

US not an 'honest mediator' in Gaza crisis: *Iran*

'Unilateralism cannot provide solutions for problems'

Iran's acting foreign minister says the United States is not an "honest mediator" in the issue of Palestine and Gaza as Washington is the biggest arm supplier to the Israeli regime.

Ali Bagheri Kani made the remarks in an interview with Newsweek and in response to a question about the role of the United States in ceasefire negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

"We believe that, in this regard, the United States of America is not an honest mediator regarding the issue of Palestine and Gaza. And what is the reason for this claim? Because, today, the United States of America is the biggest and the most important country that is providing the Zionists with these state-of-the-art fatal weapons in order to kill the innocent and helpless people across Gaza and Palestine, including women, children and youths as well as elderly people," Bagheri Kani said. "If the Americans are honest about the mediation, it is not necessary for them to make a big deal, it would just be enough to stop the delivery of fatal weapons to Israel."

Bagheri Kani said that

definitely the United Nations Security Council, which is majorly in charge of ensuring and safeguarding global peace and security, should make use of all its potentials and capacities to stop Israel from continuing its atrocities and killings of the innocent people of Gaza, particularly women and children.

The top Iranian diplomat is in New York to take part in two debates at the UN Security Council (UNSC), which will discuss multilateralism and Palestine, respectively.

"The engagement and participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the highest level in these two United Nations Security Council meetings indicate the significance that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to multilateral mechanisms and to the pivotal role of the United Nations when it comes to establishing stability and promoting peace in the world."

Unilateralism

The Iranian official said that in recent years and on different occasions, it has been proved that unilateralism cannot bring about any solutions for the existing problems in the world. "For instance, some years



Iranian Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani (R) speaks during an exclusive interview with Newsweek at the Iranian Mission to the United Nations in New York on July 14, 2024.

● RENAE WHISSEL/NEWSWEEK

ago, in very tense negotiations, Iran as well as other countries reached a deal, which was called the JCPOA, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, back in 2015. But it was this unilateralism that, without any logic, [US] withdrew from this international agreement and instead of following and being committed to a solution. This unilateralism created a kind of deadlock regarding this important

issue," he said. He also cited the Israel's ongoing genocidal war in Gaza as another consequence of unilateralism. "Another example is the fact that it is for more than nine months that the Israeli Zionist regime is committing crimes, genocide and aggression against the people of Gaza. In this regard, the unilateralism, which is led by the United States of America, has not only failed in bringing

a solution to this global issue and problem, but at the same time the US has been sending and delivering state-of-the-art fatal weapons to Israel in order to continue these atrocities, killings and genocide," he said.

"So, we believe that through multilateralism we are able to create a world that is more just, more transparent, more democratic and more stable," the Iranian official said.



The Republican Party formally nominated Donald Trump as its presidential nominee for a third cycle in a row, cementing his status as the GOP standard-bearer nearly a decade after first ascending to the top of the party.

The selection represents a



Former US president Donald Trump raises his fist as he arrives on the first day of the 2024 Republican National Convention at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on July 15, 2024.

● BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP

US Republicans formally name Trump their presidential nominee

remarkable moment for the former president, who over the last three years has faced denunciation for the Jan. 6 riot, multiple criminal indictments, political setbacks — and just this weekend, an assassination attempt, Politico reported.

Trump is the first convicted felon to become a major-party presidential nominee. His nomination Monday came as no surprise, as an overwhelming majority of convention delegates were already pledged to support Trump after he dominated

the primaries. Nikki Haley, the former governor of South Carolina and former Republican challenger to Trump, released her delegates earlier this month and encouraged them to back Trump in Milwaukee. Members of his party, including some presidential hopefuls, denounced Trump after the Jan. 6 insurrection and his attempts to overturn his 2020 loss to President Joe Biden. He was seen by some as politically toxic after Republicans lost the House and Senate during his

presidency. Trump was also partially blamed in 2022 for Republicans' failure to win back the Senate and smaller-than-expected margin of victory in winning the House. Then came a series of criminal indictments. In New York, he was convicted in May for covering up hush money payments to a porn star. In Washington and Georgia, federal and state prosecutors brought charges related to his effort to subvert the 2020 election. And in Florida, he was charged

for hoarding classified documents at Mar-a-Lago and then obstructing the probe. Trump on Saturday evening survived a shooting that federal law enforcement officials say was a likely assassination attempt. Saturday's shooting at a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, killed one rallygoer and wounded two others. A bullet pierced Trump's right ear, and a Secret Service sniper team shot dead 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, who was identified as the gunman.

Four Pakistanis killed in shooting near Oman mosque

At least four Pakistanis were killed and another 30 wounded in a shooting near a mosque in the Omani capital Muscat, officials said Tuesday, a rare attack in the otherwise stable Persian Gulf sultanate.

Monday's mosque attack, which has yet to be claimed, came as Shia Muslims were marking Ashura to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein, the third Shia Imam and the grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

"The Royal Oman Police have responded to a shooting incident that occurred in the vicinity of a mosque in the Al-Wadi Al-Kabir area" of the capital, police said in a statement. The force gave an initial toll of four killed and "several" wounded.

"The authorities are continuing to gather evidence and conduct investigations to uncover the circumstances surrounding the incident," police added on X. The area was cordoned off on Tuesday, with journalists unable

to access the mosque, an AFP photographer reported. Oman has a population of over four million, more than 40 percent of whom are expatriate workers, most of them from south Asia, according to government figures.

Such an attack is rare in Oman, which regularly plays mediating roles in regional conflicts. The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry in a statement on Tuesday condemned the shooting incident.

China 'ready' to work with new Iranian gov't

China said it appreciates Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian's recently announced favorable stance on the countries' relations, voicing Beijing's readiness to work with the Islamic Republic's incoming administration. Foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian made the remarks at a news conference on Monday, Press TV reported. He was responding to a question concerning an article written by Pezeshkian on Saturday, in which the president-elect had said that

the Islamic Republic "looks forward to more extensive" cooperation with China. Pezeshkian had also noted that China had consistently stood by Iran during challenging times, asserting, "We deeply value this friendship." China is willing to cooperate with the future Iranian officials to promote the steady and long-term development of the countries' Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement, he added. China is Iran's largest trade partner. Both countries are subject to

different levels of illegal sanctions imposed by the United States. The countries signed the landmark 25-year partnership agreement in March 2021 in a bid to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance. The deal, which had been announced during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Tehran back in 2016, sets the outlines of Sino-Iranian cooperation in political, cultural, security, defense, regional, and international domains for the period in question.

Azerbaijan reopens embassy in Iran



A man paints the gate of the new Azerbaijan Embassy in Tehran, on July 15, 2024.

● AFP

Azerbaijan's Embassy in Tehran has resumed work more than a year after a deadly attack that soured ties between the two neighbors, Iranian state media reported.

The official IRNA news agency on Monday announced the reopening of the embassy in a new location "following the negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan."

It added that the Azerbaijani ambassador and diplomats had also returned to Iran.

The Azeri website NEWS.AZ also on Monday quoted Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry as saying that its embassy in Iran had started work at a new address in Tehran.

"Iran has taken appropriate measures to ensure security in front of our new embassy building in compliance with its obligation on diplomatic protection," the Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said.

The Foreign Ministry said relevant measures are currently being taken to organize consular services at the new building.

In January 2023, a gunman stormed into Baku's Embassy in Tehran, killing a diplomat and wounding two embassy security guards.

Tehran strongly condemned the attack, saying the motives for the violent action were "personal."

In April 2023, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said it had notified the Iranian ambassador that four employees of the Iranian Embassy were declared personae non gratae.

Iran followed suit by expelling four Azerbaijani diplomats a month later.

The resumption of the embassy's work will contribute to the further development of Azerbaijan-Iran relations based on mutual respect and good neighborliness, and the implementation of the agreements reached between the two countries, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said.