

Israel Says Stopping Iran's Nuclear Program a 'Moral Imperative'

Israel's military chief says the Jewish state has a "moral imperative" to prepare a military response to Iran's nuclear program, and that an attack on the Islamic republic is "at the center" of Israel's plans.

"Preparing the home front for war has been an important issue since the inception of the state, but it has become increasingly important over the years," IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi said Sunday during a speech at a military ceremony. "This is a task that must be accelerated in the coming years, especially in view of the possibility that we will be required to act against a nuclear threat, and it should be part of the intensive preparations we are advancing for the moment of truth."

Kochavi said "preparing a military option against the Iranian nuclear program is a moral imperative and a national security order." He revealed that such plans are "at the center" of the IDF's preparations, which include "a variety of operational plans, the allocation of resources, the acquisition of appropriate weapons, intelligence and training."

"It is no secret that we have the technical capabilities to manufacture a nuclear bomb, but we have no decision to do so," Kamal Kharazi, the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, told Al Jazeera hours before Kochavi's speech.

"In a few days, we were able to enrich uranium up to 60% and we can easily produce 90% enriched uranium," he said.

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