

Iran Denies Providing Russia With Weapons 'to be Used' in Ukraine

By <u>AFP</u>

October 15, 2022



Iranian leader Ali Khamenei holds a meeting in Tehran. Parspix / ABACA

Iran has once again rejected allegations that it has supplied Russia with weapons "to be used in the war in Ukraine," its Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

Kyiv and many of its Western allies have accused Moscow of using Iranian-made drones in attacks on Ukraine in recent weeks. The topic is expected to be discussed by European Union foreign ministers in a meeting in Luxemburg on Monday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian "emphasised that the Islamic republic of Iran has not and will not provide any weapon to be used in the war in Ukraine," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"We believe that the arming of each side of the crisis will prolong the war," the Iranian foreign minister said in a call with his Portuguese counterpart Joao Gomes Cravinho.

"We have not considered and do not consider war to be the right path either in Ukraine or in Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen."

In a separate phone call with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Friday, Amir-Abdollahian reiterated Iran's official stance of neutrality over the war that started nearly eight months ago.

"We have defence cooperation with Russia, but our policy regarding the war in Ukraine is not sending weapons to the conflicting parties, stopping the war and ending the displacement of people," he said.

On Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Iranian drones were used in Russian attacks on energy infrastructure in several Ukrainian cities.

Last month, Kyiv decided to significantly reduce its diplomatic relations with Tehran over alledged arms deliveries to Russia.

Iran said the decision was "driven by baseless information provided by foreign media propaganda."

In September, the United States slapped sanctions on a company it accused of helping deliver Iranian drones to Russia for use in Ukraine.

Original url:

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/10/15/iran-denies-providing-russia-with-weapons-to-be-used-in-ukraine-a79098