

Armed Forces warn US against ground invasion, strikes on nuclear sites



The screen grab taken from video footage released on July 20, 2026 by Iran's Revolution Guards Corps shows a missile being launched from an undisclosed location towards US targets in the regional countries. ● [sepahnews.com](#)

Armed Forces remain prepared for any act of aggression.

Speaking during a visit to various units of Army Ground Force, Air Defense Force, and Air Force in the central province of Isfahan on Wednesday, Hatami said hostile powers had exhausted every means available against Iran's military personnel but had failed to weaken their resolve.

"The enemy, driven by its hatred and animosity toward the Army's fighters, did everything within its power against them. But the warriors of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran remain standing tall," he stressed, adding that the Armed Forces have continuously strengthened their combat readiness in anticipation of enemy aggression.

Referring to US expectations during its failed mission in southern Isfahan, Hatami said Washington had miscalculated the Iranian people's reaction.

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"In the events in southern Isfahan, the Americans imagined that if they set foot on Iran, they would be welcomed. Instead, they were met with widespread hatred and the unparalleled steadfastness of the Iranian nation," he noted.

General Hatami also warned that any foreign military incursion into Iran would be met with nationwide resistance.

"This proved to the enemy that if it sets its filthy foot on Iran's soil, it will face millions of people who will confront it with whatever they have in their hands," the Army's chief emphasized.

Iran's highest military command, the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, also sternly warned the US against acting on its threat of attacking Iran's nuclear facilities.

"The criminal United States has threatened to attack the nuclear facilities and other sensitive sites of the Islamic Republic," the headquarters said in a statement.

"It is hereby declared that, should the aggressor and terrorist military of that country proceed to such a stage, we will consider it an expansion of the war in the region," it added.

"Consequently, all interests of the United States, as well as those of its allies and supporters of that rogue and malign state, will become targets of powerful [retaliatory] attacks by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic."

The warning came after US President Donald Trump said, during a meeting with Lebanese counterpart Michel Aoun, that the US would target Iran's Pickaxe Mountain nuclear site "pretty soon."

It was not the first time Trump was coming up with such a threat.

"The repeated US attacks and threats against Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities not only constitute a flagrant violation of the core principles of the UN Charter, international law, and the relevant resolutions of the IAEA Board of Governors, General Conference, and UN Security Council, but also reveal the United States' deep-rooted enmity toward Iran's scientific progress and technological development," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said in a post on X following Trump's remarks.

"Washington's obsessive focus on Kolang Kouh (Pickaxe Mountain) where no nuclear activity is taking place is nothing more than a fabricated pretext for aggression, destruction, and sabotage," he said.

International Desk

Iran's Army chief warned the United States about any ground invasion while the highest military command cautioned against attacking the country's nuclear facilities, saying that any violation of the Iran's territorial integrity would be met with a swift and powerful response.

Major General Amir Hatami warned that any US military incursion would face a crushing military response, saying millions of Iranians would confront invading forces with everything at their disposal while the

cal mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation and expand people-to-people and cultural exchanges. He said these efforts would help ensure the "steady and sustained growth" of bilateral relations.

Chinese Defense Attaché Hu Xiao, who later addressed the ceremony, recalled witnessing what he described as the "extreme ferocity" of last year's 12-day war and this year's 40-day war while serving at the Chinese Embassy in Tehran. "I witnessed the extreme ferocity of the war and the tenacious resistance of Iran," Hu said. He also said he had seen Iranians gathering every evening and waving national flags in support of their government's resistance against aggression. "It is precisely through these experiences of staying the course during two wars that I have come to appreciate more deeply Iran's remarkable national resilience and its spirit of defiance unto death, as well as the profound sense of duty that a defense attaché must bear," he said.

Hu said the 40-day war "should never

have happened," and that China deeply empathized with the suffering inflicted on the Iranian people by the aggression.

"China has consistently advocated for promoting peace talks and facilitating negotiations, and has called for a comprehensive ceasefire," he said.

"China supports Iran and the United States in resolving their disputes through dialogue, so as to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East."

Hu also pledged to further deepen military cooperation between China and Iran. "In recent years, under the guidance of the leaders from both sides, the strategic partnership between China and Iran has been steadily moving forward," he said.

With the strong support of the Iranian Armed Forces, cooperation in bilateral visits, joint exercises and personnel training had continued to deepen, he added. "We will try our best to strengthen military cooperation between China and Iran to a new level," Hu said. Brigadier General Mohammad Ahadi, deputy for international cooperation at Iran's General Staff of the Armed Forces, also took the podium, praising the Chinese government's efforts and initiatives aimed at promoting global and West Asian security.

He expressed confidence that these efforts would contribute to security at both the global and regional levels.



Cong Peiwu
● CHINA EMBASSY IN TEHRAN

China vows support for Iran, calls for peace in West Asia

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

China has invariably opposed "hegemonic aggression, sanctions and coercive pressure," and thrown weight behind Iran in safeguarding its sovereignty, security and national dignity, Chinese Ambassador to Iran Cong Peiwu said Tuesday.

Speaking at a ceremony in Tehran marking the 99th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Cong said history had repeatedly shown that "there are no winners in wars and conflicts" and that peaceful coexistence was the right path. "As Iran's comprehensive strategic partner, China has always upheld a just and fair position," he said.

China supports all efforts conducive to peace and backs Iran in improving relations with Persian Gulf countries and other states in the region, Cong said, adding that Beijing was ready to continue providing assistance in its own way and play a constructive role in restoring peace and tranquility to the West Asian region.

Cong also said Beijing attached great importance to the development of China-Iran relations and was ready to work with Tehran to consolidate political

cal mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation and expand people-to-people and cultural exchanges. He said these efforts would help ensure the "steady and sustained growth" of bilateral relations.

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US regional bases battered by Iran's fresh reprisal volleys

International Desk

New round of Iran's retaliatory attacks against the US targeted its military bases in Kuwait, Jordan and Bahrain.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said it launched a new round of missile and drone strikes against US military bases in Jordan, destroying ten MQ-9 drones, damaging two heavy-lift helicopters, and inflicting casualties on American troops in retaliation for continued US attacks on Iran.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the IRGC said the strikes targeted the King Faisal and Prince Hassan bases in Jordan. The elite force also noted that an attack on accommodation facilities for US troops at the bases killed and wounded an unspecified number of American personnel.

The Iranian Army also announced a new wave of retaliatory drone attacks against US military facilities in Kuwait, Jordan and Bahrain, saying the operations targeted ammunition depots, logistics infrastructure, and accommodation buildings in response to repeated US attacks on Iranian territory.

The Army said on Wednesday that a large number of suicide drones struck ammunition depots and the logistics facilities of the command center of the US Army's ground forces at Camp Doha in western Kuwait.

The Army described Camp Doha as one of the largest and most important US military bases in western Kuwait, serving as a key logistical hub for American forces deployed across West Asia and housing substantial numbers of US Army personnel as well as naval and air force assets.



It also announced that Army's suicide drone fired at the accommodation and welfare buildings and an equipment warehouse used by the US military at Al Azraq Air Base in Jordan and the US military facilities located at Sheikh Isa Air Base in Bahrain.

The Army's statement said the strikes were launched in retaliation for the repeated attacks by the US against Iranian territory.

The US continued its attacks on Iran on Wednesday, targeting several cities including the capital Tehran. Kiar County in the Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province was also targeted by the US military at the early hours of Wednesday. The US army also launched attacks on three cities in southwestern province of Khuzestan and the city of Abadan in Ilam Province.

The US attacks have so far claimed the lives of at least 53 Iranians.

Tehran rejects France's 'baseless' allegations over embassy staff

Iran rejected as "baseless" and "false" a claim by France's foreign minister that two French embassy employees in Tehran had been intimidated, and said France should instead answer for the "interventionist" conduct of its diplomats in Iran.

The exchange followed an incident involving two French diplomatic staff in the Iranian capital. France has said the two diplomats were briefly detained and mistreated while carrying out cultural outreach duties, while Iran says they were found attending a meeting with individuals wanted on security-related charges before being released to the French Embassy, Press TV reported.

Mohammad Tanhaei, head of the Second Western Europe Department at Iran's Foreign Ministry, said reports from the relevant Iranian authorities showed that two French nationals attended a meeting on Sunday evening with several security suspects who were being pursued by Iranian authorities.

According to Tanhaei, the two individuals were questioned for a short time by Iranian security personnel after attending the meeting. He said multiple documents indicating "anti-security activities" were found at the location and that the relevant authorities were examining them.



Tanhaei rejected the French foreign minister's "false" allegation that the two individuals had been beaten. He said that once law enforcement officers learned the pair were affiliated with the French Embassy in Tehran, they transferred them to the diplomatic police headquarters and, after coordinating with the Foreign Ministry and allowing

them to contact the French ambassador, handed them over to the embassy.

He said the conduct of the two French Embassy employees violated the laws of the host state and the provisions of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Rather than making a "forward escape," France's foreign minister should answer for the conduct of the two embassy employees, Tanhaei said.

France's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday summoned Iran's charge d'affaires in Paris over the incident.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, in a telephone conversation with his French counterpart on Tuesday, protested the "unconventional" conduct of two French diplomats in Tehran, calling their actions unacceptable.

Araghchi said compliance with the laws and regulations of the host country and adherence to recognized diplomatic principles and norms are essential for the continued operation of foreign diplomatic missions, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

