

Iran urges end to selective implementation of IAEA statute

International Desk

Iran's permanent mission to international organizations in Vienna criticized the International Atomic Energy Agency's double standards and silence over US and Israeli military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, calling on the agency to end selective enforcement of its obligations and return to the principles of impartiality, independence and full implementation of its statute.

In a statement marking the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the IAEA Statute, the Iranian mission said the agency could not remain silent in the face of attacks on nuclear facilities under safeguards while claiming to uphold the credibility of the safeguards system.

The mission described the silence of the agency's governing bodies and secretariat over the military attacks by the US and Israel on Iranian nuclear facilities as a "serious and unprecedented institutional failure". It also warned

of the consequences of politicization, breaches of information confidentiality and discriminatory treatment of member states.

Iran further pointed to the absence of comprehensive safeguards oversight over Israel's nuclear activities, urging the IAEA Board of Governors and director general to put an end to double standards, ensure the full and balanced implementation of the agency's statute and respect the legitimate rights of member states.

The implementation of the statute over the past seven decades had produced achievements in important areas, the statement said. However, its failure to be implemented fully, consistently, effectively and without discrimination under all circumstances and toward all member states has diverted the agency from its fundamental purpose and core priorities, weakened the principles governing its work, undermined its professionalism and eroded its authority and credibility.

"The undeniable reality is that the statute is the constitution of the agency, not a document that can be invoked selectively or interpreted on the basis of the interests of powerful states or a group of states," the mission said.

The statement cited a persistent disparity between the scrutiny and inspections applied to Iran and the absence of comprehensive safeguards covering all of Israel's nuclear activities.

This disparity raised fundamental questions about the credibility and consistency of international nuclear non-proliferation norms, the mission added.

A credible, comprehensive and non-discriminatory approach to nuclear verification across the Middle East is a legitimate demand and a long-standing objective of regional states that are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the statement said, adding that regional security could not be built on selective



REUTERS

oversight and unequal expectations. US and Israeli military strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities in 2025 and 2026 constituted serious and substantive violations of the peremptory norm of international law prohibiting

aggression, the statement said. The attacks posed a grave challenge to nuclear safety and security, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the credibility of the IAEA and the integrity of its safeguards system, it added.

IRGC warns US over encouraging ships to transit unauthorized routes in Hormuz

International Desk

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) threatened to strike American bases across the Middle East if the US military continues to encourage ships transit through the unauthorized routes in the Strait of Hormuz.

"The US military must know that if this trend continues, the conflict will extend to its bases in the region," the IRGC said in a statement.

"This is a serious warning," they added.

The IRGC Navy said that four vessels were hit while transferring oil cargoes between ships in the northern-central Persian Gulf, while three other vessels suffered accidents and caught fire after striking mines west of the Strait of Hormuz. The IRGC said the four vessels had previously taken illegal routes despite earlier warnings to maritime companies it accused of being



The Chinese-flagged container shipping vessel Hui Fa transits the Gulf of Oman off the coast of Khor Fakkan in the emirate of Sharjah in the east of the UAE on October 13, 2026.

AFP

misled by the United States' invading military.

The IRGC blamed the US's "hegemonic regime" for encouraging vessels to pass through an illegal, mined passage, saying Washington's insistence on that approach had led to a growing number of maritime incidents.

The US and Israel launched strikes against Iran on February 28, prompting Tehran to respond with retaliatory missile and drone attacks across the region

and immediately close the Strait of Hormuz, a key chokepoint for global energy supplies.

The waterway has remained closed and under the control of Iranian forces. Tehran has maintained that the strait will only be reopened if Washington meets its conditions, including lifting sanctions and ending the US naval blockade.

But the US military has been escorting vessels through the waterway in increasing numbers, with Iran responding by stepping up attacks.

Araghchi condemns 'parasitic' military relations between US, Israel

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned "parasitic" military relations between the United States and Israel, citing the spending of \$11 billion in American taxpayers' money on missiles for the regime over the past three years.

Araghchi in an X post on Friday said the US has fired more interceptors to protect Israel than the usurping entity has.

"That is not a symbiotic relationship. It is a parasitic one," he added.

He also attached to his post a table provided on social media by independent policy analyst Stephen Semler that showed the US had fired an estimated 609 ballistic missile interceptors to protect Israel against Iran's retaliatory strikes between October



Abbas Araghchi

2023 and September 2026.

The figure, however, did not include the interceptors the US fired to protect its own military assets across West Asia in the face of Iran's reprisal attacks.

Earlier, Semler had estimated that the US had fired approximately 1,800 Patriot missiles between February and September this year.

Estimates indicate that the illegal aggression against Iran has consumed

up to 82 percent of pre-war US THAAD stockpiles and 61 percent of Patriot missile supplies.

Experts warn that the shrinking stockpile leaves the US vulnerable, noting that it would take years to replace the missiles used at the current build rate of 600 per year.

The US and the Israeli regime waged their first illegal war against Iran, which lasted 12 days, in June 2025. Their second aggression began on February 28, 2026, and came to a halt in early April after 40 days.

In both wars, Iran's retaliatory operations forced the aggressors to accept a ceasefire.

Iran has also maintained a tight grip on the Strait of Hormuz since the early days of the second imposed war amid the US's acts of mischief in the region.

Netanyahu warns of major West Bank military operation after attack kills Israeli soldiers

International Desk

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened a military operation in the occupied West Bank on a scale unseen in decades after Palestinian fighters killed two Israeli soldiers on Friday in an attack near Al-Khalil days before Israel's general elections.

A first step would see residents displaced, homes searched and infrastructure destroyed, said the premier, who is in the midst of a tight race for a new term in Tuesday's vote.

Defense Minister Israel Katz said the military would apply a model previously used in refugee camps in the northern West Bank, scene of a large-scale operation launched in January 2025 that the UN said forcibly displaced thousands.

Hamas' resistance group praised the attack as a "heroic operation" and called on supporters to carry out more.

The Gaza-based group called the attack a "natural and

legitimate response to the ongoing crimes and brutal attacks against our people". Three Israelis were also wounded in the attack before the gunmen were shot dead, officials said. It happened at a military checkpoint at the entrance to the city of Al-Khalil.

Netanyahu said he had ordered the military to prepare for a full lockdown of the West Bank, beginning later on Friday.

The attack comes at a time of high tensions, with extremist Jewish settlers targeting Palestinians during the annual olive harvest, and Israel's general election taking place in four days time.

Unverified CCTV footage shows two gunmen exit a car armed with what appears to be a handgun and an assault rifle and start firing on soldiers at the checkpoint, before coming under return fire.

The attack has already begun to influence the ongoing election campaign, with Netanyahu - who has built his campaign on the promise



Israeli army soldiers walk at the scene following a fire exchange with armed Palestinians at the northern checkpoint of Al-Khalil in the occupied West Bank on October 23, 2026.

AFP

of security - saying that his Likud party would cancel campaign events which had been set for Friday morning. He also visited the site of the attack on Friday afternoon, saying Israel is ready for "extensive action" in the West Bank.

His far-right coalition partner Bezalel Smotrich called for Israel to launch a campaign in the West Bank "exactly like in Gaza or Lebanon," while far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir called for Israel to dismantle the Palestinian Authority.



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