."

The post claimed that the attack drones posed an immediate threat to regional maritime traffic and that US forces subsequently struck Iranian coastal surveillance radar sites in Goruk and on Qeshm Island to defend against further attacks.

It added that American forces remain postured to respond to what it called "unjustified Iranian aggression in self-defense."

Attack on 'national sovereignty'
Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned

the nighttime US attack on coastal radar installations, calling it a "flagrant" violation of the ceasefire in place since April.

The ministry said it was an attack "on the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic republic," denouncing Washington's "hostile and provocative behavior." The statement also called on the regional countries to observe the principle of good neighborliness and adhere to the fundamental principle of international law that prohibits allowing aggressors to use their territory and facilities to carry out aggressive actions against other countries.

The ministry also called on the UN secretary-general, the Security Council, and other responsible international institutions to respond immediately and effectively to the continued flagrant violation of the ceasefire and the illegal action of the US.

The latest flare-up came despite a ceasefire in the war - which was trig-



gered almost 100 days ago by US and Israeli strikes on Iran - has been in place since April 8.

The exchange of fire between Iran and the US came days after the IRGC struck the giant cargo ship MSC Sariska, affiliated with the "American Zionist enemy", with a cruise missile in a reciprocal operation after a US attack on an Iranian commercial ves-

sel in the Sea of Oman.

The IRGC announced on Tuesday that the strike was a direct response to the "aggressive and treacherous attack" by the US military on the Iranian bulk carrier Lian Star.

The MSC Sariska, a Panamanian-flagged vessel, was targeted near Iraqi waters and sustained a major explosion.

'Save Lebanon from real foe': Araghchi hits back at Lebanese president

International Desk

Iranian officials on Saturday reacted to recent comments made by Lebanese president about Tehran's alleged influence in the Arab country, with the foreign minister urging him to focus on Lebanon's "real foe" rather than Iran.

"Save Lebanon from your real foe, Mr. President," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a post on X on Saturday, in response to Lebanese President Joseph Aoun's remarks during an exclusive interview with CNN a day earlier.

Referring to Israel's atrocities in Lebanon over the past years, the Iranian top diplomat noted that Aoun's comments overlooked the primary threat facing Lebanon and misidentified the source of the country's current challenges.

"Based on Mr. Aoun's comments, one would think it is Iran that has occupied one-fifth of Lebanon, displaced one-quarter of the Lebanese people, and is bombing his country on a daily basis," Araghchi said.

'Bargaining chip'

He further rejected Aoun's claim that Iran was using Lebanon as a bargaining chip in negotiations with the United States, saying, "Had Lebanon been a bargaining chip for Iran, we would have reached a deal long ago."

In the CNN interview on Friday, Aoun delivered a message to Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), saying "It's not your country, it's our country," after the chief commander of the force Brigadier General Esmaeil Qaani said the minimum demand of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement is a full Israeli withdrawal to the positions it held before the outbreak of the 40-day war.

Aoun further claimed that Iran is treating Lebanon as leverage in its talks with Washington, saying such an approach was "unacceptable."

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah began in March after the Lebanese resistance group launched military operations against the Israeli regime in response to its aggression

against Iran. A truce to halt the fighting began on April 17, but has never been observed.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei also chided Joseph Aoun for "selling out" those who stand beside him while remaining loyal to the enemies of Lebanon. In a post on X on Saturday, Baqaei endorsed earlier comments by Araghchi, in which he urged Aoun to focus on Lebanon's "real foe" rather than Iran.

"He sells out those who stand beside him and invests in those who stand against him. He abandons those who supported him and backs those who put him in a difficult position," Baqaei wrote in Arabic.

Attack on Lebanon's Army

Despite the so-called ceasefire, Israeli aggression continues unabated. The regime's forces persist in bombing villages and towns across southern Lebanon, systematically destroying homes, public facilities, and civilian infrastructure.

On Saturday, Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon killed nine people including three members of the Lebanese military, the Lebanese Army and state media said, days after the two sides reached a new ceasefire deal brokered by the United States.

An airstrike on a vehicle on a road linking the city of Nabatiyeh with the town of Marjayoun killed a brigadier general, a captain and another soldier, the army said, without immediately releasing their names. Another airstrike on the southern village of Saksakiyah killed six people and wounded four, state-run National News Agency said.

"The continued, deliberate, and repeated Israeli aggression against Lebanon, its people and its army only strengthen our resolve, faith and determination," the army said in its statement.

The war has claimed at least 3,526 lives since March 2, according to the latest figures released by Lebanon's Health Ministry on Thursday.

Leader's aide casts Trump as main obstacle to Iran-US talks

International Desk

Mohsen Rezaei, a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said that US president is the principal obstacle to progress in peace negotiations between Tehran and Washington while warning that the US would "enter into a dark corridor" if it resumes fighting.

"The ball is now in America's court. Trump is the main problem in the negotiations. He speaks ambiguously, and according to his own statements, this is his method. However, that approach does not work with Iran. He must speak clearly," Rezaei said during an interview with CNN on Friday. Negotiations are at an impasse that Trump must resolve, Rezaei added, noting that "a profound atmosphere of mistrust" currently dominates the issue of interaction between the two sides.

When told that Trump has claimed he is waiting for Iran's response to US peace proposal, Rezaei said, "Iran has clearly stated that our frozen assets should be released, but the Americans provide ambiguous responses."

He framed the demand as a trust-building measure, saying the Trump administration's potential release of the funds would be "a new horizon for the future" of Iran and America. "If he (Trump) wants to reach an agreement with Iran, this \$24 billion is a test of trust that Iran wants to have with Trump - this is a test that America must



Mohsen Rezaei

pass and the path will be opened," he said. "This is our own money, not America's money."

He also warned the United States against leading itself into a quagmire by renewing aggression against Iran.

"They know that the cost of negotiations is far lower than the cost of war. If they choose military action again, they will enter a dark and endless corridor," the former chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) told CNN.

Rezaei followed his remarks with a warning about the potential geographical consequences of such ill-advised aggression. Commenting on the US's repeatedly threatening to target Iran's infrastructure, he said, "If the war continues and the blockade persists, we will expand the conflict beyond the region, from the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and the Mediterranean Sea. That would be very bad for the United States."

Tehran rejects use of IAEA report as 'tool of political pressure'

International Desk

Iran on Saturday denounced a report by the UN nuclear agency about access to the country's nuclear sites, saying that if the agency wants to be part of a diplomatic solution, it must refrain from turning a technical report into a tool of political pressure.

Tehran was engaged in discussions with Washington about its nuclear program when the United States and Israel attacked it on February 28, sparking war in the region.

Israel had previously struck Iran in June 2025, also while Washington and Tehran were engaged in nuclear negotiations, with Washington joining with later strikes before a ceasefire was declared. During both conflicts, Iranian nuclear sites were bombed repeatedly.

"If the agency wants to be part of a diplomatic solution, it must refrain from turning a technical report into a tool of political pressure," Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi wrote on X. In a confidential report seen by AFP on Thursday, the Iran International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) claimed that the lack of access to nuclear sites in Iran constitutes a "proliferation concern."

"While the agency acknowledged that the military attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities and sites have created an unprecedented situation, it is critical for the agency to conduct verification activities in Iran without delay," the IAEA said in the report.

The IAEA has never condemned the Israeli-American strikes on Iranian nuclear sites. Gharibabadi on Saturday said the Israel-

li-American strikes are "not only a violation of Iran's sovereignty," but also "a direct blow to nuclear safety."

"One cannot bomb safeguarded facilities, destroy the access and safety necessary for inspections, and then use the consequences of that very attack as a grievance against Iran," he argued.

Gharibabadi added that the agency cannot simultaneously report the effects of military attacks, overlook the responsibility of those who carried them out, and ask Iran to pay the technical and political cost of the insecurity created by the aggressors.

"This is neither verification nor confidence-building," he said.

Western countries, led by the US and Israel accuse Tehran of seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. Iran denies having any such ambitions.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

