

# Iran, Qatar should expedite full execution of agreements: *Pezeshkian*

**Qatar's FM:** Doha will always be a strong, reliable ally for Tehran

## International Desk

Iranian president said that Iran and Qatar should accelerate the full implementation of the agreements reached between the two countries during his recent visit to Doha, expressing hope the Arab country would follow up the issue with more seriousness. Masoud Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Tehran on Wednesday. Pezeshkian also placed a premi-

um on deeper relations with the "friendly and neighboring country of Qatar," saying that Iran is committed to the agreements signed with other countries. Back in October, both countries signed six cooperation agreements on the fields of economy, trade, energy, culture, education, and sports during a visit by the Iranian president to the Persian Gulf country. The Iranian president said that the Islamic republic is interested in having close relations with Muslim countries in order to show the world that Muslim countries can live in peace.

Pezeshkian also invited the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to visit Iran. Qatar's top diplomat, for his part, expressed his country's interest in expanding relations with Iran. The Qatari minister pointed to the changes in the country's cabinet in which the new position of minister of foreign trade has been introduced. He said that one of the minister's priorities is the implementation of agreements with Iran. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani underlined that Qatar will always be

a strong and reliable ally for Iran, saying that the Emir of Qatar has always emphasized the expansion of relations with Tehran. Earlier on the day, the Qatari foreign minister also held talks with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi. Both sides emphasized the need to end the genocide in Gaza and stop the aggression of the Israeli regime against Lebanon, increase consultations and mobilize regional and international capacities to prevent the spread of insecurity across the region.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) shakes hands with Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani in Tehran on November 20, 2024.  
president.ir

## Iran warns of 'proportionate' response to IAEA resolution

French FM calls for revival of nuclear talks with Iran

## International Desk

Iran's top diplomat Abbas Araghchi warned on Wednesday of a "proportionate" response from Tehran if a Western-backed resolution against Iran were passed at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Araghchi said in a phone conversation with the IAEA's chief Rafel Grossi that if the parties "ignore Iran's goodwill and interactive approach and put non-constructive measures on the agenda in the Board of Governors meeting through the issuance of a resolution, Iran will respond in a proportionate and appropriate manner." In a separate conversation with his French counterpart Jean-Noel Barrot, Araghchi said the push from France, Germany and Britain to submit a resolution against Tehran would "complicate matters" and contradict the "positive atmosphere created between Iran and the IAEA." During the conversation that took place on Tuesday, Barrot told Araghchi that Iran must fully cooperate with the IAEA to enable it to confirm the "exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities." France, along with its German and

British partners, is continuing its efforts to bring about a return to negotiations with Iran with a view to a diplomatic solution, the French minister added. According to AFP, France, Britain, Germany and the United States on Wednesday submitted a resolution censuring Iran for what they claim to be Tehran's poor cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog. The resolution is expected to come to a vote on Thursday, the diplomatic sources said. The tabled resolution follows a visit by Grossi to Iran, where he also toured the country's major enrichment sites in Fordo and Natanz. Iran viewed the trip as positive.

## 'Concrete step in right direction'

The agency has said that Iran has taken steps towards halting the expansion of its stockpile of enriched uranium up to 60%, according to a confidential report by the IAEA seen by AFP on Tuesday. UN atomic watchdog chief Rafel Grossi on Wednesday welcomed Iran's "concrete step" on the issue. "I think this is ... a concrete step in the right direction - we have a fact which has been verified by us," Grossi told reporters in Vienna.



Rafel Grossi  
AFP

"I attach importance to the fact that for the first time... since the distancing of Iran from its past obligations, they are taking a different direction," he said. However, Grossi said "a lot" of work still needed to be done, while urging countries to "avoid unnecessary escalations, in particular, in a region that has suffered too much." In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with six world powers. However, Washington's unilateral withdrawal in 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo. In 2019, Iran started to roll back the limits it had accepted under the JCPOA after the other parties failed to live up to their commitments.

## Tehran summons UK, Hungary envoys over anti-Iran sanctions

## International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the ambassador of Hungary, which holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, and the British chargé d'affaires to protest new sanctions imposed against Iran. The EU and Britain on Monday imposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) and several other entities and individuals over accusations of supplying ballistic missiles

to Russia to be used in the Ukraine war. Iran's Foreign Ministry told the UK chargé d'affaires that Iran would respond to these irrational behaviors. Iran's legitimate and legal cooperation with other countries in the fields of defense and security is not against any third party and that the illegal interference of certain European countries, including the UK, in Iran's defense cooperation with other countries is not acceptable in any way, the Foreign Ministry said.

The Foreign Ministry called the British move contrary to international law and in breach of the principle of freedom of navigation and maritime trade. Iran has repeatedly rejected Western accusations that it has transferred missiles or drones to Moscow for use against Kiev. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned the measure, calling it against international law, and also a violation of the freedom of navigation and maritime trade.

## President urges Pope to help stop Israeli atrocities in Gaza, Lebanon



## International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian called on Pope Francis in a letter on Wednesday to help bring an end to Israel's inhumane aggression against Gaza and Lebanon. "Encourage world leaders, especially Christian governments, to prevent the continuation of aggression launched by the criminal Israeli regime," Pezeshkian said. The message was delivered by an Iranian delegation participating in a religious event held in the Vatican, Iran's government website said. Pezeshkian also called for efforts to establish a cease-fire and to create opportunities for humanitarian aid to be sent to the victims. Referring to the crimes of Israel in Gaza and their extension to Lebanon

over the past year, the Iranian president said, "These barbaric attacks are ongoing with no regard for international rights and norms." "Genocide and widespread destruction of urban and medical infrastructure are occurring, with a significant portion of martyrs and injured being women, children and civilians." Pezeshkian said Iran has been striving to bring about a cease-fire and prevent the escalation of war, as manifested by its delay to respond to Israel's assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in late July. "Due to persistent messages from Western leaders warning that our actions could jeopardize efforts for establishing a cease-fire, we delayed our response," Pezeshkian said.

"Nevertheless, despite our restraint, the occupying Israeli regime continued its blatant violations of the sovereign rights of regional countries by launching extensive attacks on Lebanon that are still ongoing." Last week, Pope Francis suggested that the international community should study whether Israel's military campaign in Gaza constituted a genocide of the Palestinian people, in some of his most explicit criticism of Israel's conduct in its year-long war. The 87-year-old pontiff, leader of the 1.4 billion-member Catholic Church, is usually careful not to take sides in international conflicts, and to stress de-escalation. But he has stepped up his rebuke of Israel's actions and its genocidal war in the Gaza Strip.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Internal cohesion to ...

Under such circumstances, the influence of radical groups, who thrive on factional feuds and gauge national interests against their own group's interests, will be blunted.

An alliance or consensus among political groups is a national imperative to overcome challenges and drive Iran's development forward. Iranian society has not been spared from internal

conflicts and factional and political disputes. Now that an opportunity has arisen, with the new government emphasizing national cohesion, it should be taken as a positive sign, and internal unity should

be strengthened. This internal unity can serve as a robust backbone for the government and the Islamic Republic of Iran to advance its foreign policy agenda and secure national interests.