



Pezeshkian: Any geopolitical change in regional borders unacceptable

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian underlined that any geopolitical change in regional borders is not acceptable in any way, saying that preserving the territorial integrity of regional countries is one



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) shakes hands with Foreign Policy Advisor to Azerbaijan President Hikmat Hajiyev in Tehran on February 3, 2025.
● president.ir

of the fundamental principles of Iran's foreign policy.

Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Foreign Policy Advisor to Azerbaijan President Hikmat Hajiyev in Tehran on Monday.

Azerbaijan has had a plan to connect its exclave of Nakhchivan, bordering Turkey, to mainland Azerbaijan through the so-called Zangezur corridor which passes through Armenian's territory. Armenia opposes the plans on the grounds that it would violate its

sovereignty.

Iran has also repeatedly opposed the plan on the grounds that it would cut off the transport routes connecting its territories to Armenia.

Pezeshkian also said on Monday that the Islamic Republic is interested in strengthening the relations with Azerbaijan in economic, political, cultural, defense and security sectors, emphasizing the rapid removal of obstacles facing trade and transportation sectors. The Azeri official, for his part, said

Iran, as a friendly and brotherly country of Azerbaijan, is of great importance to Baku, saying that Azerbaijan is seeking to improve its relations with Iran.

"I can confidently say that among the countries neighboring the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Azerbaijan is one of the most determined countries to develop cooperation and relations with Iran." Hajiyev, who arrived in Tehran on Sunday, also held a separate meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Iran: Israeli genocide in Gaza reoccurring in West Bank

Israel detonates 23 buildings in West Bank's Jenin

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei warned on Monday that the continuation of Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip is happening in the occupied West Bank.

Speaking during his weekly press conference, Baqaei called on the international community to stop Israel from repeating its Gaza genocide against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. Since a cease-fire in Gaza, the Israeli regime has intensified its attacks in the occupied West Bank and has killed dozens of Palestinians.

"Despite the cease-fire in Gaza, the [Israeli] crimes and killings continue in the West Bank. As human rights rapporteurs warned, it seems that the crime of genocide is going to be repeated in the West Bank," Baqaei said.

He called on the international community to take "a serious action" to prevent the repetition of the Gaza genocide in the West Bank.

"The international community should not allow the normalization of killing," he said. On Sunday, Israel destroyed 23 buildings in the occupied West Bank's Jenin refugee camp, hours after its forces killed a 73-year-old man, the Palestinian Ministry of Health said.

A spokesperson for the Israeli occupa-



tion army said the military has killed 50 Palestinians in the West Bank since mid-January.

Palestinian news agency Wafa reported that the blasts were so powerful they were heard across the city and in the surrounding towns.

President Mahmoud Abbas requested an urgent session of the UN Security Council to stop the destruction of entire residential blocks in the Jenin and Tulkarm camps.

The Israeli military launched a major offensive in the occupied West Bank last month, dubbed "Iron Wall", focused primarily on attacking Palestinian armed groups from the Jenin area, just after it began a cease-fire with the Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza on January 19.

'Israeli leaders must be tried'

Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman also on Monday denounced the West's

support for Israel in the Gaza war through supplying lethal weapons, noting that the Israeli leaders must be tried for the crimes committed by the regime. In response to a question about US President Donald Trump's proposal to relocate Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, Baqaei said that it would amount to "ethnic cleansing."

He said the international community should help Palestinians "secure their right to self-determination... rather than pushing for other ideas that would be tantamount to ethnic cleansing."

The remarks from Baqaei come after Trump repeatedly floated an idea to "clean out" the Gaza Strip and move its population to Egypt and Jordan.

"Cleaning out Gaza... is part of colonial erasure of (the) Gaza Strip and the whole Palestine," Baqaei said, adding that "no third party" can decide on the future of the Palestinian territory.

'We should see world as opportunity, not threat,' Zarif says



Mohammad Javad Zarif
● IRNA

"First of all, we must consider the people and Iranians abroad as an opportunity, not threat. We must also see cyberspace as an opportunity, not threat. In the field of artificial intelligence, we have the best elites working in the United States, and many of the programmers in the world in the field of artificial intelligence are Iranians. We must see youth, technology, and neighbors as opportunities to achieve economic cooperation and interaction with our neighbors. We should see the world as an opportunity, not a threat, and of course, we should not ignore threats," Zarif said.

National Desk

Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif referred to the youth, technology and neighboring countries as opportunities for Iran's progress, saying that, "We should see the world as an opportunity, not a threat."

Addressing a ceremony held in Tehran to unveil the government's charter on 'Political Strategy to Ensure National Security', Mohammad Javad Zarif said, "We must strengthen the foundations of national security through economy, technology, diplomacy, and other things."

Iran's vice president for strategic affairs also said that he believes Iran should negotiate with everyone except Israel. However, he said that before negotiations with the US, "We should have a good understanding of the US."

Officials in Iran's new administration have repeatedly announced the government's readiness to promote Iran's relations with the world, especially the neighboring countries.

The government has also expressed its readiness to hold new negotiations with the Western countries to resolve tensions over Iran's nuclear program.

Where Iran-US ...

Scenario 1: Full re-implementation of JCPOA

This scenario represents a return to the original 2015 deal, under which the US and Iran would agree to mutually restore compliance with all JCPOA provisions through rigorous negotiations.

Iran is required to dismantle advanced centrifuges, limit uranium enrichment, and allow enhanced international inspections. In turn, the US will lift sanctions imposed by the Trump administration, providing Iran access to global markets and frozen assets.

Sanctions relief, as one of its potential outcomes, could help stabilize Iran's economy, reduce the tensions, and signal the US's commitment to diplomacy and multilateralism.

However, years of animosity and mistrust between the US and Iran make reaching

a consensus difficult as both countries face internal opposition to the deal, with hardliners in Iran seeing the JCPOA as a betrayal of their revolutionary ideals and American critics viewing it as insufficient to constrain Iran's nuclear "ambitions" and regional activities.

Scenario 2: An interim deal

This scenario envisions a partial agreement that falls short of a full JCPOA restoration as Tehran and Washington negotiate a limited deal under which Iran takes some initial steps to curb its nuclear program and the US provides limited sanctions relief.

The interim deal might include a freeze on certain enrichment activities or the release of some Iranian assets.

The deal could also serve as a stopgap measure that prevents an immediate crisis and allows time for more com-

prehensive negotiations.

Despite establishing a foundation for trust and paving the way for a possible full restoration in the future, this type of agreement could cause both sides to view it differently, which leads to disputes and misunderstandings.

Although the interim deal could offer some much-needed economic relief to Iran, Tehran may have little incentive to fulfill its end of the bargain as the illegal Western-led sanctions have taken a heavy toll on the country's oil-dependent economy.

Scenario 3: Failure of diplomacy, escalation

In the most dangerous scenario, diplomatic efforts collapse and neither side is willing to compromise, with Iran further expanding its nuclear program, potentially approaching weapons capability, and

the US imposing more stringent sanctions or taking military action.

In this case, the risk of military confrontation, either directly between Iran and the US or through their allies in the region, runs significantly high and the Western narrative of Iran developing what is claimed to be "nuclear weapons" would raise the prospect of a regional arms race.

The impact of regional conflict and increased geopolitical tensions would likely have far-reaching consequences and the Iran-US escalation, in particular, could quickly spiral out of control.

Scenario 4: Focus on other issues, de-emphasizing JCPOA

This option sees both sides step back from the highly contentious nuclear issue and focus on alternative avenues.

In this scenario, the US and Iran decide to

temporarily de-prioritize the JCPOA with the aim of addressing other issues like regional security, human rights, or economic cooperation, which may involve backdoor negotiations and a tacit agreement to avoid a direct confrontation.

In addition to offering breathing room from the high-stakes nuclear issue, this approach can foster bilateral cooperation on regional security issues and lower tensions.

The fourth scenario, however, fails to resolve the nuclear program's risks and the threat of escalation could quickly return if the underlying tensions are not addressed.

To put it in a nutshell, the path forward regarding the JCPOA is highly uncertain as it is a function of domestic politics, regional tensions, and the choices made by the top echelons in Tehran and Washington.