

Iran will strike enemy vessels again if necessary: *Senior commander*



Habibollah Sayyari
● IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Army Chief of Staff and Deputy Coordinator Rear

Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said on Sunday that Iran has struck enemy vessels and will target them again if further

action is taken against the country. "We have struck enemy vessels, and if anything happens

against Iran again, we will strike them," Sayyari said in an interview.

He said that the country has capabilities and resources that are widely recognized around the world.

"We have defended ourselves firmly and will continue to do so. Wherever necessary, we will take action to strike the enemy," he said.

Iranian Armed Forces have been in full control of the Strait of Hormuz since the start of the US-Israeli aggression against the country on February 28. Commercial traffic through the strait has fallen sharply, with vessel movements dropping to single digits amid the ongoing war on Iran and the restrictions on shipping through the strategic waterway. Tehran has said it will not

reopen the waterway until the United States meets its demands and takes steps to restore Iran's trust.

Iran has also warned vessels over using unauthorized routes to transit the waterway. Tehran says any movement in the chokepoint must be conducted under Iranian arrangements. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy said on Saturday that a crude oil supertanker is in flames after striking a naval mine while attempting to exit the Strait of Hormuz via an "unauthorized and dangerous route".

The IRGC Navy said the tanker sought to leave the strait when it struck the mine, triggering a powerful explosion. It added that the supertanker had switched off its navigation and positioning systems before

the incident.

The vessel was now burning in a massive blaze visible to people living along the coast, the statement noted.

"A massive fire awaits any violating oil tanker that seeks to disregard the security and regulations of the Strait of Hormuz," the IRGC warned.

The incident took place after the IRGC naval forces struck a giant liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) carrier in the Strait of Hormuz attempting to pass through an "illegal route" south of the strategic waterway.

In a statement on Friday, the IRGC warned that action against vessels using unauthorized routes would no longer be confined to the Strait of Hormuz, saying violators would be pursued and punished across the entire region.

Yemen's Ansarullah warns airlines against using Saudi airports after Riyadh attack

International Desk

Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement issued a new threat to Saudi Arabia's airspace on Sunday after an attack on the kingdom's international airport in Riyadh killed 12 people and wounded hundreds, forcing authorities to stop operations.

Saturday's attack, the deadliest on Saudi soil in more than a decade, was a sharp escalation in the Yemen war, where Riyadh backs forces against the resistance movement, who captured swathes of Red Sea coastline in a lightning offensive last month.

While the Ansarullah movement stopped short of claiming the strike, they threatened new attacks on the kingdom's airports, except for the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, warning passengers not to travel.

"The airports and airspace are exposed to targeting and constitute a theatre of operations for our forces," military spokesman Yahya Saree wrote on X. He stressed that Yemeni Armed Forces will continue implementation of the "airport for airport, siege for siege, and escalation for escalation" equation until the Saudi military aggression on Yemen ceases, and the tight blockade against the Arab Peninsula country is lifted completely.

The remarks came on the same day that Saudi fighter aircraft carried out a new spate of airstrikes against multiple locations across Yemen.



Smoke and flames rise from King Khalid Airport after Yemen's Ansarullah movement attacked the airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on October 8, 2026, in this screengrab obtained from a social media video.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting the group in Yemen attributed Saturday's attack to Ansarullah, calling it a "full-fledged war crime".

The assault on Riyadh's airport drew condemnation from the United Nations and world leaders including US President Donald Trump, who said he was considering joining Saudi strikes against the Ansarullah movement.

"We may. We're going to look at it. We just found out about the recent attack, so we'll make a decision," he told reporters.

Four Saudi citizens, two Bangladeshis, one American, one Egyptian, one Jordanian, one Syrian, one Palestinian and one Sudanese were killed, Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority said. It said some of the 309 wounded were in serious condition.

Authorities suspended operations at the airport into Sunday, a senior aviation source said, with air traffic monitor Flightradar24 saying the closure was extended until 2100 GMT.

The US, Canadian, German and Spanish embassies in Saudi Arabia warned their citizens to avoid Riyadh airport. The strike was the deadliest attack in the kingdom since a 2015 suicide bombing.

While seizing large swathes of territory along the Red Sea coast in Yemen, the Ansarullah has also attacked Saudi transport hubs, oil facilities and other civilian targets in the world's largest crude exporter.

Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni forces it backs have struggled to contain Ansarullah's advance, despite a counter-offensive aimed at recapturing territory including the area around the Bab al-Mandab strait that is crucial to global energy flows.

The Ansarullah had already controlled the capital Sana'a and most of Yemen's major population centers since the start of the war in 2014.

Riyadh's military coalition intervened to support the government the following year.

Iran denounces Rubio's threat to 'dismantle ICC brick by brick'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei denounced US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's threat to dismantle the International Criminal Court (ICC) "brick by brick" if Washington's allies fail to rein in the tribunal, describing the move as a direct assault on the post-World War II institutional framework.

In a post on X on Saturday night, Baqaei recalled the lessons of the 1930s, noting that "international orders collapse not only through aggression, but when the use of force becomes normalized and the world remains silent."

He challenged European governments directly: "Does standing by an alliance mean defending international law and the post-WWII normative & institutional framework – or standing with the U.S. as it dismantles them?"

Baqaei warned that sacrificing law and justice to appease an aggressive ally reduces any talk of human rights and a "rules-based international order" to "empty rhetoric."

The remarks underscore Iran's longstanding position that selective application of international law by Western powers undermines the very institutions established after 1945 to prevent aggression and protect civilian populations.

US President Donald Trump's administration on Friday imposed new sanctions on the International Criminal Court, hours



after one of its former judges won the Nobel Peace Prize, putting Washington on a diplomatic collision course with European allies.

The court denounced the move as an "assault on the rule of law and on the very foundations of the international legal order," and called on its 125 member states to take action to defend it.

"The Court cannot stand alone. Its fate now rests also in the hands of the states that created it," it said in a statement. "This is not just about defending a single institution, but about safeguarding the international order grounded upon the rule of law. History will judge this moment."

The Trump administration has long been hostile to the court, founded in 2002 to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, and has previously imposed sanctions on its prosecutors and judges.

Friday's move goes much further, potentially punishing companies that provide services to the court itself, amounting to an unprecedented attack on an institution founded on an international treaty.

Trump's unilateral approach ...

Given the strategic relations between Tehran and Moscow and Russia's standing in international affairs, how will Putin's direct involvement in conveying Iran's message affect the Trump administration's calculations? Could this role increase the cost of disregarding Iran's positions and pave the way for a more realistic political solution?

The defining feature of the Trump administration is that it wants to resolve its dispute with Iran directly and on its own. Unlike Obama, Trump does not believe in a collective approach or the P5+1 framework, and he has also sidelined Europe. If Europe is not at the negotiating table, Russia is certainly not going to be given

such a role.

The Trump administration is characterized by unilateralism. Trump argues that the dispute is between Tehran and Washington and that the United States does not need anyone's help. Either Iran will willingly accept Washington's demands, or American military and economic power is sufficient for the United States to force Iran to surrender on its own.

Given this logic and approach, I am not very optimistic that the Russians will be able to untangle the problem for us.

Nevertheless, diplomacy remains ongoing. Even during a war, diplomacy continues. War itself is also part of the same diplomatic process. When the parties fail to achieve their desired objectives, they

resort to war in the hope that it will give them greater leverage to impose their demands through diplomacy.

Under the current circumstances, unfortunately, the balance has shifted much more heavily toward war than toward an agreement.

I do not subscribe to the notion of a war-versus-negotiations dichotomy, because negotiations are already taking place. If there is a dichotomy, it is between reaching an agreement and going to war.

So far, the Americans have imposed two major wars on Iran without achieving their objectives. It is possible that they could impose a third war and still fail to achieve what they want. But negotiations are continuing.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

