

## Iran vows to respond to any U.S. attacks

by UPI

TEHRAN - A former Iranian defense minister said Monday that if the United States attacks any of Iran's nuclear facilities, the nearby Persian Gulf states would suffer.

Former Defense Minister Adm. Ali Shamkhani said that if Iranian nuclear facilities are ultimately targeted by U.S. forces, the Persian Gulf states would be the target of a "missile blitz" from Iran, Haaretz reported.

"The objective will be to stun the American missile defense system using dozens if not hundreds of missiles that will be launched simultaneously at certain targets," Shamkhani said.

Shamkhani added that such an effort would mainly target U.S. allies in the region and would most likely ignite a massive war in the Middle East.

The unprecedented comments from the senior Iranian official come after numerous experts had predicted that any retaliatory strikes from Iran would mainly be targeted at Israel.

Haaretz said that experts have also named Saudi Arabia as a possible retaliatory target should the United States take military action.

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