

Iran says Israel trying to deflect global attention from own nuclear arsenal

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?Iran's UN Ambassador Majid Takht-Ravanchi

Tehran, November 11 (RHC)-- Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations (UN) has denounced as hypocritical Israel's stance on Tehran's nuclear program, saying the regime is trying to divert global attention from its own nuclear activities and arsenal.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi made the remarks in an address to the United Nations Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation on Tuesday, during which he slammed Israel for refusing to join the Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty (NPT) as well as other arms control agreements.

Takht-Ravanchi described Israel's approach toward Iran as hypocritical and said Tel Aviv was trying to avert global attention from its own nuclear activities and arsenal. The Iranian envoy highlighted Israel's defiance of calls to create a nuclear-free region and described the regime's nuclear arsenal as a threat to the region.

Takht-Ravanchi noted that Israel has a long history of aggression and crime against Palestinians, and has violated hundreds of UN resolutions. "Throughout history, Israel has consistently and blatantly violated hundreds of UN resolutions against aggression, occupation and war crimes, and these are not to be forgotten," Takht-Ravanchi said.

"Israel has not adhered to the rules and regulations prohibiting the production, development and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, and its arsenals, given the regime's threatening attitude towards world peace and security, play a destabilizing role," he added. "The world must be fully aware of Israel's illegal actions and threats to regional peace and security."

Israel, which pursues a policy of deliberate ambiguity about its nuclear weapons, is estimated to have 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal. The regime has refused to allow inspections of its military nuclear facilities or sign the NPT.

The Israeli regime, the Middle East region's sole nuclear arms possessor, has also assassinated seven Iranian nuclear scientists. Neither the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) nor the United Nations have taken the Tel Aviv regime to task for its illegal activities aimed at endangering the regional and international peace and security.

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