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## Iran Army Chief Warns of Response to Hostile Actions



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Tehran, January 7—Iran's army chief has warned that the country will respond if hostile rhetoric by its “enemies” continues, signaling heightened vigilance amid recent protests.

Chief Commander of the Iranian Army, Amir Hatami, stated that escalation of aggressive

language against Iran is considered a direct threat and will not be ignored. He emphasized that the Iranian armed forces are at full readiness, cautioning that any miscalculation by adversaries could trigger a response more decisive than the 12-day war in June.

Hatami also addressed the ongoing unrest in several Iranian cities, noting that protests are a natural phenomenon, but rapid escalation into riots appears unusual and deliberately planned by foreign adversaries. He condemned Western sanctions as cruel measures designed to inflict economic hardship on the Iranian people.

The unrest, which began in late December, has been fueled by the sharp depreciation of the national currency, the rial. Iranian authorities acknowledged citizens' economic grievances and said efforts are underway to address their concerns, while maintaining a firm stance against violence, vandalism, and public disorder.

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi reiterated that Iran's internal affairs are solely the concern of its people, emphasizing ongoing dialogue between the government and citizens to resolve issues.

Hatami's warning reflects Tehran's determination to protect national sovereignty and respond decisively to external provocations, underscoring the army's readiness to defend the nation amid regional and international tensions.

