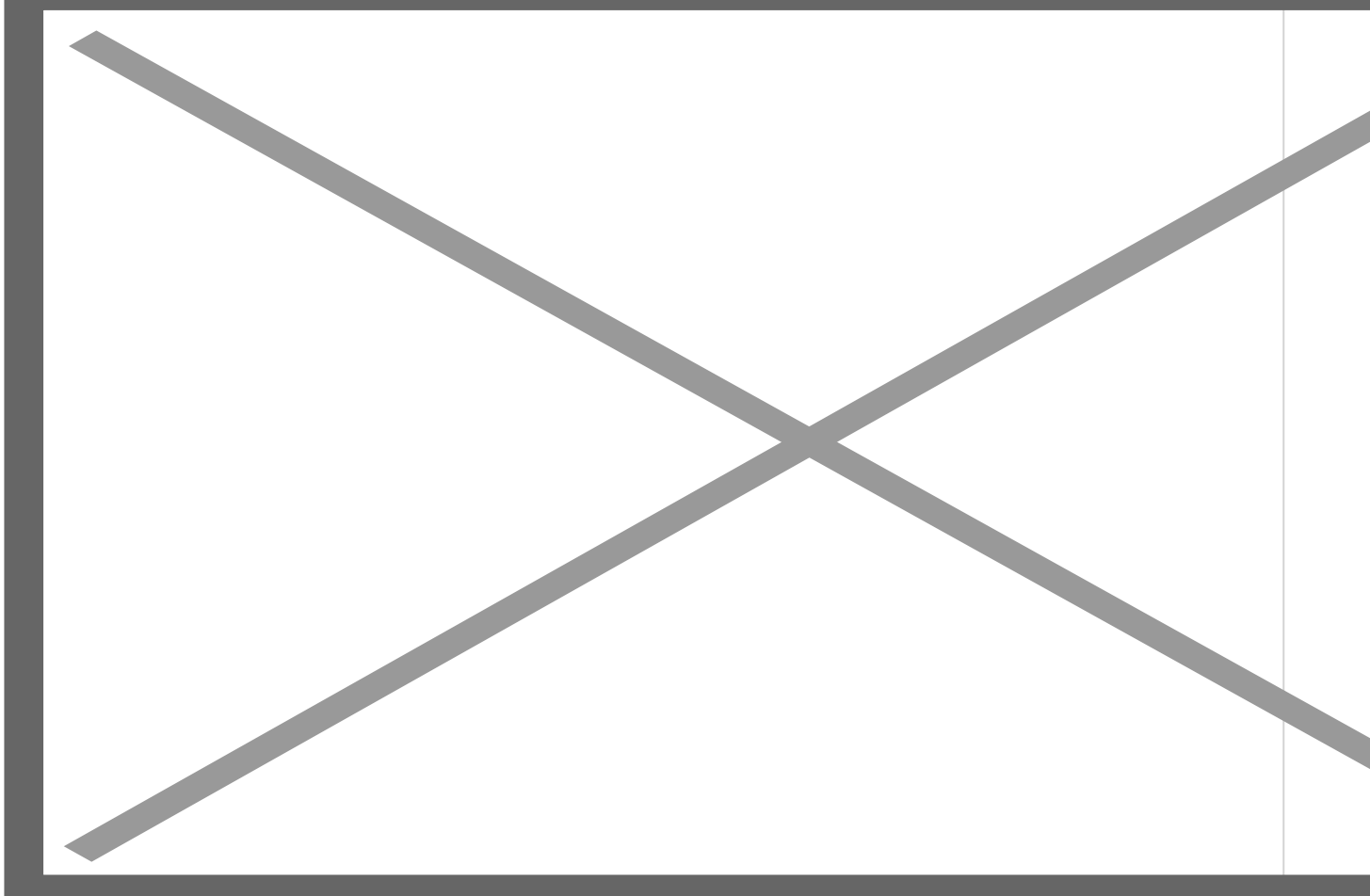


Iranian envoy to UN says Security Council must compel Israel to stop aggression against Syria

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Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Zahra Ershadi

United Nations, August 25 (RHC)-- An Iranian envoy to the United Nations has called on the Security Council to pressure Israel to stop its violation of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity amid the regime's constant aggression on Syrian soil.

"The Council must compel the Israeli regime to put an immediate end to its aggressions against sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria," Zahra Ershadi, the deputy permanent representative of Iran to the UN, said in a statement on Tuesday before a UN Security Council session on the situation in the Middle East.

"Such adventuristic practices constitute flagrant violations of international law, threatening regional and international peace and security," she added. Ershadi's comments came less than a week after the Israeli regime, in its latest aggression on Syria's territory, fired two dozen missiles toward the capital Damascus and the western city of Homs with the use of Lebanon's airspace.

There were no official reports of casualties as the Syrian air defense units had managed to down 22 of the 24 missiles launched by six Israeli warplanes.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry later renewed its call on the United Nations and the Security Council to assume responsibilities based on the UN Charter and act firmly to prevent the recurrence of the Israeli regime's attacks on Syria's territory.

The attacks started to grow significantly in scale and frequency after 2011, when Syria found itself in the grip of rampant foreign-backed militancy and terrorism.

Tel Aviv claims that its attacks target alleged supplies that are headed for the Lebanese resistance movement of Hezbollah. On countless occasions, though, the strikes have targeted the reinforcement belonging to Syria's military and its allies.

The Iranian envoy also censured foreign intervention in Syria's internal affairs and called for the immediate withdrawal of "uninvited" foreign forces and mercenaries from the war-ravaged country.

"We reiterate our principled position that the Syrian crisis must be settled peacefully and in accordance with principles of international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal or external affairs and peaceful settlement of international disputes," Ershadi said.

"To create conducive grounds for ending the conflict in Syria, all uninvited foreign forces must leave that country without any precondition and delay, and terrorist groups must be confronted," she added.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011, with the government saying Western countries and their regional allies are aiding terror outfits. A U.S.-led military coalition has been active inside Syria under the pretext of fighting the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group since September 2014 without any authorization from the Damascus government or a United Nations mandate.

Elsewhere in her remarks, Ershadi pointed to the illegal sanctions imposed by the US and some certain Western governments on Syria and said the restrictive measures were the "major causes of the current humanitarian situation in that country."

Calling on the UN Security Council to take "practical steps" in removing the unilateral sanctions against the Arab country, the Iranian envoy said the coercive measures "seriously undermine the efficiency of humanitarian operations in Syria conducted by the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations."

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