

Pezeshkian to Pashinyan: Iran confident in own peaceful nuclear program, never accepts coercion

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that Iran is confident in the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities, stressing that exerting pressure on Iran and depriving it of its legal rights "is absolutely unacceptable." In a phone call with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, the Iranian president said Tehran is committed to international laws and, given its confidence in peaceful nature of its nuclear activities, has never had and does not have any concerns regarding monitoring and inspections by the UN atomic agency.

"However, we firmly stress that the use of coercion and pressure, as well as depriving our people of their legitimate rights, is in no way acceptable," Pezeshkian said.

Since April, Iran and the United States held five rounds of nuclear negotiations through Omani mediators before Israel launched its 12-day aggression against Iran on June 13. US President Donald Trump's decision to join Israel in striking Iranian nuclear facilities effectively ended the talks which were set to resume on June 15. The aggression against Iran claimed the lives of

more than 1,000 Iranians, most of them civilians.

Despite the aggression, both Tehran and Washington have signaled willingness to return to the table, though Tehran has said it will not give up its right to enrich uranium – a demand by the US for signing an agreement with Iran.

At the same time, the European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal – Britain, Germany and France – are threatening Iran with activating a snapback mechanism if no deal is reached with the US on Iran's nuclear program.

The so-called snapback mechanism allows for the return of anti-Iran sanctions suspended under the nuclear deal, from which the US withdrew in 2018 and its European parties failed to fulfill their commitments under the deal.

The deal expires in October and gives the parties to it a fast-looming deadline to invoke the clause.

US 'genuine will'

Meanwhile, the Iranian foreign minister said Tehran should see the United States' "genuine will" for resumption of nuclear talks, which ran into a snag following the US-Israeli aggression



Nikol Pashinyan

Masoud Pezeshkian

against Iran last month.

"If we are still not convinced, it is because we should see the other side's genuine will — a will to reach a win-win solution," Abbas Araghchi said in an interview with China's CGTN on the sidelines of a recent meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Tianjin.

"Our nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes, and we are certain about this. We have no problem with sharing this with others; however, this can only be achieved through negotiation," the Iranian foreign minister said. Araghchi said Iran proved the peaceful

nature of its nuclear program by signing an agreement with world powers in 2015, which was praised by the world as a "major diplomatic achievement."

But suddenly, Washington decided to pull out from the deal in a "regrettable decision," Araghchi said, adding that "everything we are witnessing today stems from that withdrawal."

Referring to a cease-fire proposed by the US to end conflict between Iran and Israel, Araghchi said that Iran's Armed Forces forced the aggressors to end their aggression and demand for a cease-fire. However, he said that

the cease-fire "remains fragile" due to the regime's "bad record" of breaking the cease-fire rules.

Iran's top diplomat underlined that the Islamic Republic is prepared to respond to any new aggression.

"We don't want this war to continue," he said. "But we are prepared for that." Iran's Armed Forces responded to the aggression by Israel and the US by targeting the regime's military facilities in the occupied territories and the US largest military site in West Asia in Qatar.

Following Iran's retaliation, the US proposed a cease-fire to end the conflict.

Tehran opposes any geopolitical changes in region: Security chief

International Desk

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) expressed on Saturday the Islamic Republic's strong opposition to any geopolitical changes in the region. Ali Akbar Ahmadian made the assertion on the phone with his Armenian counterpart, Armen Grigoryan, saying Tehran believes that all regional nations benefit from this policy.

He also appreciated Armenia's stance in condemning the Israeli aggression against Iran during the 12-day imposed war.

During the phone conversation, the two sides discussed regional and bilateral issues.

The Armenian official presented a report on the latest status of negotiations with the Azerbaijani side, underscoring Yerevan's unchanged stance on regional transit corridors.

Grigoryan also emphasized Arme-



Ali Akbar Ahmadian

nia's position on the issue of unblocking regional channels, based on territorial integrity, sovereignty, and jurisdiction.

Ahmadian reaffirmed Iran's position on the matter and expressed support for Armenia's approach.

In May, Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed on the text of a peace agreement to end nearly four decades of conflict between the South Cauca-

sus 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.

Europe prefers to ...

Europeans are poised to initiate the snapback of sanctions by the end of August, aiming to reinforce their status and influence in Iran's nuclear case and to secure their role as mediators and negotiating partners.

Activating the snapback mechanism does not strip Europe of its means to play a role in nuclear negotiations. On the contrary, it can be said that this move is part of the European strategy to maintain their position in the nuclear diplomacy process. From Iran's perspective, the legal interpretation of Europe's post-JCPOA conduct becomes paramount. Tehran might argue that, just as the United States ceased to be a JCPOA party after withdrawing in 2018, Europe—by failing to uphold its commitments—has effectively stepped out of the agreement, though not formally. If such reasoning prevails, Iran may no

longer consider Europe a legitimate partner in the JCPOA and could consequently challenge the legitimacy of their activation of the snapback mechanism.

Another interpretation suggests Iran may still consider the EU a JCPOA participant and view snapback as little more than a political bargaining chip, rather than a break in the agreement's framework. If that is the case, snapback could instead serve to boost Europe's leverage in nuclear diplomacy—especially if all parties seek a middle path neither involving full UNSC sanctions reinstatement nor the JCPOA's collapse under UNSCR 2231. Should Europe fail to act decisively, it will still lack leverage once the JCPOA deadline expires. Thus, the trio might provoke snapback to apply managed pressure on Iran while keeping channels of dialogue open. One proposal on the table calls for a one-year extension of the snapback timeframe—an opportunity to roll out fresh diplomacy, reopen talks, and keep the agreement or explore a revised deal.

Judging by Europe's August deadline for snapback activation, the objective appears less about reimposing Security Council sanctions and more about exerting political pressure to secure concessions from Tehran, and re-engage in nuclear negotiations from which Europe has largely receded in recent months.

If a realist lens is applied, Europe's preferred outcome is not escalating pressure but redefining its role in nuclear diplomacy. Extending the snapback within UNSCR 2231 could offer that vehicle. This suggests Europe has not abandoned its multilateral norms and diplomacy, but rather continues to pursue an active mediation role albeit while employing pressure tactics as part of this strategy.

Hitler returns? ...

Today, the Ramstein Air Base in Germany is the largest US military base outside America and serves as a central hub for NATO and US military operations in the Middle East.

From drone strikes in Yemen and Pakistan to logistical support for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Ramstein has been implicated in countless acts of military violence against civilians. While peace activists and even members of the German Bundestag have criticized the base's role in atrocities, Germany has not only allowed its operation but actively facilitated it.

Germany's contradictory approach to terrorism further highlights the dissonance between its rhetoric and actions. Take the case of Jamshid Sharmahd, an Iranian-German accused of orchestrating terrorist attacks inside Iran. Despite being wanted for violent plots, he received political and legal support from Germany. Evidently, terrorism is tolerable when it serves Western political interests.

Germany also emerged as the second-largest arms supplier to Tel Aviv, after the United States, during Israel's repeated assaults on the Gaza Strip—especially in 2023. German-made weapons were reportedly used in attacks on schools, hospitals, refugee shelters, and even tents housing displaced civilians. In doing so, Germany once again found itself complicit in what many are call-

ing a modern-day genocide: the killing of around 60,000 Palestinians and the wholesale destruction of Gaza's civilian infrastructure.

Not only has Germany played a dirty role in the Gaza conflict, but it has also cracked down on domestic opposition to Israel's actions. Protests across German cities—often led by university students and civil society groups—were met with harsh police repression. Demonstrators carried placards reading, "You are complicit in genocide," "Boycott Israel," and "Germany is a fascist state." Hundreds were arrested, and the protests were violently dispersed. So, Germany has been a constant player in some of the gravest atrocities of modern history. Its foreign policy, particularly in supporting US and Israeli military operations, reveals a troubling inconsistency between its professed values and its real-world behavior.

The German Chancellor's recent remarks may well be seen as the latest "dirty deed" in a long line of morally questionable actions. In the German political lexicon, words like "peace" and "human rights" seem to function more as tools of Western political strategy than as genuine commitments. A country with a past steeped in colonialism, genocide, war, and repression and a present defined by arms sales, support for state violence, and suppression of dissent, has forfeited the moral authority to preach ethics to the world.

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