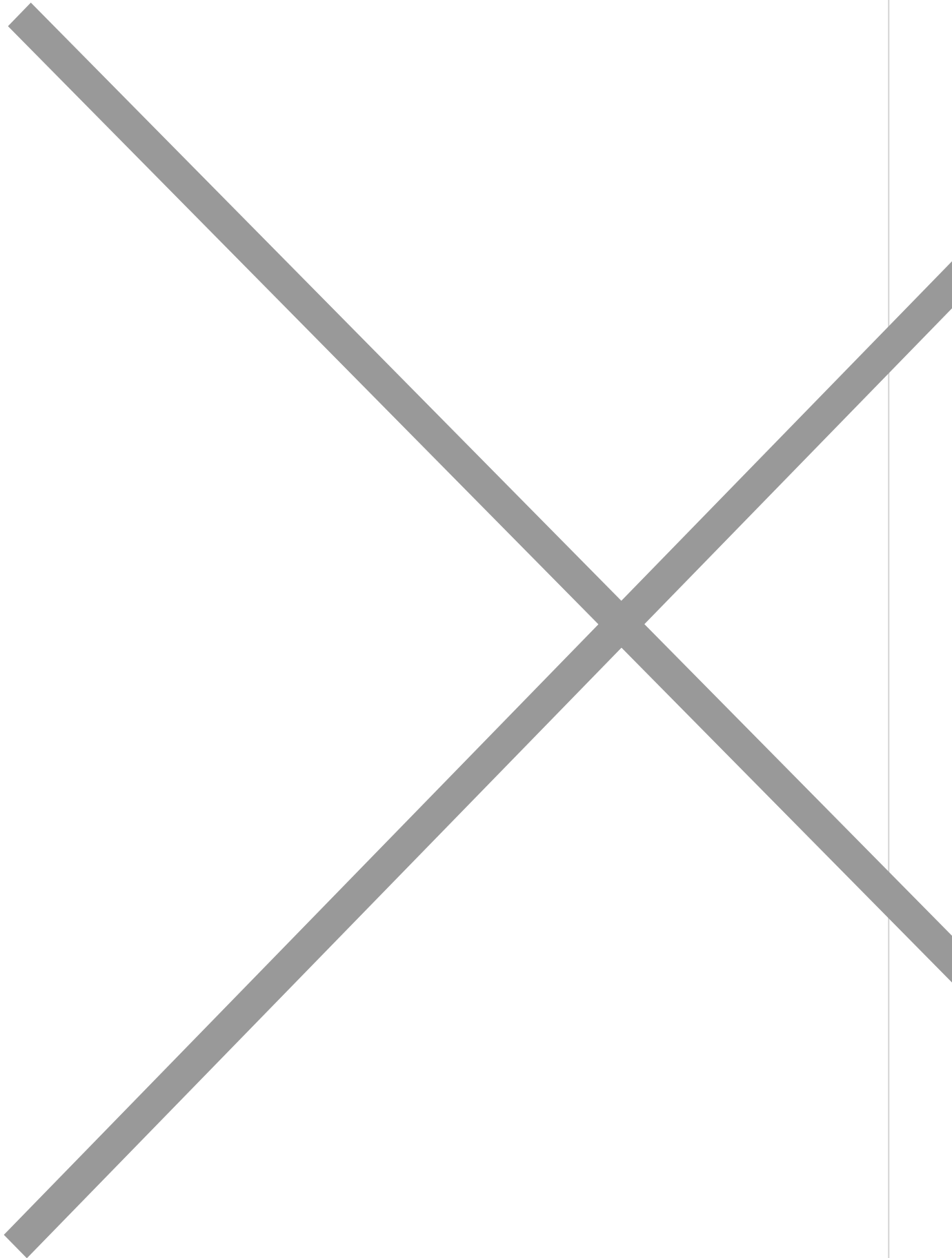


*Iran says U.S. is principal
defendant for human rights abuse
in world*

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Tehran, March 17 (RHC)-- Iran has censured the United States' use of human rights as an instrument, saying Washington is the main defendant of violations of rights in the world and in Israel's months-long crimes against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani made the statement in a post on his X social media account, following a recent U.S.-instructed report by the United Nations that accused the Islamic Republic of committing what it claimed to be "crimes against humanity" during foreign-backed riots in Iran in 2022.

The report came as the brutal war in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank by the Israeli regime, which enjoys Washington's untrammled support, has lingered for more than five months with no end in sight.

"By preemptively activating their propaganda machine concerning human rights in Iran, American authorities will not be able to expunge the stain of oppression and the US complicity in the genocide and mass murders inflicted upon the oppressed Palestinian population in Gaza and the West Bank," Kan'ani said.

"In the collective conscience of humanity and global public opinion, America stands as the principal defendant for the violation of various human rights and humanitarian laws, owing to its involvement in the provision of equipment and arms to the Zionist regime," he added.

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The spokesman also underlined that Washington's move to airdrop humanitarian aid into Gaza would not compensate for its unflinching support to the occupying regime's crimes in the besieged Palestinian territory.

"The ostentatious and hypocritical display by the United States regarding its endeavors to supply and deliver food to the Palestinians fails to mitigate the undeniable reality of its unwavering support for the war crimes committed by the Zionist regime," Kan'ani said.

"The politicization and instrumentalization of human rights and international human rights mechanisms constitute an inherent aspect of American foreign policy reality."

Since the start of Israel's genocidal war following Operation al-Aqsa Storm by Gaza-based resistance movements on October 7, 2023, more than 31,300 Palestinians, including many women and children, have lost their lives.

The Israeli military offensive has left a trail of destruction in Gaza, leaving hospitals in ruins and displacing around half of its 2.4 million residents.

Tel Aviv has additionally enforced a comprehensive blockade on the territory, severing the supply of fuel, electricity, sustenance and water to the population of over two million Palestinians residing there.



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