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Trump Issues Warning After Iran Vows to Keep Nuclear Enrichment

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Iran's top diplomat has confirmed that Tehran will not abandon its nuclear enrichment program, despite recent damage to its nuclear facilities during conflict with Israel and the United States. In response, President Donald Trump issued a strong warning that the U.S. would strike again if necessary, doubling down on his previous claims about the effectiveness of those attacks.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi spoke to Fox News on Monday, July 21, addressing the aftermath of recent strikes on Iran's nuclear sites. He described the damage as 'serious'

and said Iran's Atomic Energy Organization was still assessing it. Yet he was clear that Tehran would not give up its enrichment program. "Our facilities have been seriously damaged. The extent of which is now under evaluation by our atomic energy organisation," Araghchi said. "We cannot give up enrichment because it is an achievement of our own scientists. And now, more than that, it is a question of national pride. Our enrichment is so dear to us."

After Iran's foreign minister's statement, Donald Trump defended his administration's actions on his Truth Social platform. "Of course they are, just like I said, and we will do it again, if necessary." Trump wrote. He then turned his ire on major news networks: "Fake News CNN should immediately fire their phony 'reporter' and apologize to me and the great pilots who 'obliterated' Iran's nuclear sites," he continued, calling CNN and MSNBC "major ratings losers."

Fresh Warning

Trump's message makes clear that any future threats to U.S. interests or those of its allies could draw a similar response. By highlighting his willingness to take further military action, he aims to deter Iran and reinforce his standing among supporters who prioritise a hardline stance on national security.

The nuclear enrichment process enables the creation of nuclear fuel but can also be diverted toward weapons development. Iran insists its program is solely for civilian energy use, while Israel and the United States argue that Tehran's advances risk a rapid breakout capacity for nuclear armament. This divide has been central to stalled diplomatic efforts.

Prior to the outbreak of hostilities, Iran and Washington held five rounds of negotiations mediated by Oman. These discussions faltered over how far Iran could enrich uranium without breaching limits that would trigger nuclear-weapon capability. Israel and the U.S. feared Iran was nearing a threshold that would allow swift weapons production. Tehran maintained its program remained within civilian bounds.

The crisis escalated on June 13, when Israel struck Iranian military and infrastructure targets, prompting a 12-day air war. U.S. forces joined strikes on nuclear facilities before a ceasefire was brokered in late June. Despite the pause in fighting, tensions have not eased.

Araghchi also reported that Iran's Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, is in good health. He indicated that Tehran remains open to talks with Washington, although any negotiations would not be direct "for the time being." The door to diplomacy is ajar, but both sides cling to red lines.

The United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continues to monitor Iran's program. The IAEA recently stated it has "no credible indication" that Iran is pursuing an active nuclear weapons project. Nonetheless, Iran's firm commitment to nuclear enrichment and Trump's vow of renewed strikes underscore a precarious standoff with global security implications.