

Iran reaffirms willpower to defend sovereignty after renewed US attacks

At least 12 killed in missile strikes on southern cities

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday condemned the new US strikes on Iranian southern cities in the strongest terms, reaffirming Iran's determination to firmly defend its independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity. "The US regime, which has been driven to desperation in the face of the Iranian people's iron will to defend Iran, once again violated Iran's national sovereignty and territorial integrity on Tuesday night by attacking several civilian areas and infrastructure, including a number of telecommunications towers and sites in the provinces of Khuzestan, Sistan and Baluchestan, Hormozgan and Kerman," the ministry said in a statement after the renewed US missile attacks which claimed the lives of at least 12 Iranians. The ministry said more than 70 people, most of them women and children, were killed or wounded in one of the US attacks, which targeted a wedding party in Kuhstak in Sirik County, Hormozgan Province.

Footage of ruined decorations, abandoned shoes and debris strewn on the ground circulated widely in Iran following the attack on the wedding celebration that was turned into a funeral. "Such brutal war crimes, which are a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law, are reminiscent of previous American-Zionist crimes over the past year and a half, including in Minab and Lamerd," the ministry said. In response to the aggression, Iran's Armed Forces struck US military bases that had served as the launching points and logistical support for the US military offensive against Iran, the statement said. The US military also targeted a civilian airport, fishmeal factory and power grids in southern Iran. US Central Command (CENTCOM) claimed that American forces had launched attacks on targets belonging to Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). CENTCOM linked the strikes to what Washington described as recent Iranian actions against commercial vessels in

the Strait of Hormuz and US forces in the region.

Iran's retaliation

The spokesperson for the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, Lieutenant Colonel Ebrahim Zolfaghari, said that Iran's Armed Forces responded to the attacks by targeting American outposts across the region with drone and missile strikes. In the early hours of Wednesday, the IRGC and the Iranian Army launched a coordinated wave of missile and drone strikes against American military positions across Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates, inflicting extensive damage on their infrastructure, equipment, and personnel. The Foreign Ministry in its statement warned the regional countries to prevent US forces from using their facilities and territory to carry out aggressive operations against Iran. "The Islamic Republic of Iran emphatically calls on the countries of the region to prevent the continuation and expansion



A damaged building is seen following a US missile strike that targeted a wedding party in Sirik County, Hormozgan Province, Iran, on September 1, 2026.
● MEHR

sion of the flames of war in the region by preventing the American aggressors from using their facilities and territory to prepare for and carry out aggressive

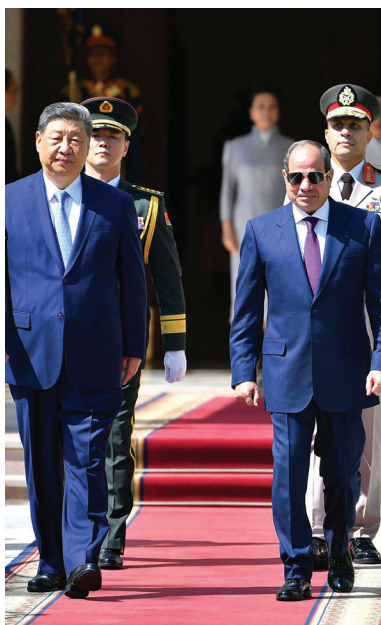
operations against Iran, and not to allow the sinister American-Zionist plot to impose permanent insecurity on the region to materialize," it said.

China's Xi demands end to 'external interference' in Mideast

International Desk

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that "external interference" in the Middle East should be opposed as the United States with the help of some regional countries continues its aggression against Iran. "We must uphold the principle that the people of the Middle East are the masters of their own affairs, oppose external interference (and) support regional countries in strengthening dialogue on peace and security," Xi told Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi during his first visit to Egypt in a decade. The Chinese president was referring to the US war on Iran, which has failed to reach any of its objectives. Washington has now turned to sanctions to exert more pressure on the Islamic Republic. On August 19, US President Donald Trump announced what he called the "most crushing economic operation" against Iran, claiming that Tehran would face "economic warfare and isolation on an unprecedented scale".

He also threatened sanctions against any country that does business with Iran. China, a major buyer of Iranian oil, has vowed to safeguard its interests. The Chinese Foreign Ministry rejected Washington's expanding pressure campaign and called for an immediate end to unilateral measures. "Cooperation between China and Iran has always been conducted within the framework of international law and should not be interfered with or disrupted," the ministry said. "China has already stated many times that it firmly opposes illegal unilateral sanctions ... China will take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard its own rights and interests." Xi also said during talks with Sisi that Beijing was willing to help protect maritime shipping from the energy-rich region, upended since US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February triggered the war. "China stands ready to work with countries in the region to safeguard the security of inter-



China's President Xi Jinping (L) walks along with his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi during his welcome ceremony at the Ittihadia Presidential Palace in Cairo, Egypt, on September 2, 2026.
● EGYPTIAN PRESIDENCY

national shipping lanes, advance development cooperation... and eliminate the breeding grounds for conflict," Xi said.

Two oil tankers hit mines in Strait of Hormuz

International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said two oil tankers had been stopped after hitting sea mines in the Strait of Hormuz, warning shipping companies against following US instructions and using unauthorized routes. In a statement on Wednesday, the IRGC announced the two tankers had evacuated their crews after being encouraged by the US military and had been placed at the disposal of American-linked elements to pass through an unauthorized route, IRNA reported. The statement noted that the IRGC Navy had previously warned vessels about the dangers of passing through mined areas. "Additional punishments have been envisaged for shipping companies that, instead of following legal routes, are deceived by the Americans, and these measures will soon be implemented," the IRGC warned. Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz following the launch of the latest bout

of unprovoked American-Israeli aggression against the country on February 28. Iran and the United States agreed on a 60-day reopening period as part of a Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding in June, but American violations forced Tehran to reestablish the closure. Tehran has conditioned reopening of the waterway on the implementation of the Islamabad agreement. The peace memo had recognized Iran's rights and sovereignty over the strategic conduit, and said Iran was responsible for removing restrictions that it has imposed over the Strait of Hormuz for vessels affiliated with aggressors and their supporters since the start of the aggression. However, the US attempted to undermine Iran's sovereignty by establishing an unsafe corridor near the Omani shores. Tehran says any movement in the energy chokepoint must be conducted under Iranian arrangements, as per the understanding.

Iran can withstand ...

Oil and petroleum products are among Iran's main sources of foreign exchange. What can Iran do to reduce the impact of restrictions and strengthen economic resilience?

The first priority is to protect oil export capacity, but Iran should not treat oil as the only answer. It needs to preserve existing customers, find additional buyers in Asia and build more stable commercial relationships. At the same time, more crude can be processed into refined and petrochemical products where viable. This can create value and give Iran more flexibility when crude exports face restrictions. But the current pressure is also hurting domestic production. If maritime restrictions make it harder to bring in machinery, spare parts, raw materi-

als and intermediate goods, factories can face shortages and higher costs. Iran needs to keep alternative trade routes open and prioritize foreign currency for essential production inputs. Another problem is that a sharp disruption in oil exports means fewer foreign-currency resources are available to the government and the economy. That makes it harder to stabilize the exchange rate and control inflation. Domestic policy therefore matters more when external revenues fall. The government needs to avoid policies that add pressure on prices, improve foreign-currency allocation and give businesses clearer rules for importing inputs. Energy efficiency also deserves attention. Iran consumes large amounts of oil and gas domestically, and reduc-

ing waste could free more energy products for export without requiring a major increase in production. Iran should also develop sectors that can generate foreign currency outside hydrocarbons, including mining, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, transport and digital services. None can replace oil quickly, but together they can reduce vulnerability. Resilience means giving the economy more choices. If Iran has several export markets, several transport routes and a stronger domestic production base, sanctions become less capable of creating an economic shock. That requires disciplined monetary and fiscal policies, stronger investment and a business environment in which the private sector has enough confidence to keep producing and investing.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

