

Araghchi: Iran poised for diplomacy if other sides favor confidence building

Uranium enrichment, military capabilities 'not up for negotiations'

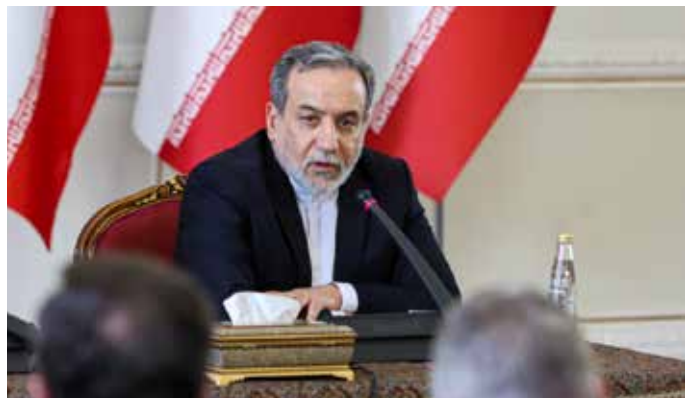
International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday that Tehran is "ready" for diplomacy to resolve a decades-long tension over its peaceful nuclear program despite a last month unprovoked aggression by Israel and the US against the Islamic Republic.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran remains ready to build confidence through diplomacy but, before that, other sides must first instill confidence in us that they genuinely seek diplomacy — not the diplomacy that serves as a cover for their own objectives," Araghchi told foreign diplomats in the Iranian capital, Tehran.

Araghchi underlined that there is no other way but to return to diplomacy and a negotiated solution to resolve the issue, adding that the recent conflict proved this even more.

"As you know, we were negotiating (with the US) when Israel attacked Iran with the coordination of the United States and in the



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks in a meeting with Tehran-based foreign diplomats in the Iranian capital on July 12, 2025.
● IRNA

next stage, the United States itself directly targeted Iran's nuclear facilities. The Americans betrayed diplomacy and the negotiating table, and if they are now seeking to resume negotiations, it must be ensured that such a thing will not happen again and we will not witness such actions from them."

The Israeli regime launched an aggression on Iran's military and

civilian infrastructure on June 13 that killed nearly 1,100 people, including women and children, as well as a dozen top military brass. The US, which had been in talks with Tehran about its nuclear program since April, joined the war on June 22 by targeting several key nuclear sites. Iran struck a major US military base in Qatar in retaliation.

In response to the strikes, the Iranian Armed Forces launched a retaliatory campaign against the Israeli regime by targeting key military, intelligence, industrial, energy facilities across the occupied territories. The Iranian Armed Forces also targeted the US largest military base in the Middle East in Qatar with a barrage of missiles.

Following Iran's retaliatory attacks, the Israeli regime was forced on June 24 to declare a unilateral halt to its aggression, which was announced on its behalf by US President Donald Trump.

Cooperation with IAEA

Tehran also suspended its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) after an earlier report by the UN agency against Iran's nuclear program became a lightning rod for the Israeli aggression.

The Iranian foreign minister said on Saturday that Iran's cooperation with the IAEA "will take on a new form."

"Our cooperation with the agency has not stopped, but will take on a new form," said Araghchi, adding that requests to monitor nuclear sites "will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis... taking into account safety and security issues."

The top Iranian nuclear negotiator added that the country is a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has been cooperating with the IAEA.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) will study every IAEA's request for the continuation of cooperation with Iran on a case-by-case basis and will make decisions based on safety and security concerns, he explained.

Resumption of nuclear talks

Regarding a possible resumption of talks with the US, Araghchi said that Tehran is reviewing the details of the negotiations.

"We are examining its timing, its location, its form, its ingredients, the assurances it requires" from Iran for possible negotiations, said Araghchi.

However, he said that Iran's right to enrich uranium and its military capabilities will not be the subject of any negotiation.

"We emphasize that in any negotiated solution, the rights of the Iranian people on the nuclear issue, including the right to enrichment, must be respected. We will not accept any agreement that does not include enrichment. Enrichment is one of the great scientific achievements of Iranian scientists. To preserve this achievement, great pressure was exerted on Iran and the recent war was imposed on us," Araghchi said.

"If negotiations are held... the subject of the negotiations will be only nuclear and creating confidence in Iran's nuclear program in return for the lifting of sanctions," Araghchi told diplomats in Tehran. "No other issues will be subject to negotiation."

Iran is currently under the "maximum pressure" by the US government, which has imposed the most intensive sanctions ever on the country.

Veep affirms Tehran opts for negotiations from 'position of strength'

National Desk

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref on Saturday said that the Iranian leadership's position on nuclear negotiations with the United States remains unchanged and opts for negotiations from a "position of strength." He made the remarks in a meeting with several professors from Sharif University in Tehran.

Aref also underlined that there is no difference between the country's diplomatic apparatus and Armed Forces in this regard. His remarks came as the country's officials are considering the resumption of nuclear talks following the last month aggression by the Israeli regime and the US on Iran just days before a the six round of negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

Ali Larijani, a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, has told Al-Jazeera TV Channel that Iran has received messages from the US on the resumption of talks, saying Tehran is studying them. "After the [Israeli-US] war, we have no trust in the US at all," Larijani said in an interview with Al-Jazeera TV Channel.

"The theory of the US, led by [President Donald] Trump, is based on the principle that you either surrender or enter into war," Larijani said.

He added that a new "Middle East" is emerging, which would be a "resilient and indepen-



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (3rd R) meets several professors from Sharif University of Technology in Tehran on July 12, 2025.
● IRNA

dent" region.

On a separate occasion, Larijani said on Friday the US president and Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu are pursuing a reactionary theory of "peace through strength" and noted, "This is the same perspective that all the bloodthirsty individuals in history have had, and it is nothing new."

Larijani said the US has inflicted damage and caused massacres in the international scene, but the people of Palestine and Gaza did not surrender.

"Iran, under the wise leadership of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, responded decisively and did not allow this theory to manifest in our country. Therefore, Trump's theory has failed," he added.

Israeli forces killed 800 Palestinians seeking aid in Gaza, UN says



Palestinians transport victims to a Red Cross clinic in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip after they were shot as they waited to receive food parcels at a distribution point on July 12, 2025.
● AFP

International Desk

Ten Palestinians were killed Friday while waiting for rations in Gaza, adding to nearly 800 similar deaths in the last six weeks, according to the UN.

The UN rights office said on Friday it had recorded at least 798 killings within the past six weeks at aid points in Gaza run by the US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and near convoys run by other relief groups.

"(From May 27) up until the seventh of July, we've recorded 798 killings, including 615 in the vicinity of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation sites, and 183 presumably on the route of aid convoys," UN rights office (OHCHR) spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told a media briefing in Geneva.

Gaza's more than two million

residents facing a dire humanitarian crisis of hunger and disease amid the grinding conflict. Israel began easing a more than two-month total blockade of aid in late May. Since then, a new US- and Israel-backed organization called the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) has effectively sidelined the territory's vast UN-led aid delivery network.

There are frequent reports of Israeli forces firing on people seeking aid, with Gaza's civil defense agency saying 10 Palestinians were killed Friday while waiting at a distribution point near the southern city of Rafah. The UN, which refuses to cooperate with GHF over concerns it was designed to cater to Israeli military objectives, said Friday that 798 people have been killed seeking aid between late May and July 7, including 615 "in the vicinity of the GHF sites".

"Where people are lining up for essential supplies such as food and medicine, and where... they have a choice between being shot or being fed, this is unacceptable," UN rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told reporters in Geneva. Israel's military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday's deaths, but has previously accused Hamas fighters of firing at civilians in the vicinity of aid centers.

GHF called the UN report "false and misleading", claiming that "most deadly attacks on aid sites have been linked to UN convoys". Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for Gaza's civil defense agency, told AFP that Israeli forces killed 45 people overall in the territory on Friday. Israel's onslaught on Gaza has killed more than 57,800 Palestinians, most of them civilians, since October 2023.

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