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Brief Notes

MP Indicted for Remarks Deemed 'Against National Security': The Tehran Prosecutor's Office has indicted a sitting member of the Majles (Parliament) for remarks deemed to be "against national security and causing public concern." Although the MP was not named in today's report from Pezeshkian administration-run IRNA, the move follows a July complaint against Abolfazl Zohrehvand, who said President Masoud Pezeshkian is "lacking the minimum qualifications" for office and is plotting to overthrow the Islamic Republic. The indictment comes just days after Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei publicly backed the "hardworking" President Pezeshkian, urging political factions to resist attempts by "enemies" to sow division.

Australia Expels Tehran's Ambassador

The Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) has come to the "deeply disturbing conclusion" that the Islamic Republic directed at least two antisemitic arson attacks in Sydney and Melbourne using a "layer cake" of criminal intermediaries. In response, the Albanese Government has expelled the Islamic Republic's ambassador, suspended its embassy in Tehran, and will move to list the IRGC as a terrorist organization. This move marks the first expulsion of a foreign ambassador from Australia since World War II.

The two incidents assessed with "credible intelligence" to have been directed by Tehran include arson attacks targeting a kosher restaurant in Sydney on October 20 of last year and the Adass Israel Synagogue in Melbourne on December 6 of last year. The ASIO further assessed that "it is likely Iran directed further attacks as well."

In response, the spokesperson for the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry, Esmaeil Baghaei, said Tehran is considering how to respond to Australia's decision, calling the move "inappropriate" and based on "false allegations." Baghaei warned that "any inappropriate action at the diplomatic level will be met with a reaction."

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, in an English-language post on X, said, "I am not in the habit of joining causes with wanted War Criminals, but Netanyahu is right about one thing: Australia's PM is indeed a 'weak politician,'" referring to an August 19 post from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Read NUFDI's policy brief here to learn more.

Geneva Talks With E3 Produce No Results

A new round of nuclear talks between the Islamic Republic and the E3 (Germany, France, and the United Kingdom) took place in Geneva today. Multiple sources have said that the talks did not yield results. According to one source, Islamic Republic diplomats gave little to no "detailed deliverables" to E3 representatives.

The meeting comes amid the E3's self-imposed end-of-August deadline to trigger UNSCR 2231's snapback mechanism, reimplementing UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic without a clear way for Tehran's allies on the UNSC to block the motion.

As such, today's discussions were focused on the resumption of Tehran's technical cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

State-run IRNA framed the talks as taking place at "the most sensitive moment" of the nuclear file, just before Europe's snapback deadline.

Meanwhile, lawmakers of the Majles (Parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Committee "strongly urged" the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the Foreign Ministry to continue to comply with the law passed by the Majles suspending cooperation with the IAEA.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabad, wrote on X, "Both sides outlined their respective views on resolution 2231. Iran remains committed to diplomacy and a mutually beneficial diplomatic solution. High time for the E3 and UNSC to make the right choice, and give diplomacy time and space."

Later, in a televised interview, Baghaei said, "In Geneva, we explained to the Europeans that, for legal reasons, they have no right to invoke the snapback mechanism, and that any such move would have consequences for them." He added, "It was agreed that contacts between Iran and the European side will continue in the coming days."

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On the Radar

- The head of Isfahan's judiciary announced that trial dates have been set for over 75% of cases related to alleged "espionage on behalf of Israel" during the 12-Day War, with verdicts already issued in many. The provincial judiciary chief also clarified that all cases involving espionage, armed robbery, and financial crimes, as well as any cases deemed moharebeh (waging war against Allah) and other crimes carrying the death penalty, are being handled on an expedited basis.
- Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin met with the Islamic Republic's ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, in Moscow today to discuss bilateral military cooperation and regional security, particularly

in the South Caucasus. According to the Russian Defense Ministry, the talks highlighted prospects for implementing joint military projects, and the meeting was held "in an atmosphere of friendship and trust."

- Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei criticized Ukraine's decision to terminate visa-free travel for Islamic Republic diplomatic and service passport-holders. Kyiv's move, announced on August 20, was described by Baghaei as "contrary to both international law and bilateral agreements" and one that "will be met with retaliation from Iran."
- In a phone call today, Chief of Staff of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces Abdolrahim Mousavi told Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan Asim Munir that Tehran was ready to work with Islamabad to "eradicate terrorism" and secure their shared border. He warned that militant activity had increased on both sides, particularly by groups like Jaish al-Adl in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province. Munir expressed desires to turn the Iran–Pakistan border into a "frontier of friendship, brotherhood and economic development."

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