Iran warns US chemical arms claims copy Iraq's 2003 invasion scenario

International Desk

Iran rejected the latest wave of US allegations that the Islamic Republic is developing biological or chemical weapons, describing the claims as a familiar and deliberate attempt to manufacture a pretext for further aggression.

In a statement posted on X on Thursday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei noted that after the long-running narrative of an "Iranian nuclear threat," American officials are now asserting that there are "indications" that Iran is pursuing biological or chemical weapons capabilities.

"The allegations keep changing, but the underlying narrative remains disturbingly familiar," he said. "Once again, the world is apparently expected to suffer a bout of collective amnesia."

Baqaei explicitly recalled the infamous 2003 appearance of then-US secretary of state Colin Powell before the UN Security Council, in which Powell held up a small vial as supposed evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

That presentation, Baqaei stressed, has since become a lasting symbol of one of the most consequential intelligence failures and political deceptions in modern history.

He warned that the current allegations appear to be following "the same fraudulent script," and asked whether the world had learned anything from the disastrous lessons of 2003 or was once again prepared to allow public deception on a grand scale.

Iran has consistently rejected such claims as baseless. The Islamic Republic is a state party to both the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

'Dirty bomb' allegation

The Iranian response came after US President Donald Trump accused Iran of exploring chemical and biological weapons, reigniting allegations that Tehran may be planning a "dirty bomb" attack.

Speaking to Fox News on Thursday, Trump said Iran was "looking at gases, looking at bio", without providing evidence to support his claims.

Trump claimed Tehran has pivoted away from developing nuclear capabilities given that "we've shut them out". "We'll see what happens after January 1," he said.

His comments follow a report by CNN on Tuesday citing US intelligence indicating that Iran may be developing plans to target senior officials in Trump's administration with a chemical weapon in Washington, DC.

On Wednesday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio dismissed concerns about a possible Iranian attack, saying the US does not face an "imminent threat". Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin echoed Rubio's conclusion, confirming there was no indication of an upcoming attack.

The allegations about chemical weapons also came days after a report by The New York Times about 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.

Iran's UN mission categorically dismissed reports by The New York Times and CNN, describing them as fabricated narratives intended to create pretexts for further aggression against Iran.



Esmaeil Baqaei
IRNA

Tehran calls for urgent action by Muslim nations to stop Israel's genocide of Palestinians

International Desk

Iran condemned Israel's continued crimes against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, calling for immediate action by Muslim nations to stop the regime's genocide of Palestinians.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry in a statement stressed the need for urgent and effective international action to stop the ongoing genocide and bring those responsible to justice.

The ministry condemned attacks by Israeli forces and settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, including the latest arson attack on Al-Ihsan Mosque.

It said Israeli forces have launched their latest invasion of central Gaza at a time when the territory has been reduced to rubble by extensive bombardment and displaced Palestinians are struggling to survive harsh winter conditions without even having access to tents to protect themselves from the cold and rain.

The ministry blamed the continued international inaction, particularly pressure exerted by the United States on international institutions, for emboldening Israel and enabling its persistent violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also in a post on X called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation foreign ministers over Israel's genocide in Gaza.

His call came as a renewed Israeli ground onslaught in the central part of Gaza has displaced more than 6,000 Palestinians in a single day.

Araghchi described the ongoing genocide, forced displacement and denial of humanitarian assistance in Gaza as "a stain on humanity's conscience," urging immediate international action to lift the Israeli siege and ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The diplomatic calls came as Israel intensified its military assault on the Nuseirat and Bureij refugee camps in central Gaza, triggering another wave of mass displacement.

The Israeli onslaught on, launched on October 7, 2023, has killed nearly 75,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children.

China casts trilateral meeting as a summit for peace

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

REPORT EXCLUSIVE

The presidents of China, Russia and the United States held in-depth exchanges on major issues concerning global peace, security and stability during their meeting in Shenzhen, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, describing the gathering as a "peace summit."

Speaking to reporters on November 19, following the conclusion of the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, Wang said the meeting was the first of its kind among the leaders of the three countries, making it a significant event with far-reaching implications.

The meeting comes at a time when both the United States and Russia are engaged in major military conflicts, with Washington continuing its involvement in the war in Iran and Moscow pursuing its military campaign in Ukraine.

Against this backdrop, the trilateral gathering carries added diplomatic significance, bringing together the leaders of two countries on opposing sides of a major international conflict with China's president at a time of heightened global tensions.

Wang told reporters that the talks had taken place in an atmosphere of frankness, friendship and constructive engagement, and had produced a series of shared understandings.

The three leaders also issued a declaration addressed to the international community, reaffirming their commitment to safeguarding world peace and promoting strategic stability among major powers, according to him.

Wang said China, Russia and the United States, as major world powers and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, had an important responsibility to uphold global peace and security.

He described the meeting as a new model for interaction among major powers, saying relations among them had a direct bearing on the evolution of the international order and global strategic stability.

"It could be regarded as a major innovation in the history of international relations," he said.



Wang Yi
IRAN DAILY

Responding to questions about the significance of the meeting, Wang said it reflected the trends of the times and the expectations of the international community.

He cited President Xi Jinping as saying that when major powers maintain harmony, the world enjoys peace, but when they engage in confrontation, the world falls into turmoil.

Wang said the three leaders had conveyed their respective strategic intentions directly and expressed their willingness to prevent confrontation and conflict, uphold peaceful coexistence, and work toward overall stability and balanced development.

"Such a relationship would benefit not only the three countries themselves but also the wider world," he said.

Asked how the understandings reached at the meeting would be put into practice, Wang said China would work with Russia and the United States to implement them comprehensively and effectively.

"The three sides will also maintain communication and coordination at the working level and make sustained efforts toward building a better world," he said.

After their meeting, the three leaders issued the China-Russia-US Heads of State Declaration toward Peace, which outlined four areas of cooperation: reforming the United Nations, ensuring stable energy supplies, respecting state sovereignty and officials' immunities, and reducing nuclear risks and preventing nuclear proliferation.

'World no longer a safe haven' for Iran's enemies: *IRGC chief*

International Desk

Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Major General Ahmad Vahidi, warned that those responsible for crimes in Iran will find no safe haven anywhere in the world.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the "Pioneers of Liberation" conference in Tehran on Friday, Vahidi described the US-Israeli aggression against Iran since February 28 as a battle whose outcome has frustrated the aggressors.

"The world will no longer be a safe haven for the murderers and criminals who have committed crimes in Iran," he said, referring to numerous crimes by the US-Israeli axis, including the assassination of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the massacre of schoolchildren in Minab on the first day of the aggression.

"They must tremble with fear over the crimes they have committed, because... retribution is our right."

"We have passed a large part of the battle and have a large part ahead of us," he stated, adding, "What we have accomplished so far has resulted in a sense of defeat, hopelessness, despair, disarray, and confusion within the enemy camp."

"The adversaries began the war arrogantly, believing they could bring Iran down within days," Vahidi said, adding that they had initially promised Persian Gulf countries an assessment within 72 hours.

He recalled that the adversaries subsequently predicted Iran's political system would collapse within two weeks, but their expectations were not fulfilled.


Ahmad Vahidi
TASNIM

The IRGC chief also described Iran's military reach as extending beyond the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, saying the operational presence of Iran's naval forces had expanded to 500 kilometers and farther into international waters.

IRGC spokesman Brigadier General Hossein Mohebi also on Thursday warned the US against attempting to revive military confrontation, declaring that it will not accept a prolonged war of attrition or an indefinite state of neither war nor peace.

Mohebi said Iran is fully prepared for all possible scenarios, stressing that the country's military capabilities have improved considerably and that its forces are continuously monitoring American military movements.

"We do not accept a situation of neither war nor peace," he said, rejecting the prospect of an extended war of attrition.

"We will settle the matter of the war once and for all. This will either be determined on the battlefield, or the United States must accept Iran's conditions."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

