

▶ War enters a critical phase of warfare and diplomatic maneuvering: expert

# Trump renews threat to Iran amid contradicting claims on 15-point plan

By GT staff reporters

The Chinese side has stressed on multiple occasions that a drawn-out conflict serves no one's interest, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Monday in response to question regarding US President Donald Trump's claim that a deal with Iran on ending the Middle East conflict could be reached soon, while at the same time not ruling out ground operations as well as more strikes, including ones targeting power stations.

As the US-Israeli military operation against Iran entered the second month, US President Donald Trump renewed the threat to Iran on Monday, claiming to "completely" destroy Kharg Island, Iran's main hub for oil exports, and other key energy sites in the country, if it did not agree to a peace deal and end its de facto blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, the New York Times reported.

Such threat was made just a day after the US President claimed that it has been a "big day in Iran" and claimed in a recent interview that he wants to "take

the oil in Iran" and could seize Kharg Island, as the US sends thousands of troops to the Middle East, according to media reports.

The US President also claimed on Sunday that Iran has agreed to "most of" the 15-point list of demands that the US conveyed, via Pakistan, to end the war, CNN said.

However, Iran has contradicted Trump's claims that it had agreed to "most of" the US' 15-point list of demands to end the war, describing the proposal as "unrealistic", according to multiple media reports. The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Monday that the country has held no "direct" talks with the US until now, but has received messages through some mediators regarding the US desire for negotiations, Iranian media Press TV reported.

Some Chinese observers noted that as the conflict entered its second month, although Iran's senior leadership has suffered significant losses during the conflict, its ongoing counterattacks have achieved some results, and neither the US nor Israel has been able to secure a

decisive military advantage, they noted.

"The US side hopes to bring the conflict to an end as quickly as possible, and has therefore been sending out complex and even contradictory signals. On the one hand, it has conveyed its willingness to engage in negotiations; on the other hand, it has continued to intensify both the scale and intensity of its military strikes against Iran," said Sun Degang, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University.

The current conflict has entered a critical phase in which warfare and negotiations coexist, some Chinese experts said. Military clashes on the battlefield continue to escalate: the US is steadily increasing troop deployments and strengthening its military posture, while Iran is simultaneously intensifying its counterattacks. Meanwhile, diplomatic maneuvering is unfolding in parallel. Although information about negotiations remains mixed and difficult to verify, it is clear that both sides are still in contact, said Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University.

## FM criticizes US senators' visit to Taiwan region aimed at pushing defense budget bill

By Zhang Wanshi

When asked about the visit by four US senators to the Taiwan region, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Monday that China has all along opposed official contact between the US and China's Taiwan region, and has lodged serious protests with the US side.

The US should abide by the one-China principle and the three China-US joint communiqués, handle the Taiwan question prudently and properly, stop any form of official contact with China's Taiwan region, stop sending any wrong message to "Taiwan independence" separatist forces, and take concrete actions to uphold the overall China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits, Mao added.

A delegation from the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee arrived in the Taiwan region early Monday, reportedly to press the region's lawmakers to pass a proposed defense spending bill worthy \$40 billion, multiple media reported.

The budget was previously proposed by Taiwan regional leader Lai Ching-te to fund the construction of a so-called "T-Dome" air defense network, according to Focus Taiwan.

Since the budget was proposed, it has sparked skepticism and criticism on the island in recent months, with many questioning its transparency. KMT's legislative caucus whip Fu Kun-chi previously criticized the budget as being akin to "demanding a blank check while the public remains in the dark", Taipei Times reported.

Admittedly, Washington's so-called support for Taiwan region is merely rhetorical, apart from forcing the island to spend heavily on American weapons, said Zhang Wensheng, deputy dean and professor at the Taiwan Research Institute of Xiamen University, adding that the essence of this visit is still to serve US interests, as Washington is concerned that losing this arms deal could hurt its own economic benefits.

For the Taiwan regional authorities, the DPP has been scrambling to comply with US arms purchase demands and increase relevant spending to curry favor with the US. The DPP authorities also hope to use this opportunity to have Washington directly pressure opposition parties in Taiwan region, Zhang said.

## ▶ Airport disruption

Check-in counters at Terminal T4 of Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport, on March 30, 2026, in Madrid (Spain). Aena's airport network expects to handle 70,505 flights between this Friday and April 6, whilst facing an indefinite strike by Groundforce affecting 12 key airports, according to media reports.

Photo: VCG



## India's new rules bar Chinese CCTV camera brands, hurting fair trade and its own market: expert

By GT staff reporters

Chinese video surveillance companies such as Hikvision, Dahua and TP-Link will be barred from selling internet-connected CCTV cameras and other video surveillance products in India starting April 1, when the country's new certifying rules officially take effect. Chinese experts and industry insiders have sharply criticized

the move, arguing that it is essentially a discriminatory trade protection measure disguised as "cybersecurity," which not only violates international trade rules but also harms India's own market interests.

According to industry executives cited by India's Economic Times on Monday, the Indian government is explicitly refusing to certify products made by Chinese video surveillance

companies and those using Chinese chipsets, effectively shutting these firms out of the Indian market.

Zhang Xiaorong, director of the Beijing-based Cutting-Edge Technology Research Institute, said on Monday that India's new rules lack reasonable justification and constitute targeted trade discrimination. "India has rejected Chinese companies' products and Chi-

nese chipsets on national security grounds without providing any substantive evidence. This clearly violates the principles of fair trade."

According to the Economic Times, the restrictions stem from Essential Requirements norms for CCTV cameras introduced by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India in April 2024, giving the industry a

two-year transition window to certify each product. The rules require manufacturers to declare the country of origin of critical components such as the System-on-Chip and the devices tested against vulnerabilities that could allow unauthorized remote access, per report.

