

# Zarif: US, Israel not to experience peace until Palestinian rights respected

## International Desk

Iranian Vice President for Strategic Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Saturday that Israel and the United States should know that they will not experience peace and tranquility in the region as long as the rights of the Palestinian people are not respected and the Palestinian refugees do not return to their land.

Zarif was speaking at an international summit, titled 'Nasrallah's School of Thought', which was held in commemoration of the 40th day of the assassination of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah by the Israeli regime in Lebanon in September.

He said that resistance against the Israeli regime began before the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and will continue until the full liberation of the Palestinian lands. He asked whether the Israeli regime had been able to taste

peace for a moment after the killing of tens of thousands of children, men and women in the Gaza Strip.

Zarif also underlined that the end of apartheid in South Africa can and should be repeated in the West Asia region.

Several international rights organizations have repeatedly accused Israel of pursuing policies of apartheid and persecution against Palestinians over the past decades, that amount to crimes against humanity.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also addressed the conference and warned that the drastic consequences of Israel's brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon would not be confined to West Asia and could spill over far beyond the strategic region. "The usurping, apartheid and child-killing Zionist regime, rejecting all plans and proposals to establish a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon, presses ahead with its crimes in

Palestine and Lebanon, and regrettably, the international community has been unable to stop the Zionist genocide or is only watching Zionist war-mongering and their efforts to make the entire region unsafe," Araghchi said.

"The world should know that if the war expands, its harmful effects will not be limited only to the West Asia region; insecurity and instability is something that can spread to other areas, even far away."

Araghchi also praised Nasrallah as a symbol of resistance, courage and standing against oppression and aggression not only for Lebanon but also for the Muslim world and all freedom-seeking nations.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf also said the assassination of Nasrallah has revealed the futility of compromise in the face of the regime.

Qalibaf highlighted Nasrallah's unwavering support for

The photo shows a general view of a ceremony dubbed 'Nasrallah's school of Thought' held in Tehran on November 9, 2024 in commemoration of former Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.



the fighters of the Gaza-based resistance movement Hamas since the onset of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

The speaker said Hezbollah's leader used his wisdom to build a power that served hu-

manity.

More than 43,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli military action since the beginning of its devastating war on

the Palestinian territory in last October.

The regime has also launched an aggression against Lebanon on the pretext of fighting Hezbollah and has killed more than 3,000 people there.

## Araghchi calls on Europe to engage in dialogue, avoid sanctions

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Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called on the European countries to engage in dialogue with Iran and avoid sanctions, saying that sanctions only complicate the problems. The Iranian foreign minister in an interview with the German news website Der Spiegel warned of major challenges the world would face after the 2015 Iran nuclear deal expires on October 25, 2025.

"Sanctions only complicate the problems. They have never helped to solve a problem, at least not in Iran. My message is: Forget the sanctions! They didn't work in the past, they aren't working now and they won't work in the future," Araghchi said. "My question to the Germans is why have you suddenly taken a confrontational approach toward Iran despite your positive experiences with negotiations? If the Europeans, if the Germans want to take a confrontational approach, that is of course

their decision, not ours," Araghchi said.

US president-elect Donald Trump pulled Washington out of the UNSC-endorsed agreement in May 2018, and imposed severe economic sanctions against Tehran while Iran was adhering to its commitments under the deal and even continued to do so for a year after the US withdrawal.

Tehran scaled back its commitments to the JCPOA in a series of pre-announced and clear steps after witnessing the other parties' failure, especially the European ones, to secure its interest under the agreement.

Pointing to Israel's genocidal war on Gaza which has claimed the lives of more than 34,000 Palestinians since October 2023, the Iranian foreign minister urged the European countries, especially the Germany, to stop supporting the regime.

He denounced the German government for refusing to condemn Israel's crimes in the Gaza Strip



Abbas Araghchi

and to impose sanctions on the regime for the crimes it has been committing in the Palestinian territory as well as Lebanon over the past year.

"The Israeli embassy and Israeli consulates have not been closed. The murder of the Palestinian people by Israel is not important to you. It is this arrogance of Europe that has led to the current conflict. Set aside your double standards for once, and then maybe we will have a chance for understanding," Araghchi told Der Spiegel.

Referring to Hamas' operation against Israel in 2023, the Iranian top diplomat said, "That was a

decision made by Hamas. They didn't include us. Only history will tell if this decision was appropriate. In any case, this operation is the result of 80 years of occupation of the land of the Palestinian people, their expulsion and murder. Two million people were robbed of their self-determination and put in a big prison called 'Gaza.'"

He also said that the Palestinian people should not be punished for what the Germans did to the Jews decades ago.

He was referring to the six million Jews who were murdered by the by the Germany's Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945.

## Dozens dead as bombing rips through Pakistan's railway station



reuters

A bombing claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army's terrorist group killed 26 people including 14 soldiers at a railway station in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan Province, a hospital spokesman said Saturday. The blast hit as passengers waited on a platform at the main railway station in the provincial capital Quetta.

"Fourteen members of the army and 12 civilians were killed," said Wasim Baig, spokesman for Quetta's Sandeman Provincial Hospital, rais-

ing an earlier toll of 25 provided by police, AFP reported.

Forty-six members of the security forces and 14 civilians were wounded, the spokesman added. Despite frequent attacks in Balochistan the toll of Saturday's blast was particularly high for the southwestern province, which borders Afghanistan and Iran.

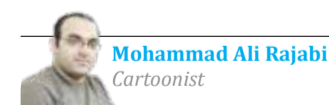
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the attackers "will pay a heavy price," according to a statement from his office.

The BLA frequently

claims deadly attacks against security forces or Pakistanis from other provinces, notably Punjab.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei in a statement on Saturday condemned the terrorist attack, reiterating Tehran's readiness for bilateral cooperation to counter terrorism.

He said such terrorist attacks are in violation of all legal and human rights principles and rules and are "not acceptable at all."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

## Iran rebuts claim of Trump assassination plot as 'totally unfounded'

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Saturday described as "totally unfounded" US accusations of a plot by Tehran to assassinate US president-elect Donald Trump. The Foreign Ministry "rejects allegations that Iran is implicated in an assassination attempt targeting former or current American officials," spokesman Esmail Baghaei said in a statement, after US prosecutors announced charges

over the alleged plot. A criminal complaint filed in federal court in New York City alleges that an unnamed official in Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) instructed a contact to develop a plan to surveil and ultimately kill the businessman-turned-politician.

Baghaei said the repetition of such claims at this juncture is "a malicious conspiracy by Zionist and anti-Iranian circles aimed at further complicating the is-

ssues between the United States and Iran."

It came after Trump was declared the winner of the presidential election on Wednesday. On July 13, Trump survived an assassination attempt, suffering only minor injury to his ear.

In August, Iran dismissed having any connection with a Pakistani individual allegedly arrested in the United States and charged with being behind a foiled plot to assassinate US poli-

iticians.

The US, under then-president Trump, unilaterally withdrew in 2018 from a nuclear accord signed in 2015 with Iran and imposed a series of draconian sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Trump also admitted to having ordered the assassination of Iran's legendary anti-terror commander Gen. Qassem Soleimani in a US drone strike near Baghdad airport on January 3, 2020.

