



Iran says the US has "crossed a red line" by imposing sanctions on the head of its judiciary, Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli-Larijani. The foreign ministry vowed to retaliate, but did not say what form any action might take. Iran also rejected any changes to its nuclear deal with world powers.

US President Donald Trump, a critic of the 2015 accord, said on Friday he would extend sanctions relief over the landmark deal one last time. At the same time the US imposed fresh sanctions on 14 individuals and entities over alleged rights abuses. President Trump said he was giving Europe and the US "a last chance" to fix "terrible flaws" in the nuclear agreement signed by Iran and six world powers in 2015.

The White House wants EU signatories to agree permanent restrictions on Iran's uranium enrichment. Under the current deal they are set to expire in 2025. Mr Trump also wants Iran's ballistic missile programme to be addressed.

Is Trump going to kill Iran deal?

Iran nuclear deal: Key details

What are the new sanctions?

Although the US has suspended sanctions against Iran following the nuclear deal, it still imposes punitive measures over issues such as terrorism, human rights and ballistic missile development.

The US Treasury issued a statement on Friday saying Ayatollah Amoli-Larijani was responsible for the "torture or cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment or punishment of prisoners in Iran, including amputations". He had called for a crackdown on "rioters" and "vandals" following a recent spate of anti-government protests in Iranian cities.

Iran has complained that US sanctions not connected to nuclear activity have effectively cancelled out any financial benefits it expected from the 2015 deal. Voices from Iran: 'We have the right to protest'

What was Iran's reaction?

"The Trump regime's hostile action (against Larijani)... crossed all red lines of conduct in the international community and is a violation of international law and will surely be answered by a serious reaction of the Islamic Republic," the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement. It accused Mr Trump of "continuing to take hostile measures against the Iranian people and repeating the threats that have failed many times".

A timeline of what Trump's said about the Iran deal

Referring to Mr Trump's threats to scrap the nuclear deal, the statement said Iran "will not accept any amendments in this agreement, be it now or in the future, and it will not allow any other issues to be linked to the JCPOA [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action]". Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday it was a "desperate attempt" to undermine a "solid" deal.

What is the nuclear deal?

The accord signed between six global powers and Iran saw Iran agree to reduce uranium enrichment activity drastically, dispose of its enriched uranium stocks and modify a heavy water facility so it could not produce material suitable for a nuclear bomb.

In return, decades of international and US nuclear-related sanctions were suspended. As part of an agreement with Congress, the president has to sign a waiver suspending the sanctions every 120 days.

What does Mr Trump want to change?

Mr Trump has repeatedly criticised the deal - reached under his predecessor Barack Obama - as "the worst ever". The waiver he will sign suspends sanctions for another 120 days, but he warned that if a new agreement was not made "the United States will not again waive sanctions". "If at any time I judge that such an agreement is not within reach, I will withdraw from the deal immediately," he said.

US officials say the president will work with European partners to try to broker an agreement limiting Iran's ballistic missiles activities. He was prepared to back a modification to the existing deal if it were made permanent, one official said. The president also wants the US Congress to amend a law on US participation in the nuclear deal, so that Washington could reimpose all sanctions if Iran breaches certain "trigger points".

This would involve negotiations between the US and its European allies rather than talks with Iran, the official said.

What have other countries said?

Russia's deputy foreign minister, Sergei Ryabkov, described Mr Trump's comments as "extremely negative". Germany has said it will continue to call for the deal's full implementation and would consult on a "common way forward" with the UK and France. French President Emmanuel Macron phoned Mr Trump on Thursday to call for "the strict application of the deal and the importance of all the signatories to respect it".