

# Trump lying about using power to establish regional peace: *Leader*

## International Desk

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei asserted on Saturday that US President Donald Trump was lying about using power to establish peace in region. "He (Trump) and American officials, US administrations, used power in order to massacre Gaza, to wage war wherever they could, and to support their own mercenaries," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with a group of teachers and educators from different cities and provinces across the country. Ayatollah Khamenei added that the US uses its power to give "10-ton bombs to the Zionist (Israeli) regime to drop on the

heads of Gaza's children."

The Leader underlined that power, nevertheless, could be used to foster peace and security, and that explains why Iran is striving every day to boost its national might.

The Leader's comments came the day after Trump concluded a four-day tour of Persian Gulf countries – Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates – which was followed quickly by the start of a new Israeli military offensive in the Gaza Strip.

"None of the statements made during the US president's visit to the region are worthy of a response at all. The level of Trump's remarks is so low that it is a source of embarrassment for the

speaker and a source of disgrace for the American nation," the Leader said. Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the US president is offering regional Arab states a model that, in his own words, these countries cannot live without the US for even ten days.

"This model has definitely failed," the Leader noted. "With the efforts by regional nations, the US must and will leave this region."

"Undoubtedly, the source of corruption, war, and conflict in this region is the Zionist regime – a dangerous, deadly cancerous tumor that must be uprooted; it will be uprooted," he said at the event in Tehran.

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a group of teachers and educators from different provinces across the country in Tehran on May 17, 2025.

● khamenei.ir



## Pezeshkian says Iran favors negotiation, not afraid of threats



Masoud Pezeshkian  
● president.ir

## International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday reiterated that the Islamic Republic favors negotiation and dialogue and is not afraid of threats.

"We are not seeking war, we favor negotiation and dialogue, but we are not afraid of threats either, and we will in no way retreat from our legal rights," Pezeshkian told a gathering of navy officers.

Praising Iran's valuable gains in various fields, the president said, "It is not the case that they imagine if they threaten us, we will retreat from our human and irrefutable rights. We will not back down and not abandon our proud military and academic, scientific, and nuclear achievements."

Since April 12, Iran and the US have held four rounds of talks on Iran's nuclear program, with US President Donald Trump threatening Iran with military attack if no agreement is reached.

Negotiations have gotten into the expert level – meaning the two sides are trying to see if they can reach any agreement on the details of any possible deal. But one major sticking point remains Iran's enrichment of uranium, which Tehran insists

it must be allowed to do and the Trump administration insists the Islamic Republic must give up.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Friday reasserted the Islamic Republic's non-negotiable position on uranium enrichment, emphasizing its commitment to exercise legal rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) while maintaining a logical stance.

"Iran, a longstanding Non-Proliferation Treaty member and initiator of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in West Asia, has demonstrated unwavering commitment and good faith through engaging in indirect negotiations with the United States," Araghchi said.

## No compromise on legal rights

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to build confidence regarding the continued peaceful nature of its nuclear program, but it cannot compromise on the inalienable and legal right of the Iranian nation to benefit from peaceful nuclear energy, including enrichment, which is granted to every member state under the NPT," Araghchi added.

The Iranian diplomat also denounced the US officials' conflicting statements about the nuclear talks. US top negotiator in the nuclear talks Steve Witkoff at one point suggested that Iran could enrich uranium at 3.67%, then later began saying that all Iranian enrichment must stop. The US president and secretary of state have also said that Iran should abandon its uranium enrichment program.

## Trump's threats

The Iranian president said on Saturday that Iran is not intimidated by the US president's threats and will not forgo its legitimate nuclear rights under pressure.

"No one but Trump himself believes his words against the Iranian nation; on the one hand, he speaks of peace and stability, and on the other hand, he threatens with the most sophisticated tools for homicide, and with contradictory statements, he simultaneously sends messages of peace, bloodshed, and insecurity," Pezeshkian said.

In his latest remarks about the ongoing negotiations between Tehran and Washington, Trump said on Friday that Iran had a US proposal about its nuclear program and knows it needs to move quickly to resolve a decades-long dispute.

"More importantly, they know they have to move quickly or something bad — something bad's going to happen," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One after departing the United Arab Emirates on Friday, according to an audio recording of the remarks.

However, Araghchi in a post on X said Tehran had not received a US proposal. "There is no scenario in which Iran abandons its hard-earned right to (uranium) enrichment for peaceful purposes..." he said.

Araghchi warned on Saturday that Washington's constant change of stance prolongs nuclear talks.

"It is absolutely unacceptable that America repeatedly defines a new framework for negotiations that prolongs the process," Araghchi said.

## West denounces Israel's deadly strikes on Gaza

## International Desk

Israel's relentless strikes on the Gaza Strip even prompted Western countries to react as the regime has killed hundreds of Palestinians over the past days.

Palestinian health authorities said on Saturday that at least 146 people had been confirmed killed in the third day of Israel's latest bombing campaign, one of the deadliest waves of strikes since a cease-fire collapsed in March. Many hundreds more wounded were being treated in hospital, and countless others were still buried under rubble.

Israel says it is mobilizing to seize more ground in Gaza in a new campaign, dubbed "Operation Gideon's Chariots", which follows a visit this week to the Middle East by US President Donald Trump. It has halted all supplies entering Gaza since the start of March, leading to rising international concern over the plight of the territory's 2.3 million residents.

Israel's military said it was conducting extensive strikes and mobilizing troops with the aim of achieving "operational control" in parts of Gaza.

Gaza health authorities said most of those killed on Saturday were in towns on the northern edge of the territory, including Beit Lahiya and the Jabalia refugee camp, as well as in the southern city of Khan Younis. They said 459 people had been injured.

Germany's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday that Berlin is "deeply concerned" about the situation in Gaza. The offensive "could put the lives of the remaining hostages, including those of German hostages, in danger," said the ministry statement.

"A broad military offensive also risks worsening further the catastrophic humanitarian situation for Gaza's population and the remaining hostages," it added.



● AFP

## 'Enough with the attacks'

Also on Saturday, Italy urged Israel to stop its military strikes, with Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani saying, "Enough with the attacks."

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday that Israel's withholding of aid to Gaza is "shameful" and suggested that US President Donald Trump should threaten a weapons embargo in order to pressure the Israeli officials. Israeli forces had told people to leave the northern areas on Friday. At an Arab League summit, Egypt's President Abdel-Fatah al-Sisi, whose country mediates Gaza peace talks alongside Qatar, said Israel's actions aimed at "obliterating and annihilating" the Palestinians and "ending their existence in the Gaza Strip."

## Halt massacre in Gaza

Appearing at the summit as a guest, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez appealed for increased pressure "to halt the massacre in Gaza".

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres told the summit that "we need a permanent cease-fire, now."

Guterres said he was "alarmed by reported plans by Israel to expand ground operations and more."

"We reject the repeated displacement of the Gaza population, along with any question of forced displacement outside of Gaza." Since the beginning of Israel's attacks on Gaza in October 2023, at least 53,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, have been killed.

## Iran FM: Armenia-Azerbaijan peace deal to beget lasting stability

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the speedy implementation of the peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan would help establish lasting stability and security in the region.

"Iran calls for the acceleration of the conclusion of a peace agreement between the two countries to stabilize lasting stability and security and assist in the process of comprehensive development and progress in the region," Araghchi said in a meeting with Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan in Tehran on Saturday, Press TV reported.

The Islamic Republic would spare no effort to expedite the signing and implementation of the document between Armenia and Azerbaijan, as it enjoys good relations with both sides, he added.

Armenia and Azerbaijan in March agreed on the text of a peace agreement to end nearly four decades of conflict between the South Caucasus countries, with Yerevan agreeing to surrender its claim to Karabakh.

The long-disputed region of Karabakh was at the center of two costly wars between Armenia and Azerbaijan in 2020 and the 1990s. The region has always been internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, whose troops retook it in a 24-hour offensive.

Grigoryan, for his part, pointed to very good and positive ties between Armenia and Iran and expressed his country's firm determination to promote all-out relations with Tehran, particularly in the economic and trade sectors. He elaborated on the latest develop-



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and Secretary of Armenia's Security Council Armen Grigoryan meet in Tehran on May 17, 2025.

● IRAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY

ments regarding the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace treaty and commended Iran's stance on support for Armenia's national security and territorial integrity and the peace agreement.

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