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Israel said Saturday the fueling of Iran's first nuclear reactor was "totally unacceptable" and urged greater world pressure to force Tehran to cease any uranium enrichment.

"It is totally unacceptable that a country that so blatantly violates (international treaties) should enjoy the fruits of using nuclear energy," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yossi Levy said in a statement.

With Russian help, Iranian engineers began loading fuel into the country's first nuclear power plant Saturday, marking a milestone in Tehran's development of what it insists is a peaceful nuclear energy program.

"The international community should increase pressure to force Iran to abide by international decisions and cease its enrichment activities and its construction of reactors," Levy said.

A top Iranian official, however, was quoted saying Iran will continue to enrich uranium on the side -- despite a White House warning that Iran does need the enrichment program once the new Bushehr reactor is online if its intentions are indeed peaceful.

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