

Iran urges accountability for perpetrators of aggression against country

International Desk

Iran's mission to the United Nations in Geneva called for those responsible for the US and Israeli aggression against Iran to be held accountable, as the UN Human Rights Council opened its 63rd session.

The Iranian mission in a message on X said the council had a responsibility to address attacks against civilians and pursue the rights of victims and survivors of the US-Israeli acts of aggression which began on February 28.

The mission said that with the opening of the 63rd session, Iran is once again reaffirming its commitment to bringing the voices of victims and survivors of US and Israeli actions to the fore.

It said the Human Rights Council has a mandate to address violations of human rights and humanitarian law arising from conflicts, including "indiscriminate and deliberate attacks on infrastructure and civilian targets in Iran".

It specifically referred to US's military attacks on Iran's southern cities

of Minab and Lamerd on the first day of its aggression, saying such attacks in both cases constituted clear war crimes.

At least 168 civilians, mostly children, were killed following the US missile attack on Shajareh Tayyebbeh Elementary School in Minab during the opening hours of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran. The US also targeted a civilian sports hall in the city of Lamerd in Fars Province, killing 24 innocent Iranians and injuring over 130 others.

Attacks on Iran's tankers

Separately, Iran's High Council for Human Rights said in a statement condemned recent attacks by the US against Iranian vessels in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, saying that the strikes are contrary to fundamental principles of international law, human rights standards and obligations relating to the preservation of international peace and security.

The statement said that under international humanitarian law, any military operation against civilian vessels,



UN High commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk (3rd L) delivers his speech during the 63rd session of United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council, in Geneva, on September 7, 2026.

● AFP

including oil tankers, while they were travelling through international shipping routes and the region's strategic waterways constitutes a clear violation of the principle of distinction and is incompatible with human rights standards and obligations to maintain international peace and security.

The statement came days after the US Central Command (CENTCOM), which oversees American military operations in the region, launched attacks on three Iranian tankers in the Persian Gulf and in the Gulf of Oman.

In response, Iran said on Sunday that it attacked a US naval drone trying to enter the Strait of Hormuz, hours after targeting ships in retaliation for American strikes on three oil tankers.

The tit-for-tat attacks came as the US



has intensified its aggression against Iran in recent days, carrying out strikes on several locations across the country. last week, US military bombed Iran's Larak Island in the Strait of Hormuz, killing three people. A day later, US launched missile attacks on different

locations in southern cities, killing at least 12 people and wounding scores others. In response to the attacks, Iran's Armed Forces launched a series of retaliatory missile and drone strikes against US military positions in Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Iran warns of retaliation over European move at IAEA

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Iran will take countermeasures if a new draft resolution by European countries and the United States at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is adopted, potentially paving the way for the country's nuclear file to be referred to the UN Security Council, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said.

Reacting to the draft, Baqaei said the European countries appeared to turn to Iran's nuclear issue whenever they fall short in other areas, or that the IAEA director general himself is making the agency available for political pressure on Iran.

"It seems that whenever the European countries fall short in other areas, they turn to the nuclear file, or conversely, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency himself offers himself up for exploitation so that they can exert political pressure on Iran," Baqaei said during his weekly press conference.

He said the move would reinforce the legal position of Iran, China and Russia that the so-called "snapback" mechanism was illegal and could not be "applied".

Baqaei described the preparation of the draft as "a repetition of a harmful path" and said the three European countries (France, Germany,



Britain) had been "sidelined" in relation to Iran's nuclear file.

He added that Tehran had repeatedly advised the three European countries to learn from an Iranian lesson: "Trying what has already been tried is a mistake."

He also stressed that inspections by the IAEA were no longer possible because US and Israeli attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities had blocked the way forward.

"The reason the IAEA cannot access Iran's nuclear centers and facilities is the crime committed by the United States and the Israeli regime by attacking Iran's nuclear facilities. They themselves blocked this path and are now blaming Iran for the IAEA's inability to access its nuclear facilities. This defeats the purpose," Baqaei said.

The US, Britain, France and Germany are seeking a resolution by

the UN nuclear watchdog's board reporting Iran to the UN Security Council for the first time in 20 years, according to diplomats and the proposed text seen by Reuters. If passed, the resolution would follow up on one adopted on June 12 of last year declaring Iran in breach of its non-proliferation obligations for not fully cooperating with an investigation into uranium traces found at undeclared sites. Israel started bombing Iran's nuclear facilities the next day, soon joined by the US Iran's uranium-enrichment plants were destroyed or badly damaged.

Iran has not let IAEA inspectors return to the bombed sites since then due to safety issues.

A resolution by the IAEA's 35-nation board reporting Iran to the Security Council would also be the culmination of a standoff over IAEA access to those sites, since the board has passed two resolutions in the past year demanding Iran declare its enriched uranium stocks and grant the IAEA full access to verify them.

"(The board) requests the (IAEA) Director General to transmit this resolution and the previously adopted resolutions ... to all Members of the Agency and to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations," said the latest resolution draft seen by Reuters.

'Strike our assets and you will get struck,' Qalibaf warns US

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf warned the United States that any attack on Iran's oil and gas assets will draw retaliation against American energy interests across the region. Qalibaf issued the stark warning in a post on X on Monday in response to recent threats by US War Secretary Pete Hegseth, who had claimed that Iran's oil tanker fleet is "defenseless" and that American planes, ships and submarines can strike them all, Press TV reported.

The top Iranian parliamentarian said US oil and gas companies operating across the region and at related facilities are accessible, warning, "Strike our assets and you get struck."

"It's simple: the oil and gas production chain here is sprawling, accessible, and exposed."

Qalibaf said Iran had already demonstrated its ability to respond in kind, emphasizing, "Ask the bases that are no longer viable."

His remarks came amid escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington over the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has restricted transit through the Strait of Hormuz since the early days of the US-Israeli war of aggression that began on February 28 and came to a halt under a ceasefire in early April amid the Islamic Republic's brave resistance and



successful retaliatory operations.

On June 17, Tehran and Washington signed the Pakistan-brokered Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), whose Article 5 places responsibility for reopening and managing the strait squarely in Iran's hands.

However, the US attempted to undermine Iran's sovereignty over the vital global energy chokepoint by establishing an unsafe corridor near the Omani shores. The US also resumed its aerial assaults on Iran and imposed a naval blockade of the country in violation of the war-ending deal.

The unlawful US measures prompted Iran to declare the Strait of Hormuz closed to all traffic.

The Islamic Republic has stressed that the reopening of the critical waterway depends on US compliance with its obligations under the MoU.

US push to ...

What options does Iran have to manage the issue of IAEA inspections while preventing it from becoming a new source of pressure on the country?

Given the developments of the past year and a half, during which the United States illegally attacked Iranian facilities that were under the supervision of the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency, the question is how much Iran can continue cooperating with an agency that has not

even condemned the unilateral and illegal attacks by the United States and Israel. The IAEA has called its own legitimacy into question. Iran's level of cooperation with the IAEA will certainly not return to what it was before June 2025.

If the United States seeks to turn up the pressure on Iran, for example by using tactical nuclear weapons against underground nuclear facilities, a country facing such discussions cannot simply ignore them. How extensive this cooperation will

be, how far US pressure will go, and whether Iran will remain in the NPT will all depend on developments in the coming days and weeks. But given the confusion the United States is experiencing, there does not appear to be much of a positive outcome ahead.

Iran's level of official and safeguards cooperation will certainly become much, much lower, and this will not impose significant additional pressure on Iran in the absence of cooperation from Russia and China.

