# Army chief threatens 'more devastating' response if Iran attacked

## Iranian drones strike US air defense systems in Kuwait



*Iranian Army Chief Amir Hatami addresses a meeting with military academy students in Tehran, Iran, on January 7, 2026.*
*IRAN'S ARMY*

**International Desk**

Iran's Army chief said on Wednesday that Tehran's response to any new attacks by the United States would be "more devastating" and directed at both US forces and their allies.

"Should the enemy make a mistake and repeat actions that have previously led them to despair, our response – directed at both the enemy and their backers – will undoubtedly be even more devastating and will know no geographical boundaries," Amir Hatami said.

General Hatami made the warnings amid heightened regional tensions and the arrival of another US aircraft carrier in West Asia, warning that Tehran is closely monitoring developments and has not let up on its military preparedness.

"We are monitoring the enemy's movements with vigilance and precision, and we are not wasting a single moment in preparing ourselves," he stressed.

US Central Command announced on Monday that the USS Theodore Roosevelt and its strike group arrived in the West Asia region. The USS George H.W. Bush and USS George Washington also arrived in the region back in April and August, respectively.

General Hatami said all branches of the Iranian Army are continuously improving their readiness while keeping a close watch on potential threats.

Earlier on the day, the Iranian Army said that its combat drones targeted US air defense systems and drone launchers at the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait.

The Army said the operation destroyed Patriot air defense systems and launch pads used by the US military at the base. It described Ali Al Salem as a critical air transport hub and a primary gateway for US forces entering West Asia.

This followed an announcement by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Tuesday that they targeted a US-operated radar system at the Sheikh Isa Air Base in Bahrain in response to US drone violations of Iranian airspace. The retaliatory strikes follow a US airstrike on Iran's Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

The US and Israel launched a war of aggression against Iran in late February 2026, prompting Tehran to launch retaliatory attacks against American bases in the Persian Gulf region.

American officials have threatened to resume strikes on Iran, keeping tensions high in recent weeks.

Iran has consistently maintained that its military actions are strictly defensive measures under international law, targeting the military assets of aggressors in response to the ongoing blockade and aerial bombardment.

On Wednesday, Bahrain and Kuwait claimed that they had repelled air attacks launched against them.

# *Tehran:* US media fabrications aimed at creating pretext for further aggression

**International Desk**

Iran's UN mission categorically dismissed reports by The New York Times and CNN respectively concerning the country's water infrastructure and an alleged plan to use unconventional weapons in Washington, describing them as fabricated narratives intended to create pretexts for further aggression against Iran.

"The recent ridiculous allegations published by The New York Times concerning Iran's dams, alongside CNN's fabricated narrative about alleged 'dirty bomb,' are part of a calculated disinformation campaign designed to manufacture pretexts for further aggression and war crimes," the mission said in a statement on Tuesday.

The warning followed a November 16 report by The New York Times examining, what the paper called, possible connections between Iran's water infrastructure and military installations. The newspaper suggested that some dams and water-transfer projects might have been constructed to provide water and electricity to underground missile facilities. Citing "several experts," it raised the possibility of such connections, but did not present conclusive evidence establishing that the projects were linked to missile installations.

On the same day, CNN, citing "new US intelligence," reported on the alleged plans, while noting that US officials were still debating whether Iran could or would carry out such an operation.

"Iran categorically and unequivocally rejects these baseless allegations. No amount of propaganda or false and misleading information can conceal aggression, legitimize war crimes, or absolve those responsible for committing such heinous crimes," the mission, however, stated.

Addressing the implications of the reports concerning Iran's dams, the mission warned that any deliberate attack on civilian dams or water supply infrastructure would constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law and amount to a war crime.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also reacted to the reports.

He said media campaigns targeting Iran have intensified in recent days, warning that the Israeli regime and its lobbyists are seeking to reproduce the propaganda tactics used to justify the US-led invasion of Iraq in the early 2000s. "In the past 72 hours, pro-Israel media have 'reported' that Iran is supposedly plotting to use chemical weapons in DC while building missile bases under dams. RUBBISH," Araghchi said in a post on X.

### False intelligence claims

Araghchi said the reports echoed the false intelligence claims about weapons of mass destruction used to justify the 2003 US invasion of Iraq and rally support for the aggression against the Arab country.

"Spare us the Iraq War-style propaganda, especially with Israeli fingerprints all over it. Nobody is buying it," he said.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi also criticized the claims.

"The New York Times, which has raised and sought to normalize the prospect of attacking Iran's dams on the pretext of their proximity to alleged missile facilities, cannot absolve itself of responsibility for the humanitarian and legal consequences," Gharibabadi said in a post on X.

"Targeting vital civilian infrastructure constitutes a war crime, and normalizing or carrying out such attacks will not come without consequences," he added.

Gharibabadi also rejected CNN's report, describing its allegations as an outright fabrication and challenged the historical record invoked in the accusations.

# Iran denies North Macedonian 'terrorist plot' claims



*Iran's Embassy in Greece*

**International Desk**

Iran on Wednesday rejected as "completely unfounded" claims by North Macedonia that it had found a Tehran-backed assassination plot targeting a person in Greece.

The Iranian Embassy in Greece said the "baseless accusations" were part of a "worn-out campaign by the Israeli regime and its propaganda and psychological warfare apparatuses to discredit Iran and in line with previous false-flag operations."

The embassy said the allegations had no value or credibility and stressed that vigilance is required in the face of such deceptive schemes. North Macedonia's National Security Agency claimed on Tuesday that it had foiled an alleged plot and dismantled a network linked to Iran, in cooperation with Greek intelligence.

Four suspects have been placed in custody and another put under house arrest in North Macedonia.

One suspect was arrested in Greece and handed over to North Macedonian authorities, according to officials of the neighboring country. Some Greek media, including the ERT state broadcaster and the daily Kathimerini, reported that the target was allegedly an Israeli-born executive of an Israeli company based in Greece.

Greek police said they were investigating the alleged plot. "We do not know who the target was," Greek police spokesperson Konstantia Dimoglidou told ERT. "It is not clear whether it was about an assassination that was to be carried out in our country against a specific individual or whether it was something else, a terrorist action," she said.

North Macedonia's security agency claimed that the dismantled network were "proxy actors" linked to Iranian national Edris Jahangiri Mavaneh, who was a "collaborator of the Iranian security and intelligence services".

# Xi calls for ...

He added that Beijing would remain committed to win-win cooperation with other countries regardless of changes in the international landscape.

Page 1 ›

Russian President Vladimir Putin also addressed the gathering, highlighting the growing influence of developing countries and emerging economies in the global economic system.

He said their share of the global economy had nearly doubled over the past 35 years, increasing from 35% in 1990 to 61% in 2026.

Putin described the Asia-Pacific experience as an example of the emergence of a fairer and more equitable international order, in which traditional hierarchical and centralized structures are increasingly giving way to broader networks of horizontal cooperation.

However, he cautioned that the shift in the global economic balance had not been universally welcomed, arguing that former hegemonic powers were seeking to restrain countries making progress rather than adapt to the emerging realities.

He also stressed the importance of strengthening sovereignty at the state, societal and socioeconomic levels, saying this was essential for countries to preserve their national identities, independently determine their development paths and maintain their sovereignty on the international stage.

Other speakers at the gathering included the leaders of Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The 2026 APEC summit is being held under the theme "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together," with participation from 21 member economies.

The agenda focuses on three main priorities: openness, innovation and cooperation. These include supporting the multilateral trading system, advancing digital technologies and artificial intelligence, strengthening supply chain resilience and expanding regional economic partnerships.

The APEC CEO Summit, which brings together political leaders, business executives and representatives of member economies, also began on Tuesday and runs through Wednesday.

On Thursday, a trilateral meeting between Xi, Putin and US President Donald Trump is scheduled to take place on the sidelines of the summit. The meeting is expected to address international security and strategic stability, with Iran, the Ukraine conflict and nuclear arms control among the issues Trump has indicated he wants to discuss.



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