Iran reiterates need for establishment of regional security arrangements

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi underscored Iran's legitimate right to defend its sovereignty and national security, as well as the need to establish regional security arrangements without the involvement of extra-regional powers.

In a post on Instagram on Saturday, Araghchi said he had held separate phone conversations with 12 regional counterparts over the past 48 hours, discussing the latest international developments, the consequences of provocative actions by the United States and Israel, and the need to respect national sovereignty and halt aggression and threats.

Araghchi held talks with his counterparts from Oman, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Cyprus, Turkey, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Iraq and Pakistan.

Elaborating on the discussions, Araghchi said he had outlined Iran's principled positions and stressed the need for countries to respect one another's national sovereignty, put an end to aggression and threats, refrain from destructive foreign interference, and recognize regional countries' responsibility to prevent insecurity from spreading.

Iran's has repeatedly underlined the establishment of a regional security framework without involvement of foreign powers, saying that such involvements have created insecurity in the region, especially the Persian Gulf.

During the recent acts of aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran, some regional countries allowed the US to use their territories to launch attacks on Iran.

In response, Iran's Armed Forces targeted the US military bases in those countries, inflicting heavy blows to the US in those countries.

Iran says its strikes on the US military bases in regional countries have exposed the US vulnerabilities, stressing that the regional countries need establishment of regional framework for their security.

Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said on Monday that Iran will never remain silent or refrain from a deterrent response if neighboring countries' territory is once again used to directly violate its national sovereignty, territorial integrity and the security of its citizens.

Baqaei said some regional countries had not only failed to prevent the US war machine from using their territory, airspace and infrastructure to carry out aggression against Iran, but had, in some cases, encouraged and facilitated the attacks.


Abbas Araghchi
IRNA

He urged them to abandon past approaches and mistakes through genuine prudence.

Navy issues new warning after another tanker hit mine in Strait of Hormuz

International Desk



Iran's Navy on Saturday issued new warning to vessels trying to violate restrictions imposed by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz after a tanker hit a mine in the Strait of Hormuz.

The Navy said a tanker has caught fire after hitting a sea mine east of the strait while sailing through a prohibited and unsafe zone.

It said the tanker was operating in the restricted area despite repeated warnings and had switched off its navigation systems.

The vessel caught fire early in the morning following the mine strike and was left unable to move, according to the statement.

The Navy warned that this would be the fate of all vessels violating restrictions and ignoring warnings.

On Friday, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy announced that two oil tankers caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz after entering restricted waters without coordination with Iranian authorities

IRGC said the two tankers had attempted to leave the Strait of Hormuz through unauthorized passages, despite maritime restrictions imposed by Iran.

The vessels had switched off all their navigation and identification systems while attempting to transit the waterway with the support of the "aggressive and terrorist US military," the IRGC Navy noted in a statement.

Iranian officials have repeatedly warned commercial vessels against using routes that Tehran has announced as unauthorized and unsafe, particularly those that bypass its maritime coordination requirements.

The Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, is one of the world's most important energy passageways, carrying a substantial share of global seaborne oil supplies.

Iran imposed restrictions on the Strait in response to the latest round of US-Israeli aggression, preventing US and allied ships from navigating the strategic waterway.

The move resulted in a significant increase in oil and energy prices across the globe, especially in the US, forcing Washington and the International Energy Agency (IEA) to release their strategic reserves several times.

IRGC to unleash 'game-changing' surprises in case of new aggression: *Spox*

International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s spokesman warned that if the enemy launches a third wave of unprovoked aggression against Iran, the force will unveil its surprise capabilities and deploy them on the battlefield, outlining the achievements of the IRGC's Aerospace Force.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Brigadier General Hossein Mohebbi credited the force with possessing "game-changing surprises," underlining that, upon potential deployment, the surprises would leave the entire world "astonished."

He identified the surprises as among the Aerospace Force's 14-strong achievements, naming some others as indigenous aerospace technology, weapons exports, military self-sufficiency, sustained operations under bombardment, advanced missile and drone capabilities, and generating popular support.

Identifying indigenous knowledge production and the localization of global expertise as the first achievement, the spokesman said Iran had transformed from an importer of aerospace military equipment into an exporter.

Citing the Shahed-136 one-way attack drone, he said, "For example, today, the drone has been copied in most countries around the world, even in the United States, where it is being manufactured and used under different names."

"We do not need to import weapons from other countries, bring in foreign military advisors to train our personnel in their use, or obtain spare parts for our military equipment from abroad," the spokesman said.

According to Mohebbi, the IRGC's Aerospace Force had also harnessed the capability to maintain its missile operations in the face of extensive enemy bombardment, besides developing missiles, drones, and electronic warfare capabilities to establish a balance of power.

As cases in point proving the force's battleground prowess, he noted that the force had managed to engage more than 260 enemy aircraft during the latest round of unprovoked American-Israeli aggression, shooting down most of them.

Additionally, the Aerospace Force has captured six hostile MQM-170 reconnaissance drones intact over the preceding one or two weeks, he added, while stressing that these figures related exclusively to the Aerospace Force's operations, excluding those conducted by Iran's Army.

Among other achievements, the official highlighted the development of underground missile and drone production facilities.

He made special reference to the Aerospace Force's having managed to set up "missile production cities" in addition to its "missile cities" that would only serve to store away projectiles.

The missile production facilities, Mohebbi noted, enabled manufacturing to continue, despite enemy attacks.

Ansarullah: 22 killed in Saudi strikes on Yemen's Sana'a Province

International Desk

Yemeni media said on Saturday that Saudi strikes killed 22 people, most of them women and children, in Yemen's Sana'a Province, as deaths mount in the country's war.

The United Nations says more than 1,600 people have been killed and more than 300,000 displaced since fighting resumed in the impoverished country.

"The number of victims of the Saudi enemy warplane massacre in the Al-Shariyah area... has risen to 22 citizens, most of them children and women, while the number of wounded has risen to 30," Yemen's Saba news agency said.

Saba said earlier Saturday that operations to recover victims from the rubble were ongoing and that "aircraft targeted paramedics with two strikes".

Al-Masirah broadcast footage that it says was filmed in Al-Shariyah, showing smoke rising from a struck site, piles of debris and wounded people in hospital.

The Saudi-led coalition in a statement on Saturday said it had intercepted and destroyed a missile launched towards Riyadh Province.

On Friday, an attack on a market in Taiz Province killed 30 people.

Yemen's Ansarullah movement said Saudi airstrikes were to blame, while Saudi-backed forces in south accused Ansarullah of having fired a ballistic missile at the site.

Yemen slipped back into war between Ansarullah and the Saudi-backed government in July after years of relative calm, opening a new front in the conflict in the Middle East.

Since then, Saudi Arabia has regularly bombed Ansarullah's positions, while the group has multiplied its attacks against the oil-rich kingdom.

The conflict flared up in July after the Ansarullah allowed an Iranian plane to land in Yemen's capital Sana'a, in defiance of Saudi control over Yemeni airspace, setting off a spate of attacks.

The Ansarullah then declared a maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia and began hitting its ships, territory and oil facilities.


Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

