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'The UAE moves forwards with confidence and resolve'

Ministers allay public fears over safety and food supply, and urge UN to act against Iran

VANESSA GHANEM

The UAE yesterday ruled out any military action against Iran, saying its "stance remains measured" while condemning Tehran's missile and drone attacks and urging the UN to intervene.

Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Co-operation, called on the UN Security Council to assume responsibility for addressing the attacks, which she said pose a direct threat to regional security.

"Our message is clear. The Iranian attacks are not justified, and the military solution will only lead to further crises," Ms Al Hashimy told journalists during a briefing in Abu Dhabi. "The rational path to preventing a wider military confrontation remains serious and responsible dialogue. These attacks also signal grave repercussions for bilateral relations, with direct consequences across all political, economic and trade levels.

"With this balance between firmness and responsibility, the United Arab Emirates moves forwards with confidence and resolve, defending its security, safeguarding regional stability, and affirming that a secure future is built not by force alone, but through dialogue, vision and shared aspirations for greater prosperity.

"Let trust remain stronger than fear, and steady institutional action swifter than chaos, a calm and deliberate resolve amid the noise.

"The Security Council must take responsibility in dealing with these attacks and take the necessary measures to prevent them from happening again. This issue is not only related to the Iranian nuclear file, but also extends to the missile programme, which poses a direct



An Iranian missile, destroyed by the UAE's air defences, on display during a briefing in Abu Dhabi yesterday Reuters

threat to Iran's neighbours and requires a comprehensive and responsible international response.

"In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that despite the intensity of the events, our stance remains measured."

The UAE yesterday sent a letter to the Security Council and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, in which it urged Iran to immediately halt its attacks

and refrain from any further "unlawful threat or use of force".

"These attacks constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the UAE and the other targeted states, and are a clear breach of the fundamental rules and principles of international law and the charter of the United Nations," UAE envoy to the UN Mohamed Abushahab wrote in the letter. He rejected the

"abusive invocation" by Iran of Article 51 of the UN charter, calling it "a failed attempt to justify its aggression and circumvent the fundamental prohibition on the use of force under international law".

"Article 51 does not provide any legal basis or justification for these heinous attacks," he wrote. The UAE considers the

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President discusses strikes in call with Zelenskyy

PATRICK RYAN

President Sheikh Mohamed yesterday received a phone call from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss the urgent need to halt military escalation in the region.

Mr Zelenskyy condemned the Iranian attacks on the UAE, and said that they represent a breach of sovereignty, international law and the UN Charter, state news agency Wam reported.

Sheikh Mohamed thanked Mr Zelenskyy for his support, and the two leaders stressed the need to stop the military escalation in the region.

The UAE leader has received a series of calls from world leaders this week, in a display of support to the Emirates as it defends itself against Iranian air strikes.

Sheikh Mohamed yesterday also received a phone call from Christian Stocker, Chancellor of Austria, to discuss the military and security situation in the region.

Mr Stocker denounced Iran's attacks on the UAE and, echoing Mr Zelenskyy's remarks, said they constitute a breach of international law and the UN Charter.

He added that Vienna had summoned the Iranian ambassador to reaffirm its strong condemnation of the attacks.

Sheikh Mohamed thanked Mr Stocker for the support and the two leaders called for an immediate halt to military escalation.

The President also received a call from Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada.

They discussed the escalation unfolding in the Middle East, and Mr Carney stressed Canada's solidarity with the UAE after the Iranian attacks on its territory, Wam reported.

Mr Carney said the attacks constitute a flagrant breach of state sovereignty and the principles of international law, undermining regional and international security.

Sheikh Mohamed thanked Mr Carney for his support and highlighted the need for an immediate halt to escalatory actions.

Throughout the day, Sheikh Mohamed also received calls from Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Evka Silina, Prime Minister of Latvia.

Both passed on messages of support for the UAE and condemned Iran's attacks.

Israeli troops push into Lebanon as war toll mounts

THOMAS HELM
Jerusalem
NADA HOMSI
JAMIE PRENTIS
Beirut
LIZZIE PORTER

Israeli troops advanced further into Lebanon yesterday as casualties mounted in the regional war.

The Israeli army was ordered to seize parts of Lebanon to prevent rocket fire by Hezbollah. Lebanese troops were forced to withdraw from at least three areas, an army official told *The National*, while Beirut was subjected to air strikes for

a second day. As attacks continued across the Middle East, emergency workers in Iran said the nationwide death toll had risen to 787 after hundreds of strikes on the country. Some Iranians were leaving their homes for Turkey. The Israeli air force said it had attacked "industrial sites" in Iran being used to produce missiles.

Air defence systems in Tehran were "not really working", one resident told *The National*. The US and Israel have attacked security and military compounds within a stone's throw of people's homes.

"Unfortunately, all of this

is happening in the middle of residential buildings, so the neighbouring houses are all being damaged," the resident said.

Governments across the region were trying to contain the fallout of the war. Syria has sent elite troops and heavy weapons to the border with Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon, sources told *The National*.

Authorities in Damascus have sent hundreds of soldiers, tanks, troop carriers and field artillery from Kurdish-held areas in the north-east of the country to the border with Lebanon in the past three weeks, one source said.

In Iraq, authorities seized a rocket launcher they said could have fired nine missiles at Baghdad. One report suggested that attacks had been launched from Iraq into Saudi Arabia.

Officials in Baghdad also condemned a drone strike against the American embassy in Riyadh.

Iraq's BP-operated Rumaila oilfield, one of the largest in the country, has been closed because of a shortage of tankers at the country's southern ports.

The Oil Ministry said the shortage was the result of the closure of Strait of Hormuz, where ships have come under

attack since the war began on Saturday.

Brent crude rose above \$84 a barrel after Iran attacked oil storage sites in Fujairah and a fuel tank at Oman's Duqm port, escalating the situation beyond Hormuz to alternative Gulf export routes.

Efforts to contain the war have so far failed in Lebanon, after Israel and Hezbollah exchanged rocket fire across the border.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said troops had been instructed to "seize additional controlling areas in Lebanon

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