

## Iran calls for extradition of its citizens

### International Desk

Iran calls for the extradition of its citizens, Hamid Nouri and Assadollah Assadi, from Sweden and Belgium, respectively, and punishment for the countries that have held them in detention, said the Judiciary spokesman on Wednesday.

Making the remarks in an address to a press conference, Masoud Setayeshi added that Assadi was an Iranian diplomat in Vienna and, based on international rules and regulations, had political immunity, ISNA reported.

He said Assadi was illegally arrested in Germany and unlawfully held in detention in the European state for 121 days.

Based on an illegal court ruling in 2018, Assadi was transferred to Belgium, where he was, again illegally, sentenced to a jail term of 20 years, Setayeshi added, noting that Iran has frequently voiced its objection to the ruling to Belgium.

He stressed that Assadi must be extradited as he has been put on trial and convicted against international norms.

The judicial official rejected speculations about any prisoner exchange between Iran and Belgium.

Turning to Nouri's detention, Setayeshi gave the assurance that the Iranian administration and Judiciary are making the required efforts and doing the follow ups on the case at the international level.

He, however, noted that those who have arrested Nouri are under terrorists' control, calling on them to come to their senses and do what is right based on justice.

Assadi's case, according to legal experts, is based on sham and unsubstantiated charges and smacks of political propaganda against the Islamic Republic.

Belgian authorities in June 2018 said the country's police had intercepted a car carrying homemade explosives, claiming that the Iranian diplomat handed the material to two people in Belgium.

He was accused of plotting an attack against the anti-Iran MKO terrorist outfit, a claim that has been strongly rejected by Iranian authorities.

The MKO has been responsible for numerous assassinations and bombings against top-ranking Iranian officials since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Nouri was arrested upon arrival in Sweden at Stockholm Airport in November 2019, and was immediately imprisoned. In July, a Swedish court handed the ex-Iranian official a life sentence based on unfounded allegations made by the MKO terrorist group.

# Iran FM reaffirms support for Palestinians against Israel



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (R) meets with Secretary General of the Gaza-based Islamic Jihad movement Ziad al-Nakhala in Tehran on August 3, 2022. [mfa.gov.ir](http://mfa.gov.ir)

The Iranian foreign minister reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's commitment to the Palestinian cause, saying Tehran will continue to support the oppressed nation of Palestine against the expansionist policies of the "apartheid" Zionist regime. In a meeting with Secretary General of the Gaza-based Islamic Jihad movement Ziad al-Nakhala in Tehran on Tuesday evening, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian also called for unity and solidarity between Islamic countries in the face of the Israeli regime's acts of aggression against Palestinians, according to Press TV.

Commenting on the failures of Israel and the United States against the Palestinian resistance, the chief Iranian diplomat expressed hope that the enemies would be further undermined through increased harmony and unity among Muslim countries. Nakhala appreciated Iran's support for the Palestinian people's resistance and lauded the country's constructive role in regional developments and its active diplomacy toward other states.

He also regretted certain efforts in the region to exert pressure on the Islamic

Republic and downplay the real threat the Israeli regime poses to the Muslim community and Palestinians, in particular.

Late in 2020, four Arab countries – the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco – signed normalization deals with the Israeli regime. The deals, also called the Abraham Accords, were pushed by former U.S. president Donald Trump. Palestinians and their regional and international supporters have denounced the agreements as a "stab in the back" of the Palestinian cause of liberation from Israeli occupation and ag-

gression.

### 'Israel doomed to fall apart'

Also in a meeting with Nakhala on Tuesday, Kamal Kharrazi, the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said Israel has been caught off guard and is encircled by the resistance front, adding that normalization of ties between the Tel Aviv regime and some Arab states laid bare relations that had developed behind the scenes. Kharrazi, also a senior adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, de-

scribed Israel as an apartheid regime and said such illegal entities are doomed to fall apart.

"The Zionist regime is an apartheid regime, and the fact that the United Nations has described the regime as apartheid is of paramount significance from an international perspective. According to natural law, apartheid regimes are doomed to failure," the former Iranian foreign minister asserted.

He described Iran's support for Palestinian resistance groups as the main pillar of the Islamic Republic's grand strategy.

"Today, the Zionist regime is surrounded by the resistance front," Kharrazi said. He said what was being referred to as the normalization of relations between some Arab countries and Israel is merely the exposé of [long-running] clandestine ties with the Zionist regime.

Nakhala appreciated Iran's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and Palestinian resistance movements.

He expressed confidence that resistance fighters in the Middle East region will eventually emerge victorious against Israel.

## Vienna hosting new round of nuclear talks

A few days ago, the EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell said

Europe had put forward a new proposal for the achievement of a nuclear agreement, claiming that the proposed plan has taken into account Iran's economic interests and predicted the required measures to make it more difficult for the United States to make another exit from the deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Many experts and media perceived Europe's proposal and Borrell's related opinion piece published by the Financial Times as an ultimatum to the negotiating sides or a warning

against the consequences of a failure to reach an agreement.

Although the United States said earlier it was considering Europe's proposed plan, it has announced ahead of the new round of the negotiations that it is not going to remove the Islamic Republic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) from the Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO) list. In addition, the U.S. Department of the Treasury on Monday imposed new sanctions against Tehran, which was described by Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian as a bid aimed at extracting further concessions from the Islamic Republic in the talks. Tehran, of course, recip-

rocated the hostile action by announcing that it has launched hundreds of new centrifuges, to counterbalance Washington's coercive measure ahead of the negotiations.

Concurrently, Bagheri Kani tweeted that Iran "stands ready to conclude the negotiations in a short order, should the other side be ready to do the same".

The Russian delegation also announced at the 10th NPT Review Conference that Moscow strongly stresses the necessity of resuming the JCPOA's full implementation as soon as possible.

The new round of the talks in Vienna comes as the sides, during the past 18 months, have held lengthy

negotiations over the nuclear issue and exchanged several proposals. At present, however, Europe's proposal is on the table and Iran has said it has submitted its initiatives to the other sides.

Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi, in a phone conversation with his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, 13 days ago, said achieving a nuclear agreement hinges on the complete resolution of the safeguards issues and provision of the necessary guarantees for all sides' verifiable and continuous commitment to the deal and safeguarding Iran's economic interests.

The Iranian foreign minister has frequently an-

nounced that Tehran seeks to reach a "good, robust and lasting" agreement.

In spite of the U.S. assessments and calculations, the protraction of the negotiations has not only failed to force Iran into backing down from its demands, but also enabled Tehran to, through implementing certain policies and measures, such as expanding relations with neighbors, China and Russia, manage the consequences of the White House's sanctions. In addition, the continuation of the war in Ukraine has further highlighted Europe's energy crisis in the absence of Iran's oil and gas. Currently, everybody is waiting to see how the

sides would react to the EU's new proposal.

Iran has so far demonstrated the required goodwill and flexibility. Now, it appears that the ball is in the U.S. court. President Joe Biden is currently the one required to show whether he would be true to his election campaign's promise of returning to the JCPOA or want to continue breaking it.

In his opinion piece, Borrell warned, "If the deal is rejected, we risk a dangerous nuclear crisis."

The new round of the nuclear talks will once again put to test how willing the US is, and how responsibly it can act, to compensate for the mistake of withdrawing from the JCPOA.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## IRGC: Pilots eject safely as fighter jet crashes in southern Iran

### National Desk

The pilots ejected safely as a Sukhoi Su-22 fighter jet suffered an incident on Wednesday morning while taking off in southern Iran. The Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) added in a statement that the incident occurred to its jet due to a technical defect while it was taking off from an airbase in Shiraz, Fars Province, Fars News Agency reported.

The pilots, it said, inevitably had to eject in the wake of the incident that happened on the runway.

The statement added the pilots are in full health thanks to their timely reaction.

mashreghnews.ir ws Agency reported.

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