

No talks with US under 'maximum pressure' policy: *Iran FM*

Trump claims he sent letter to Tehran to negotiate nuclear deal



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks to AFP during an interview at the Iranian Consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on March 7, 2025.
● AMER HILABI/AFP

and sent a letter to its leadership on Wednesday, saying he hoped the Islamic Republic would agree to talk. Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations rejected Trump's claim, saying that Iran has not received such a letter. "I said I hope you're going to negotiate, because it's going to be a lot better for Iran," Trump said in an interview with Fox Business Network broadcast Friday.

"I think they want to get that letter. The other alternative is we have to do something, because you can't let another nuclear weapon."

"There are two ways Iran can be handled: militarily, or you make a deal," Trump said. "I would prefer to make a deal, because I'm not looking to hurt Iran. They're great people."

Russia has offered to mediate between the US and Iran, a source briefed on discussions told Reuters on Tuesday, as the Kremlin vowed to do everything possible to facilitate a peaceful solution to tensions over Tehran's nuclear program.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov also discussed international efforts to resolve the situation around Iran's nuclear program with Iranian Ambassador Kazem Jalali, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

Trump has upended US foreign policy since taking office in January, adopting a more conciliatory stance towards Russia that has left Western allies wary as he tries to broker an end to Moscow's three-year-old war in Ukraine. The Kremlin also said on Wednesday that future talks between Russia and the US would include discussions on Iran's nuclear program; a subject it said had been "touched upon" in an initial round of US-Russia talks last month.

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reiterated Tehran's position on talks on its nuclear program, saying that the Islamic Republic will never enter any direct negotiations with the US under pressure and threat.

"We will not enter any direct negotiations with the US so long as they continue their maximum pressure policy and their threats," Abbas Araghchi told AFP on the sidelines of an Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting in the Saudi city of Jeddah.

Iranian officials have frequently said that negotiations under pressure are not meaningful.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said in February that talks with the US were "not smart, wise, or honorable."

"Negotiating with America is neither smart, wise, nor honorable. It will not solve any of our problems. The reason? Experience!" Ayatollah Khamenei said. In 2015, Iran reached a nuclear deal with Britain, Germany, France, the United States, Russia and China, which is known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The US quit the

agreement in 2018, during Donald Trump's first term as US president, and Iran began moving away from its nuclear-related commitments under the deal.

However, Iran has been trying to revive the JCPOA during the past years and has held several rounds of talks with the European parties to the deal, which their non-compliance to the agreement had a great impact on the implementation of the agreement.

There have been speculations on new negotiations between Tehran and Washington on Iran's peaceful nuclear program in recent months, especially after Trump's return to power in January.

However, Trump's language of threats and imposition of sanctions against Iran have made Iranian officials skeptical of negotiations with the US. Trump last month restored his "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran which includes efforts to drive its oil exports down to zero.

He has also repeatedly expressed his interest in negotiations with Iran on Tehran's nuclear program.

Trump said on Friday he wants to negotiate a nuclear deal with Iran

Tehran summons UK envoy over 'biased positions, baseless claims'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned UK's Ambassador to Tehran Hugo Shorter to protest repeated "baseless claims" by British officials against the Islamic Republic.

The Foreign Ministry said the ambassador was summoned after British officials accused Tehran of attempting to interfere in the internal affairs of the United Kingdom.

Hugo Shorter was summoned by Director General for Western Europe Affairs at Iran's Foreign Ministry Ali-reza Yousefi.

"The biased positions and baseless claims of British officials against Iran are contrary to the principles of the international law and diplomatic norms and will intensify the Iranian nation's distrust of British policies towards Iran and the West Asian region," Yousefi told the British envoy. Britain said on Tuesday that it would require the Iranian government to register everything it does to exert political influence in the UK, subjecting Tehran to an elevated tier of scrutiny in light of what it said was increasingly aggressive activity, Press TV reported.

Addressing parliament on Wednesday, UK security minister Dan Jarvis announced that he would put Iran's state, its security services and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps into the enhanced tier of an upcoming registration scheme designed to protect against covert foreign influence.

Earlier on Thursday, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman Esmail Baqaei also refuted British officials' accusations, saying they blame the Islamic Republic for something they "excel in and master".

"It is absurd to blame Iran for something you excel in and master: illegal interference in other nations' internal affairs!" Baqaei responded in a post on X Thursday.

Baqaei touched on UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's remarks in November that he did not believe Israel was committing genocide in Gaza and Britain's role in the 1953 coup against Iran's democratically-elected government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh.

"UK government seems to be doubling down on its irrational hostile mentality regarding Iranians only to deflect from their own culpability, both as 'genocide denier' and as sup-



porter of anti-Iran terrorism (tracing back to 1953 coup against Iran's democratically-elected govnt for which UK's guilt never disappears).

"However, this is no longer the 19th century; any government that makes unfounded accusations and takes hostile actions against the Iranian nation shall be held accountable," he said.

Iranians generally blame Britain for the "Great Famine and Genocide" of 1917-1919 in Iran where approximately 2 million people and by some accounts 8-10 million out of a population of 18-20 million died of starvation and disease.

The famine took place after Iran, despite declaring neutrality during World War I, was occupied by British and Russian forces.

IAEA chief urged to avoid political remarks about Iran's nuclear program



International Desk

The National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament in a statement urged chief of the UN atomic agency to focus on technical matters and avoid political remarks about Iran's nuclear program.

According to Article 4 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), all member countries have an inviolable right to research, develop, produce, and utilize nuclear industry, the statement said.

The committee's statement came after the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi claimed on Monday that Iran has significantly increased its supply of near-weapons-grade uranium in just three months, highlighting Iran's unique position as the only non-nuclear weapon state enriching to such levels.

"Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched up to 60% U235 has increased to 275 kg, up from 182 kg in the past quarter," Grossi told the agency's Board of Governors.

"Iran is the only non-nuclear weapon State enriching to this level, causing me serious concern," Grossi added.

He also raised other issues in his address to the agency's Board of Governors.

The committee's statement pointed to Grossi's remarks about Iran not implementing the additional protocol of the NPT, clarifying that its implementation has been voluntary for the Iran and not obligatory. The implementation of the additional protocol under the Iran 2015 nuclear deal was also conditional upon the lifting of sanctions by Western countries; therefore, the director general of the IAEA should

compel the totalitarian countries of the world to fulfill their commitments under the nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The committee also asserted that the source of Grossi's claims regarding Iran's nuclear activities at undeclared sites is the Israeli regime, adding all of Iran's nuclear activities are under the supervision of the agency and are entirely peaceful.

Additionally, the statement addressed Grossi's concerns regarding outstanding issues related to Iran's nuclear program, noting that Amano (former IAEA's director general) explicitly stated in a report that the agency's questions regarding these outstanding issues have been fully resolved and that there are no further questions.

In 2015, Iran agreed to curb its peaceful nuclear work as a confidence-building measure in exchange for the removal of Western sanctions.

That deal was derailed in 2018, when the United States left and reinstated all the bans suspended under the accord.

In 2019, Iran stopped implementing part of its commitments under the JCPOA in response to Washington's withdrawal and the failure of the European parties to compensate for this pullout.

Iran later took certain more limiting measures in response to the Western-sponsored anti-Iran resolutions at the IAEA and the country's dissatisfaction with the agency's handling of the nuclear issue. Those measures included deactivating some surveillance devices used to monitor its nuclear program and barring certain inspectors amid fears of Western espionage targeting Iran's nuclear facilities.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

