

Qalibaf: Regional security order changing following aggression on Iran

International Desk

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Wednesday that regional security order is changing following the recent aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran.

Qalibaf, who has traveled to Iraq for a two-day visit, made the remarks at the site where Iran and Iraq's two iconic anti-terror commanders, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, were assassinated in a US drone strike in January 2020.

Iran's top parliamentarian said that extra-regional powers are losing their influence over regional affairs, while US forces are seeking an orderly withdrawal from the region.

Qalibaf said his visit to Iraq is aimed at contributing to a new regional order and strengthening cooperation among regional countries without foreign interference.

"In the midst of the war, I also publicly stated several times that the Islamic countries of the region should seek deep security interactions and relations that are sustainable with economic cooperation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready for this", he added.

Resistance in Iraq

The Iranian parliament speaker also said the Islamic Resistance in Iraq has become a major source of strength for both Iran and Iraq, stressing that resistance discourse has expanded beyond the region and gained global reach.

Qalibaf said the two Iranian commanders had played a role in fighting Daesh and protecting Iraq, Iran and the wider region from the terrorist group.

"Did the assassination halt the power and influence of the resistance?" he asked, arguing that developments across the region demonstrate that the resistance movement continues to gain in-



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf (L) meets Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 19, 2026.

● ICANA

fluence.

During his visit, the Iranian official held separate meetings with Iraq's president, parliament speaker and prime minister.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi thanked Iran for its support to Iraq, particularly during the fight against the Daesh terrorist group.

'Honorable exit' from region

In a social media statement, Qalibaf highlighted a profound transformation in the regional balance of power, asserting that the era of Western hegemony in the region is rapidly ending.

"In the new regional order, foreign powers' interference in the equations between states is re-



ceding at an accelerating pace," Qalibaf noted.

He observed that the United States, exhausted by its costly and failed military adventurism,

is now desperately seeking an "honorable exit" from the region. Furthermore, Qalibaf declared the total strategic defeat of the Israeli regime's expansionist

ambitions.

He stated that Israel's grand project of territorial expansion "from the river to the sea has become mere fragments of dreams."

Top general cautions Persian Gulf countries against helping US military

International Desk

Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces on Wednesday warned Persian Gulf Arab countries against assisting the United States' military in its aggression against Iran.

Since the start of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in February, many Middle Eastern countries have said they would not allow the US to use their territory as a launchpad for attacks, though Abdollahi cast doubt on those promises.

"Those southern Persian Gulf countries that issue various statements claiming they will not allow the United States to use their territory against Iran should know that nothing escapes our attention," Major General Ali Abdollahi wrote on his X account on Wednesday.

He said it seems unlikely that such a large number of military aircraft, particularly aerial refueling aircraft, could be stationed at regional bases without the knowledge of the host countries. "We warn that any assistance or facilitation provided to the aggressive US military will be regarded as participation alongside US military forces," Abdollahi said.



The Persian Gulf is dotted with US military installations. Since the beginning of the aggression against Iran, the US has used the bases for launching attacks on Iran. In re-



The satellite image shows a number of US military aircraft at the Al-Udeid Air Base, near Doha, Qatar.

● REUTERS

sponse, the Iranian Armed Forces have also targeted the military sites with missiles and drones and inflicted heavy damage to the installations. Iranian military officials have repeatedly emphasized that the presence of US forces and their proxies only multiplies the costs for the aggressors.

The Iranian Armed Forces have inflicted heavy losses on the aggressors despite their advanced weaponry and hybrid warfare tactics. The war between Iran and the United States broke out on February 28 with US-Israeli attacks on the Islamic republic, which retaliated with missile and drone strikes on US military bases in regional countries and Israeli positions in the occupied territories. Media reports have suggested that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Bahrain have all hit targets in Iran in retaliation for Tehran's attacks, though the countries have mostly denied the reports.

Spox denies missile attack on UAE; warns of 'false-flag' plots

International Desk

Iran denied launching missiles towards the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday after Abu Dhabi accused Tehran of firing two ballistic missiles towards the Persian Gulf country.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei in a statement "categorically rejected the United Arab Emirates' claim that Iran had launched a missile toward that country", calling it harmful to regional trust and security efforts.

Baqaei warned regional states against making unfounded accusations and urging vigilance over a history of "false-flag operations" seeking to implicate blameless parties.

He stressed that such conduct runs counter to the principle of good-neighborliness and undermines ongoing efforts to build trust among regional countries and prevent a further escalation of insecurity in the region.

The spokesman also called on regional parties to take into account the complexities created by the continued "malign actions" of the United States and the Israeli regime against regional peace and security.

Baqaei specifically referred to the history of multiple "false-flag operations" and urged regional countries to refrain from



● REUTERS

making unfounded accusations against the Islamic Republic.

Earlier in the day, the UAE defense ministry claimed that its air defenses had "detected two ballistic missiles launched from Iran towards the country."

The claims came a day after a drone attack targeted the office of Iraqi Kurdistan Region's Prime Minister Masrour Barzani.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned that attack in a post on X, writing, "Nothing justifies the reckless attack on PM Barzani's office. Kurdish friends should be vigilant against false-flag ploys to sow discord between neighbors."

He added, "We protected our Kurdish friends against [former Iraqi dictator] Saddam [Hussein] and [the] DAESH [Takfiri terror group], and we're thankful for the security they've provided on our border."

Iran declares French diplomats persona non grata over illegal activities

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry declared two French diplomats working at the French Embassy in Tehran persona non grata over activities deemed contrary to international law and the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

In a statement on Tuesday night, the ministry's Public Relations Office said the two French officials engaged in activities violating international law, particularly the provisions of the 1961 Vienna Convention.

The statement said that despite several weeks having passed since their unlawful conduct was exposed, no action has been taken by the French government to rectify their behavior or provide assurances that such conduct would not be repeated. "Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recognizes these two officials as



France's Embassy in Tehran

persona non grata, and their entry into Iran will henceforth be prohibited," the statement said.

In July 2026, the two French diplomats were briefly detained in Tehran after they were found at a meeting linked to a security investigation.

France accused Iranian security forces of mistreating the diplomats, while Tehran rejected the allegations and said they had

been questioned over "unconventional" conduct.

Iran's Ministry of Intelligence said the two diplomats had "extensive records of violations and conduct contrary to domestic laws and diplomatic obligations." After their identities were verified, the matter was reported to the Foreign Ministry, and the diplomats were handed over to Iran's ambassador to France in the presence of diplomatic police, it said. The ministry further said France subsequently launched a media campaign aimed at deflecting attention from the violations, saying an initial examination of documents found at the site revealed a project involving foreign infiltration and interference.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Tuesday that Paris will expel two Iranian diplomats posted in France in retaliation for Iran's move.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

