Republicans' defeat in US elections result of failure to 'break Iran's will': *Shekarchi*

International Desk

Iranian Armed Forces' spokesman Abolfazl Shekarchi said on Sunday that the Republican wipeout in the US elections was a direct result of Washington's failure to defeat Iran.

US President Donald Trump's setback reflects more than a domestic political shift but "a greater reality: the failure of the US to break Iran's will", Shekarchi said.

Democrats won control of both chambers of US Congress in November 3 elections, delivering a decisive rebuke of Republican governance in Washington and ushering in a new era of congressional resistance to Trump.

Shekarchi added that Trump and his "unwise, hardline, and terrorist" associates waged aggression against Iran with the aim of destroying the proud and civilized country.

"However, in a reversal of fortunes, they themselves became victims of strategic attrition, deep-seated domestic crises, and defeats inflicted by Iran's valiant Armed Forces and the Axis of Resistance."

"This strategic defeat proves that global power dynamics do not always favor hegemonic powers," Shekarchi said.

The Iranian military official underlined that any power that confronts Iran's "formidable strength and steely, divinely inspired resolve" will ultimately face nothing but downfall and disintegration in the eyes of world public opinion.

The remarks came as mediators have intensified efforts in recent days to end the war between Iran and the US amid fears it could reignite after the US midterm elections.

Trump has been threatening to carry out a new offensive against Iran, putting countries in the Persian Gulf on edge.

Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz also threatened Iran with new attacks on Sunday.

"With regard to Iran, the mission is still not complete". Katz claimed that Iran is trying to renew its efforts to obtain nuclear weapons – alongside other efforts that place Israel in real danger.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is fighting for his political life, has repeatedly threatened new strikes against Iran in recent weeks.

Iran's top security official also warned the US that any new war against Iran will be met with a "devastating response".

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Major General Mohsen Rezaei, issued the stern warning in a post on his X account on Saturday.

"Start a war, and you'll face a devastating response," Rezaei wrote.

Rear Admiral Mohsen Razzaqi, commander of Iran's Northern Fleet and the Fourth Naval Zone of Imam Reza (AS), also said coordination among the country's Armed Forces is at its highest level, underscoring naval units' readiness to defend maritime borders around the clock.

"The cost of any aggression against Iran must be raised to such an extent that the enemy will no longer dare attack the country again," he said.

He added that the Armed Forces' strategy goes beyond merely ending hostilities and aims to impose prohibitive costs on any aggressor.

In late October, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Sayyid Mojtaba Khamenei ordered "maximum deterrence," instructing commanders to deliver an immediate and effective response without geographical restriction should the country come under attack again.



Abolfazl Shekarchi
defapress.ir

More oil tankers caught fire in Strait of Hormuz after maritime violations

International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy said on Sunday that three oil tankers have exploded and caught fire in the Strait of Hormuz after violating Iran's regulations on maritime traffic.

The IRGC Navy said the incidents occurred in the early hours of the day along an unauthorized shipping route, with thick smoke from the burning vessels spreading across the strait.

The statement said the tankers had switched off their navigation and identification systems and were burning due to the "mischief" of the US "smuggling and aggressor army."

It warned that vessels defying Iranian regulations would face similar consequences.

The statement came less than a day after two oil tankers attempting to transit the Strait of Hormuz via unauthorized routes struck naval mines and caught fire, after committing multiple violations of Iranian regulations.


IRNA

In a statement late on Saturday, the IRGC Navy said the vessels — one located east of the strategic waterway and the other within the strait itself — had deactivated their navigation and positioning systems in a bid to slip through an unauthorized southern corridor.

Iranian forces have maintained full control over transit through the Strait — through which roughly one-fifth of global oil normally passes — requiring prior authorization and confining safe passage exclusively to designated northern corridors.

Southern routes near Omani waters have been declared unauthorized and mined, with repeated IRGC Navy statements confirming that vessels attempting to use them after disabling AIS systems have struck mines, exploded, and caught fire.

IRGC Navy units have repeatedly intercepted or neutralized ships attempting covert transit, including those linked to the Israeli regime or operating under US encouragement.

IRGC commanders have stressed that empty American promises of escort and protection have repeatedly proven hollow, as vessels trusting such assurances have been halted or destroyed.

The force has underscored that only ships complying with Iranian rules can transit safely, while those serving the interests of the aggressors face decisive consequences.

Iran imposed the restrictions on the strait in response to the latest round of US-Israeli aggression, which began on February 28.

Ansarullah: Over 70 killed in Saudi-led coalition strikes on Yemen

Iran condemns airstrikes on civilian infrastructure, areas

International Desk

Yemen's Ansarullah group said on Sunday that at least 72 people were killed in recent Saudi-led coalition's strikes on Yemen as the two warring sides continued to exchange fire.

The Ansarullah group noted that the strikes mostly targeted the Bani Hushaish area, east of the capital of Sana'a. They also accused the Saudi-led coalition of targeting civilian facilities and infrastructure.

Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement on Sunday strongly condemned airstrikes on civilian infrastructure and civilian areas in Yemen.

"The continued violation of Yemen's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the economic and air blockade of this country, are contrary to international law and Islamic teachings," the statement added.

The Saudi Energy Ministry also said on Sunday an Aramco building in Riyadh was targeted in an "attempted attack" with eyewitnesses saying the skyscraper sustained damage, after the Saudi-led coalition said it had intercepted missiles launched by Ansarullah.

Aramco facilities and infrastructure have been repeatedly struck by the Ansarullah's fighters in recent months, with tankers, refineries, storage areas and the company's headquarters, located in the King Abdullah Financial District (KAFD), all targeted by the group. KAFD is one of the most visible manifestations of the kingdom's ongoing economic and social reforms drive, with towering glass skyscrapers, high-end retail outlets and green spaces dotting the area.


Multiple floors of the Aramco tower appeared to have sustained damage, said a witness, with glass shattered and damage to part of the tower's facade visible.

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.

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.

Significance of FATF ...

The remaining concerns also define a reform agenda. FATF seeks changes to the

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legal framework governing terrorist financing and targeted financial sanctions. It also reiterates objections concerning the scope of Iran's reservations to, and domestic implementation of, the Palermo and Terrorist Financing Conventions. Additional action-plan priorities include enforceable customer due diligence, action against unlicensed money or value transfer operators, mutual legal assistance, and complete originator and beneficiary information in wire transfers. Addressing these questions requires precision in legislative language, supervisory practice, and demonstrable results-not merely declarations of intent.

Furthermore, two elements preserve room for constructive movement. First, the statement calls for humanitarian assistance, food and health supplies, diplomatic operating expenses, and personal remittances to be handled appropriately on a risk basis. This is an important reminder that financial integrity and legitimate economic and humanitarian needs should not be treated as incompatible objectives. Second, FATF explicitly leaves open consideration of next steps, including possible suspension of countermeasures, if Iran ratifies and implements the relevant conventions consistently with its standards.

The October statement's most promising feature is that it records an ongoing process and identifies at least one concrete technical advance. The challenge now is to turn "efforts" into verifiable outcomes and "various items" into a sequence of resolved issues. Taken together, the October statement conveys an important message: although Iran and North Korea remain subject to FATF countermeasures, their respective positions should not be viewed as identical. Unlike the language used concerning North Korea, FATF's assessment of Iran explicitly acknowledges renewed engagement, ongoing efforts across various action-plan items, and tangible, albeit limited, technical progress. This distinction suggests that Iran has taken meaningful steps toward addressing international concerns, some of which have already received formal recognition.

Three countries- Iran, North Korea, and Myanmar-appear on the FATF's list of high-risk jurisdictions subject to a call for action under Recommendation 19. Among these jurisdictions, Iran stands out for the regularity of its documented engagement. As the FATF website records, Iran submitted progress reports in January, August, and December 2024; August and November 2025; and July 2026. Although important deficiencies remain, these repeated submissions demonstrate a willingness to remain engaged with international standards and dialogue rather than withdraw from the process. Particularly amid the extraordinary pressures of war, it is hoped that the international community will recognize these continuing efforts, distinguish engagement from inactivity, and encourage further practical progress through constructive, technically focused cooperation.


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