



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian  
IRNA

# FM, SNSC chief visiting Pakistan, Iraq for good neighborliness

**National Desk**  
Iranian Foreign Minister and Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) will soon travel to Pakistan and Iraq, respectively, in response to recent tensions between Iran and its neighboring countries. Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Sunday warned against the enemies' attempts to use terrorism as a tool against the country's good neighborliness policy, saying he

will visit Pakistan on Monday, while Ali Akbar Ahmadian will visit Iraq soon to resolve the recent issues, IRNA reported. "With a special focus on the good neighborliness policy, we have seen and defined security at the heart of the good neighborliness policy. We will never allow the enemies to target the friendship, peace and security of the region," Amir-Abdollahian said at the 7th Conference on Multilateralism in the

History of Iran's Foreign Relations in Tehran. He further said that over the past days, there have been terrorist moves in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and areas in Pakistan's Balochistan Province. Iran, he added, held constructive talks with Pakistani and Iraqi officials in a bid to protect the security of the country and its borders as well as that of the region. The discussions focused on a joint understanding and

political solutions to the occurrences in Pakistan's Balochistan and Iraq's Kurdistan, Amir-Abdollahian noted. Earlier this month, Iran and Pakistan witnessed an escalation of cross-border tensions over Iran's counter-terrorism operations. On January 16, Iran launched simultaneous drone and missile attacks on two bases of Jaish al-Adl, a terror outfit that was formed in 2012 and has conducted several attacks

on Iranian soil in recent years. The group claimed responsibility for an attack in December 2023 on a police station in the southeastern city of Rask that killed at least 11 Iranian police officers. On January 10, another attack by the group on a police station in the city killed one officer. Also, characterizing it a response to Tehran's operation against terrorist bases inside Pakistan, nine people, including four children,

were killed after Islamabad admitted attacking a village in Saravan in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchistan Province. Pakistan carried out the strikes on January 18 against what it called bases of the separatist Baloch Liberation Front and Baloch Liberation Army in regions close to Iran's border. Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) also launched missile strikes on an Israeli spy base in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

## Bright future in Iran-Pakistan relations

By Seyed Reza Sadroddini  
Middle East affairs expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Iran's foreign minister has traveled to Pakistan and the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council is scheduled to visit Iraq, in line with Iran's policy of strengthening relations with neighboring countries. Iraq and Pakistan are among the neighboring countries which have good relations with Iran, and it seems that the trips by the Iranian officials to these countries are aimed at developing relations between Iran and these countries, as the three countries still have capacities for expansion of relations. Tehran and Islamabad have a lot in common in the economic, political and cultural fields. The two countries have a long common border of 900 kilometers, which can be an opportunity for the two countries. The two Islamic states share many views on the major issues of the Islamic world, including the issue of Palestine. However, both Tehran and Islamabad are aware that there are ill-wishers who are awaiting an opportunity to create tensions between the two countries. Considering long and good neighborliness and relations between the two countries, it seems that Iranian and Pakistani officials have overcome a brief tension created between the two neighbors and are looking to the future. Pakistan's ambassador to Tehran has recently said that the time is ripe for turning a new leaf in bilateral relations. His remarks indicate that the two countries are determined to shape a better future in their relations. Iran's products and energy can meet a part of Pakistan's needs. Both countries also can reach agreement on Iran's investment in Pakistan's various projects. Pakistan's agricultural products can also explore new markets inside Iran. Therefore, Iran's top diplomat's visit to Pakistan can be considered a political-economic trip to stabilize and develop relations between the two neighbors. Tehran and Islamabad are both scarred by terrorism – the issue that has brought closer the two countries for more cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Israel's criminal actions in Gaza have created a complicated situation in the region. As one of the pillars of stability in the Middle East region, Iran has had various consultations to counter efforts by trans-regional powers to disturb the stability of the region. Therefore, the visit by Iranian officials to Pakistan and Iraq should be evaluated in this regard. Especially, the recent developments in the region, such as the Israeli genocidal acts in Gaza, have confirmed Tehran's positive role.

# Nations pausing UN Gaza funding could be violating genocide convention: Expert



REUTERS

A UN expert warned Sunday that countries defunding the UN agency for Palestinian refugees were breaching a court order to provide effective aid in Gaza and could be violating the international genocide convention. A number of donor coun-

tries – including Australia, Britain, Finland, Germany and Italy – on Saturday followed the lead of the US in suspending additional funding to UNRWA, Reuters reported. That came after Israel alleged that several of the UN agency's staff members

were involved in Hamas's October 7 attack. Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur for the occupied Palestinian territories, warned that the decision to pause funding to UNRWA "overtly defies" the order by the International Court of Justice to allow effective humanitarian assistance to reach Gazans. "This will entail legal responsibilities – or the demise of the (international) legal system," she wrote on X. UNRWA reacted to the allegations by firing several staff and promising a thorough investigation into the unspecified claims, but Israel has nonetheless

vowed to stop the agency's work in Gaza after the war. The row between Israel and UNRWA follows the UN's International Court of Justice ruling on Friday that Israel must prevent possible acts of genocide in the conflict and allow more aid into Gaza. Albanese, who is an independent expert appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, but who does not speak on behalf of the UN, highlighted the timing of the defunding decisions. "The day after ICJ concluded that Israel is plausibly committing genocide in Gaza, some states decided to defund UNRWA," she said. By doing so, she said,

countries are "collectively punishing millions of Palestinians at the most critical time, and most likely violating their obligations under the Genocide Convention". Also, UN officials and aid groups called for the countries to reconsider their defunding decision on Sunday, warning that its life-saving aid for some two million people in Gaza was in jeopardy. "While I understand their concerns – I was myself horrified by these accusations – I strongly appeal to the governments that have suspended their contributions to, at least, guarantee the continuity of UNRWA's operations,"

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Sunday, vowing to hold to account "any UN employee involved in acts of terror". Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA commissioner-general, also urged countries to "reconsider their decisions before UNRWA is forced to suspend its humanitarian response." At least 26,422 people have been killed in Israel's war on Gaza, the enclave's health ministry said. With flows of aid like food and medicine into the territory just a trickle of pre-conflict levels, deaths from preventable diseases as well as the risk of famine are growing, aid officials say.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iranian destroyer attracts customers after round-the-world mission

Many foreign countries have become interested in purchasing Iran's homegrown Dena destroyer, which has circumnavigated the world as part of the 86th flotilla, said Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani. The Dena destroyer, which has circumnavigated the globe without any breakdown, or even a mere fracture in its antennas, has attracted many customers after the mission, the navy commander said on Sunday, Tasnim News Agency reported. Pointing to Iran's success in

developing indigenous maritime methods and navigational techniques for riding out storms, the commander said the 86th flotilla's contact with Iran was not disconnected even for a second during its mission. The Iranian Navy's 86th flotilla, comprising the Dena destroyer and the Makran forward base ship, left Iran's southern port city of Bandar Abbas in September 2022, and returned home in May 2023, after sailing 63,000 kilometers of sea routes. Dena is a Mowj-class destroyer that joined the Ira-

nian Navy in June 2021. The military vessel is equipped with anti-ship cruise missiles, torpedoes and naval cannons. Makran is a forward base ship weighing 121,000 tons. The warship can carry five helicopters and is employed for providing logistical support for combat warships.



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