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## Iran, India committed to Chabahar project despite US threats: **Araghchi**

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on the sidelines of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference in the Omani capital of Muscat on February 16, 2025.

ISNA

## How the West weaponizes language to criminalize Iran's right to self-defense



By Reza Nasri

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### OPINION EXCLUSIVE

The G7's recent statement—a barrage of accusations against Iran, from “destabilizing actions” to ballistic missile “proliferation”—is less a genuine call for global security than a calculated exercise in linguistic manipulation. By co-opting charged terms like “proliferation” to describe Iran's conventional ballistic missile capabilities, the G7 deflects attention from its own geopolitical transgressions and selective application of international norms. In doing so, it transforms a sovereign nation's defensive measures into fabricated threats, all to justify a broader strategy of securitization against Iran.

### The power of linguistic distortion

Words are not neutral; they shape perception, dictate policy, and manufacture consent. “Proliferation” is a term that carries profound weight, evoking images of nuclear Armageddon. Its legal and moral gravity is rooted in treaties like the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which classifies weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) as a unique and existential threat to humanity. However, by deliberately misapplying this term to Iran's conventional missiles and drones—defensive tools developed in accordance with international law—the G7 strips them of their context. This rhetorical sleight of hand recasts Iran's legally enshrined right to self-defense, as protected under Article 51 of the UN Charter, as an international menace.

The intent is clear: to stoke fear and rationalize extreme countermeasures. By branding Iran's missile program as “proliferative,” Western powers lay the groundwork for sanctions, embargoes, and even military escalation under the guise of global security. This is not a new tactic; it follows the pattern described in securitization theory, a concept from the Copenhagen School of international relations, which explains how elites frame issues as existential threats to justify extraordinary responses that bypass regular political and legal scrutiny. By portraying Iran's conventional arsenal as a survival-level crisis, the G7 effectively suspends normal diplomatic engagement, facilitating collective punishment.

### The hypocrisy of the West's arms trade

The double standard is glaring. While the G7 condemns Iran for the so-called “proliferation” of ballistic missiles, the United States and European nations have spent the past decade flooding the Middle East with hundreds of billions of dollars in arms, fueling conflicts and prolonging civil wars. Meanwhile, Israel—armed with a clandestine nuclear arsenal maintained under the doctrine of “deliberate ambiguity”—faces allegations before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for violations of the 1948 Genocide Convention. Since World War II, U.S. military aid to Israel has exceeded \$130 billion, financing advanced weaponry such as F-35 fighter jets and bunker-buster bombs—the same weapons used in the devastation of Gaza and Lebanon. Yet, these military exports are framed as necessary defense measures, while Iran's efforts to bolster its deterrence capabilities are pathologized as threats to global stability.

This hypocrisy is no accident. By expanding the definition of “proliferation” to include conventional arms, the G7 criminalizes Iran's right to self-defense while normalizing its own arms trade and enabling Israel's offensive capabilities. The selective enforcement of international law is especially apparent when the International Criminal Court (ICC) issues arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, only for the U.S. to impose sanctions on the Court itself—illustrating that accountability exists only for adversaries, never for allies.

## Private sector missing link in expanding Iran-Russia trade

**OPINION** There are growing concerns that Donald Trump's renewed maximum pressure policy could scare some countries away from trading with Iran. The Islamic Republic and its partners, particularly Russia, need to step up their efforts in response. Currently, Iran conducts trade with 178 countries, but 80% of its trade relies on just ten nations, including China and Russia, limiting diversity and increasing vulnerability to sanctions. The revival of maximum pressure might reduce this number even further, posing a major challenge to Iran's foreign trade landscape. As Iran navigates these turbulent waters, bolstering its trade ties and diversifying its partners will be crucial to weathering the storm of renewed sanctions and maintaining economic stability.

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## Structure of fire temples in Zoroastrian tradition

Fire temples were central to Zoroastrianism in ancient Iran, housing sacred fires symbolizing Ahura Mazda's purity and divine light. These temples date back to Zoroastrianism's early days, gaining prominence during the Achaemenid, Parthian and Sassanid empires. Each dynasty contributed to their architectural and ritual evolution. Achaemenids established fire temples as worship centers, while Sassanids systematically built and maintained them. These temples featured domed structures for sacred fires and spaces for rituals, serving as community hubs for festivals and ceremonies, where the eternal flame was meticulously cared for, embodying Zoroastrian purity and the battle between good and evil.

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## UWW Ranking Series: Iran lines up star-studded roster for Muhamet Malo event

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