

IRAN ASKS UN TO ACT AGAINST 'ECONOMIC STRANGULATION' BY U.S.

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: United Nations (UNO)

Mohsen Mohebi, Iran's UN representative. AFP/JERRY LAMPEN

Iran on Monday demanded the UN's top court to suspend U.S. nuclear-linked sanctions against Tehran, accusing Washington of plotting its "economic strangulation".

The Islamic Republic launched a suit at the International Court of Justice over U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to reimpose the sanctions that had been lifted in a 2015 accord.

Iran says Mr. Trump's move breaches a 1955 treaty.

Mr. Trump says the sanctions are needed to ensure Iran never builds a nuclear bomb. But Iran's representative Mohsen Mohebi branded them "naked economic aggression". His team of lawyers told the court in The Hague the measures were already devastating Iran's economy and threatening the welfare of its citizens.

"The United States is publicly propagating a policy intended to damage as severely as possible Iran's economy and Iranian nationals and companies," said Mr. Mohebi. "Iran will put up the strongest resistance to the U.S. economic strangulation, by all peaceful means."

The sanctions target financial transactions and imports of raw materials, cars and aircraft among other things. A second wave of punitive measures is due to hit Iran in early November, targeting its vital energy sector including oil exports.

Iran's lawyers said the sanctions would cause it "irreparable prejudice". They urged the court to order the suspension of the sanctions pending a definitive ruling.

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