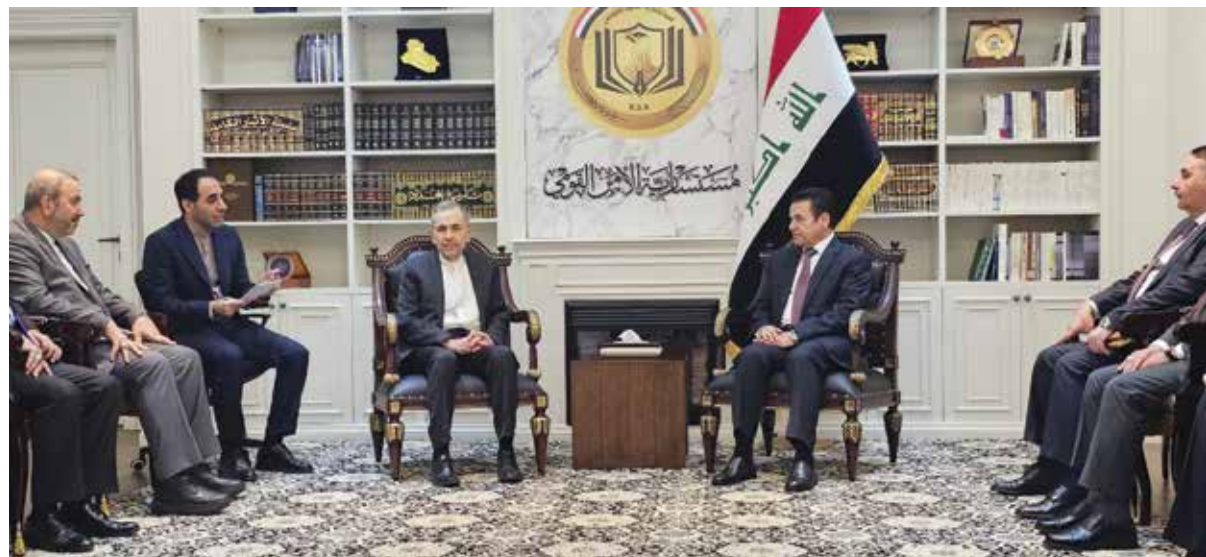


Consultations with Iraq necessary to boost common security: *Iran deputy FM*



International Desk

The Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs underlined the need for consultations between Iran and Iraq to strengthen common security. Majid Takht Ravanchi made the statement in a meeting with Iraq's National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji in the capital Baghdad on Sunday as they exchanged their views on joint cooperation to ensure stability and security in the West Asia region. Takht Ravanchi confirmed in an interview with Iran's Al-Alam Arabic-language news

channel that his visit to Iraq falls within the framework of regular political consultations between the two neighbors.

"The two sides discussed security issues between the two brotherly and Muslim countries, stressing the importance of joint cooperation to ensure stability in the region," he said.

Takht Ravanchi added that regional security is a priority for both Iran and Iraq, and it requires continued consultations and coordination between the two countries at various levels.

He expressed his satisfaction with the continuation of bilateral visits on a regular basis to strengthen relations and cooperation in different areas.

Takht Ravanchi also met with the Deputy Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament Mohsen al-Mandalawi in the afternoon and discussed with him issues of mutual interest.



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht Ravanchi (L) meets with Iraq's National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on February 16, 2025.

● AL-ALAM

Muggers of UT student yet to be identified, arrested: *Police*

National Desk

Iran's Police said the main perpetrators of the fatal stabbing of a 19-year-old university student in the capital Tehran have yet to be identified and arrested but some suspects are being interrogated.

Amir Mohammad Khaleghi, a business management student at the University of Tehran, was stabbed by two motorcycle-riding muggers who stole his backpack in front of his dorm on Wednesday. Khaleghi later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian and his vice president have in separate directives instructed the Iranian Judiciary to pursue the case immediately.

Ali Salehi, Tehran prosecutor general, offered condolences to Khaleghi's family, saying, "Immediately after this tragic incident, the head of the Judiciary ordered that the matter be followed up carefully, seriously, and quickly, so we referred the case to the Special Branch and Special Murder Investigation."

Stressing that this case is being investigated and monitored closely, he added, "We have held several meetings with colleagues in the law enforcement field to follow up on this case, and the necessary monitoring is being carried out in this area."

Tehran prosecutor general, pointing out that unfortunately, they have not yet reached the stage of discovering this crime, said, "The suspects



have been arrested in this regard, and investigations are underway in this field. Technical and intelligence work is underway. We are trying to arrest the perpetrator of this crime as soon as possible and punish him for his actions."

Salehi added that the Tehran Prosecutor's Office's dealings with perpetrators of specific and violent crimes and armed robbers have been very decisive and without any legal concessions to date.

"We are continuously and moment by moment following up to identify this murderous thief as soon as possible and deal decisively with him," he said.

The Tehran prosecutor concluded by emphasizing that the Islamic Republic has no tolerance for thieves and people who disrupt public order and security.

Hezbollah demands Lebanon government lift ban on Iran planes

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement on Sunday urged the Lebanese government to reverse a decision blocking Iranian flights from landing in Beirut, following US warnings.

The popular movement said in a statement that it "demands that the government reverse its decision to ban Iranian planes from landing at Beirut airport and take serious measures to prevent the Israeli enemy from imposing its dictates."

A Lebanese source told AFP on Saturday that Lebanon had denied permission for Iranian flights to land twice this week, after the United States warned Israel might strike the airport.

The first incident occurred on Thursday, when Lebanese author-

ities sent word to Iran that a Beirut-bound flight should not take off.

"Through the Americans, Israel informed the Lebanese state that it would target the airport if the Iranian plane landed in Lebanon," the source said.

"The American side told the Lebanese side that Israel was serious about its threat," the source added. Lebanon's public works and transport ministry then refused clearance for the flight, after consulting the prime minister and president, the source added.

The message was passed on before the flight took off, said the source. Another flight was also barred from taking off from Iran on Friday, prompting protests in Lebanon

from Hezbollah supporters, who blocked the road to the airport.

"The security of Beirut airport takes precedence over any other consideration," Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam said.

"And the safety of travelers as well as the safety of Lebanese citizens are elements on which we will not compromise."

Israel has on several occasions accused Hezbollah of using the airport in Beirut to bring in weapons from Iran, allegations denied by both the group and the Lebanese authorities.

A fragile ceasefire has been in place in Lebanon since November 27, after more than a year of hostilities and two of months of all-out war between Israel and Hezbollah.



● AFP

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



How the West ...

Undermining international law and reinforcing colonial hierarchies

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The real threat is not Iran's missiles, but the erosion of the international legal framework that is supposed to govern state behavior.

When the term "proliferation" is diluted and manipulated to serve political ends, it weakens the credibility of the NPT and disrupts the global consensus required to contain WMDs.

If any weapon—regardless of its function—can arbitrarily be labeled as "proliferative," the term loses its meaning, allowing powerful states to exploit legal ambiguity to suppress adversaries while arming their own allies with impunity.

Moreover, this rhetoric perpetuates en-

trenched colonial hierarchies in international relations. Imagine if Indonesia or Mexico branded U.S. fighter jets as "proliferative" and demanded sanctions on Washington.

The absurdity of such a scenario reveals the underlying reality: "proliferation" is a rhetorical weapon used to deny certain states—particularly those in the Global South—the right to arm and defend themselves. The G7's framing ensures that countries outside the Western security order remain monitored, disarmed, and punished for resisting coercion.

A world where might defines right

The G7's narrative is not about security—it is about preserving a world order where might makes right. In this system, Western nations profit from a

\$1.7 trillion global arms industry, supplying weapons to fuel conflicts while dictating who may and may not possess the means to defend themselves. As long as international law is applied selectively, the term "proliferation" will remain a tool of hegemony, used not to protect humanity, but to subordinate those who dare to challenge Western dominance.

Iran's missiles and drone program is not the issue. The issue is who gets to decide what constitutes a "threat" and who gets to act with impunity. If the international legal order is to retain any credibility, it must abandon these double standards and ensure that principles of self-defense, sovereignty, and non-interference are applied equally to all nations—not just those favored by the West.