

Araghchi: Tehran not to resume negotiations unless own rights secured

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday that it is the Islamic Republic that will determine when, under what conditions, and in what manner will return to the negotiating table with the US.

"Our purpose in negotiations is nothing other than to secure the rights and interests of the Iranian people; whenever we feel that these interests can be secured, we will engage in negotiations, and when no such benefit exists, it is natural that we will not go ahead with it," the Iranian foreign minister said in an interview on the sidelines of a meeting with foreign diplomats in Tehran.

"Our enemies, the Americans and the Zionist regime, tried a military attack, and it became clear that they could not break the will and resistance of the Iranian people in this way, and they could not stop Iran's nuclear program. Therefore, there is no solution other than a negotiated solution," he added.

The Iranian top diplomat noted that science and technology cannot be wiped out by bombing.

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,



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) speaks in a meeting with foreign diplomats in Tehran on July 12, 2025.
● mfa.gov.ir

which was announced on its behalf by US President Donald Trump.

During his meeting with foreign diplomats, Araghchi said that Tehran is "ready" for diplomacy to resolve Iran's nuclear issue.

"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 that diplomacy serves as a cover for their own objectives," Araghchi said.

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 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."

New freedom flotilla vessel leaves for Gaza to defy Israeli blockade

International Desk

A new freedom flotilla boat departed a port in southern Italy for Gaza on Sunday to "break Israel's illegal blockade" on the Palestinian territory.

The Gaza-bound vessel is carrying pro-Palestinian activists and humanitarian aid supplies left Sicily, over a month after Israel detained international activists aboard a different vessel that had made a high-profile attempt to break the blockade on the Gaza Strip.

The Handala vessel, named after the iconic Palestinian child symbol of resistance, left the port of Syracuse shortly after 12 p.m., carrying about 15 activists. It is operated by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, which also dispatched the earlier boat, the Madleen, on a mission to challenge Israel's blockade on the Strip.



Freedom Flotilla ship Handala departs the Syracuse port in southern Italy for Gaza to break Israel's blockade on the Palestinian territory on July 13, 2025.
● GIOVANNI ISOLINO/AFP

ade on the Strip.

Several dozen people, some holding Palestinian flags and others wearing keffiyeh scarves, gathered at the port to cheer the boat's departure with cries of "Free Palestine."

The former Norwegian trawler — which activists say is carrying medical supplies, food, children's equipment and medicine for Gaza — will sail for about a week in the Mediterranean, covering roughly 1,800 kilometers

(1,120 miles), in the hope of reaching Gaza's coast.

The boat will make a stop at Gallipoli, in southeastern Italy, where two members of France's hard-left La France Insoumise party are expected to join.

"This is a mission for the children in Gaza, to break the humanitarian blockade and to break the summer silence on the genocide," said Gabrielle Cathala, one of the two La France Insoumise members set to board the boat

on July 18.

"I hope we will reach Gaza but if not, it will be yet another violation of international law" by Israel, she claimed.

The initiative comes six weeks after the departure of the Madleen, another ship that left Italy for Gaza transporting aid and activists, including prominent climate activist Greta Thunberg and French-Palestinian European Parliament member Rima Hassan.

Israeli forces attacked the Madleen on June 9, about 100 185 kilometers west of Gaza's coast and detained the activists.

Iran's strengths, weaknesses ...

While Israel runs one of the most powerful and experienced spy apparatus in the world, human intelligence operatives have largely been replaced by modern surveillance technologies. Today, information is gathered in real time via satellites, drones, and reconnaissance aircraft, and is immediately relayed to fighter jets and strike drones, enabling targeted assassinations, missile strikes, or aerial bombardments.

On another front, Israel sought to weaponize Iran's internal social dynamics for its own gain during the military campaign. However, this strategy backfired entirely. One of Iran's greatest strengths during the war was the overwhelming support it received from the public—both at home and overseas. Political figures, academics, artists, various political parties, and even political prisoners stood in defense of Iran's territorial

integrity and condemned the Israeli-American military offensive.

Israel had hoped the Iranian public would at least remain neutral—if not indifferent—in the face of its brutal campaign. But instead, the smart people of Iran viewed the aggression as an cruel war and stood firm against it. They resisted the bombardments and helped derail Israel and the United States' strategic objectives.

Another major strength was Iran's swift and authoritative military response. Despite the targeted killings of senior IRGC and armed forces commanders, the country managed to retaliate within hours, hitting precise military targets in occupied territories. These retaliatory strikes continued unabated until the cease-fire took effect.

Even though the full scope of American, Israeli, and NATO air defense systems—including the Iron Dome

and missile shield platforms—had been mobilized, a significant number of Iranian missiles, manufactured domestically under the weight of harsh sanctions, managed to strike their targets. Among them was the American Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Israel, for the first time in years, felt the bitter reality of war firsthand.

Iran's most significant shortcoming was being caught off guard at the onset of the Israeli assault, leading to the assassinations of distinguished IRGC commanders and renowned nuclear scientists—some alongside their families.

The performance of Iran's government and foreign policy during and prior to the war deserves a separate and detailed assessment. Now is an opportune moment for the Islamic Republic to draw lessons from the 12-day conflict and prevent Israel from initiating another round of aggression.

'Dirty politicized campaign': Russia raps anti-Iran report on zero enrichment plan

International Desk

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Sunday described as a "dirty politicized campaign" a report claiming that President Vladimir Putin had encouraged Iran to accept a "zero enrichment" agreement on its nuclear program.

US news outlet Axios reported on Saturday, citing three anonymous sources familiar with the matter, that Putin had "encouraged" Iran to accept a deal with the United States that would prevent the Islamic republic from enriching uranium. The article "appears to be a new political defamation campaign aimed at exacerbating tensions around Iran's nuclear program," the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

"Invariably and repeatedly, we have emphasized the necessity of resolving the crisis concerning Iran's nuclear program exclusively through political and diplomatic means, and expressed our willingness



ness to help find mutually acceptable solutions," the statement read. Moscow has defended Tehran's right to use nuclear technology for civilian purposes but in recent months, Putin has also drawn closer to US President Donald Trump. Iran and the US began negotiations in April to resolve a decades-old dispute over Tehran's nuclear program. They held five rounds of talks mediated by Oman, which were described as constructive by both sides. However, the talks faced an obstacle over the US demand for Iran to stop enriching uranium under any new deal. Washing-

ton says uranium enrichment must be brought to zero while Tehran maintains its nuclear program is exclusively for civilian purposes and views its enrichment industry as a red line.

The sixth round of US-Iran nuclear talks, originally planned for June 15, were cancelled. These talks, scheduled to take place in Muscat, Oman, were called off following Israeli aggression against Iran. While the talks are off the table, the US has stated it remains committed to dialogue with Iran that has also declared that it is ready for resumption of negotiations.



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