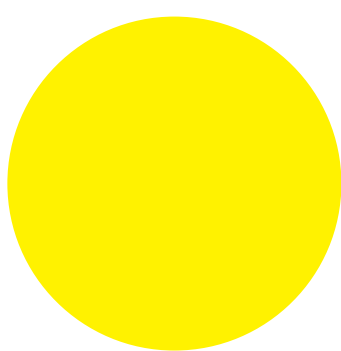


My cultural activities are tribute to Iran's culture: **South Korean ambassador**

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE



Iran raps Western human rights statements as ‘hypocritical blame game’

New military lineup signals shift toward offensive deterrence

By **Mohsen Farkhani**
International affairs analyst

O P I N I O N
E X C L U S I V E

Following the outbreak of the illegitimate US-Israeli war against the Islamic Republic of Iran in late February 2026, and the martyrdom of the Leader and a large number of senior commanders in the initial attacks, Iran's new Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei, issued a series of decrees appointing key figures to senior military and security posts. Mohsen Rezaei was named secretary of the Supreme National Security Council and the Leader's representative to the council; Ali Abdollahi was appointed chief of staff of the Armed Forces, with Kioumars Heidari as his deputy; Ahmad Vahidi, who was promoted to the rank of major general, was named commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC); Mostafa Izadi was appointed deputy IRGC commander; Ali Ozmaei was named commander of the IRGC Navy; and Hossein Taeb was appointed head of the Basij Organization. All of these figures are known for their hard-line and uncompromising positions toward the West.

These appointments cannot be viewed merely as a redistribution of responsibilities or an effort to fill the gaps left by the martyrdom of previous commanders. Their main significance lies in the precise fit between the individuals appointed and the fundamental shift in Iran's military-security doctrine — a shift from defensive deterrence based on strategic patience to offensive deterrence based on punishment. The adoption of this doctrine sends a clear message of Iranian deterrence, resting on two pillars: overt and covert military capabilities, and the credibility of deterrence. Following Iran's strategic victory in its asymmetric war with the United States, this message has gained greater relevance and substance for Tehran. Against this backdrop, the appointments as a whole signal a strategic realignment of the country's military and security structure amid the ongoing war and the transition in the international order, in a way that any escalation by the United States or Israel will be met with a heavier and more costly response, making the threat of punishment credible to the adversary and consolidating deterrence.

Iran rejects US claims of normal traffic in Strait of Hormuz, asserts full control



Vessels are seen in the Strait of Hormuz, off the port city of Bandar Abbas in southern Iran on August 10, 2026.



Iran oil output rises to 2.478m bpd in July, OPEC data shows



How India's youth forced a union minister to resign



Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships: Beheshti, Beiranvand dominate as Iran enjoys glorious campaign

