

Pezeshkian welcomes Venezuela's plans for promoting peace in West Asia

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday welcomed Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's push for a regional peace summit, voicing support during a phone call for what he called "constructive initiatives" aimed at reducing tensions in West Asia.

The call came amid mounting criticism in Iran of what it views as US complicity in Israeli military actions against Iranian interests, president.ir reported.

Pezeshkian thanked Caracas for its firm opposition to Israel's "aggressions" and

praised Venezuela's "principled and courageous" stance in supporting Iranian sovereignty.

He said Tehran remained committed to diplomacy, but warned that Iran would strike back "decisively" if provoked again.

"Our path is dialogue," Pezeshkian said, "but the United States has paved the way for Israel's violations by abandoning diplomatic norms."

He described recent attacks on Iranian targets as "blatant breaches" of international law.

The two leaders also pledged to expand

strategic cooperation as they marked 75 years of diplomatic ties. Pezeshkian stressed that bilateral relations would grow "deeper, broader and more strategic."

Maduro, for his part, condemned Israel's actions and offered condolences for the Iranian lives lost. He called the Iranian response "heroic," saying it had "shattered" the perceived dominance of the Israeli military and boosted morale among nations resisting foreign pressure.

"The Iranian people have shown they can defend their right to peace," Maduro said, expressing hope that a proposed



Nicolas Maduro



Masoud Pezeshkian

peace summit would yield "major agreements" and help secure lasting regional stability.

Both sides signaled their intent to step

up economic and political engagement. Maduro said the time was ripe to "deepen bilateral ties and strengthen strategic bonds."

Speaker terms Gaza as 'museum of humanity's crimes'

International Desk

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf rebuked on Wednesday the international community's inaction about the Israeli regime's barbaric onslaught on the besieged Gaza Strip, warning that the Palestinian territory had become a museum of humanity's crimes and a laboratory for testing killing technologies.

"Today, we have gathered in Geneva to discuss multilateralism for peace and justice, while these ideals are being deliberately and continuously undermined, and the credibility of international institutions is eroding," Qalibaf said in an address to the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in the Swiss city on Wednesday.

"Gaza today is a museum of humanity's crimes and a laboratory for testing killing technologies. We must not be mere spectators to the Gaza genocide; rather, we must stop the 21st-century Nazis before it is too late."

Displaying images of Israeli crimes against children in Gaza, Qalibaf



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf displays images of Israeli crimes in an address to the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in the Swiss city of Geneva on July 30, 2025.
● ICANA

warned, "The impunity of the Zionist regime's aggressions not only undermines the legitimacy of the international order but also sends a dangerous message for global peace, emboldening the aggressor to expand its crimes."

The Iranian Parliament speaker underlined that the Israeli regime's aggressive acts against Palestinians, which are a deliberate violation of international law and the United Nations Charter, were condemned by 120 countries worldwide; however, the few but bullying supporters of the Zionists prevented international bodies from taking decisive action to hold the Tel Aviv regime accountable.

Pointing to the institutions that

should safeguard peace but remained silent in the face of Israeli aggression and occupation, Qalibaf said, "The mechanisms that should guarantee justice are instead blaming the victims and shielding the aggressors, and the structures that should remain impartial and independent have often become tools for the political exploitation of certain powers."

The top Iranian parliamentarian emphasized that the Israeli regime is using hunger and famine as a weapon of mass destruction.

"The dissemination of images of starving children in Gaza is a disgrace to everyone. Gaza, today, is a place where the right to life is punished with bullets and famine," he said. "Gaza is not just a dot on the map, but the center for testing human conscience."

Gov't rejects nationwide closures over economic fallout amid water scarcity

The Iranian government on Wednesday ruled out a proposal to shut down state offices every Wednesday and implement a one-week nationwide holiday to conserve water, citing potential economic fallout amid a water crisis affecting large parts of the country. During a cabinet meeting, officials reviewed reports from the Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade, the Ministry of Energy, and the Plan and Budget Organization, which assessed the potential impact of workplace closures on water consumption and the economy, IRNA reported. Following a debate, the proposal was shelved after projections indicated it could "have consequences for economic sectors." "I am not in favor of such consequences," President Masoud Pezeshkian told his ministers, rejecting the measure. He argued that "shutting down operations is wiping away the problem, not

solving the water shortage."

The president stressed the importance of joint consultations and raising public awareness to "weather the crisis."

"By engaging all sectors, including the public, water consumption can be managed," he added. The proposal was triggered by critically low rainfall, which officials say is more than 40% below Iran's 80-year average, significantly impacting dam reserves across the country. Last week, Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi warned that inflows to Tehran's dams had halved, and one key reservoir was expected to run dry and go offline within a month. Despite rejecting a national measure, the government had earlier ordered a localized closure of banks public offices in Tehran last week in a bid to curb water usage.

According to Vice President Alireza Rafieezadeh, that decision helped cut

consumption and proved to be an "effective tool" in emergency situations. Rafieezadeh noted that "office closures can be placed on the table as a supportive measure" when faced with "critical and emergency conditions." Meanwhile, Tehran's Water and Wastewater Company has implemented pressure reduction strategies in urban pipelines and warned that "the current water reserves in the capital's dams are at their lowest level in a century." Citizens have been urged to cut water consumption by at least 20%. In some provinces, water rationing programs have been introduced, cutting off residential supply at scheduled intervals.

Pezeshkian called for full transparency, saying "consumers must clearly understand that if consumption continues at the current rate, we will face a serious crisis."

Moscow voices 'serious concern' about threat of new anti-Iran strikes

Russia said on Wednesday it was concerned about the threat of new strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, and that a deal on Tehran's nuclear programme could be reached through dialogue, Reuters reported. Israel and the United States bombed Iranian nuclear sites in June with the stated aim of preventing Tehran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Iran denies any such intention.

"Regular threats towards Iran to launch

new missile and bomb strikes on its nuclear facilities cannot but cause serious concern. The cynicism of such statements is added by the fact that they are made under the guise of imaginary concern for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters. "Bombing nuclear facilities should not become commonplace, routine international practice. The catastrophic risks associat-

ed with this cannot be ignored, much less justified."

Russia has cultivated closer ties with Iran since the start of its war in Ukraine, and this year signed a strategic partnership treaty with the Islamic Republic.

Zakharova said a sustainable peace settlement and a promise not to conduct new strikes on Iran were prerequisites for normalizing cooperation between Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog agency.

Deputy FM: Tehran will pursue US-Israeli aggression via legal channels

International Desk

A senior Iranian official underscored the Islamic Republic's determination to follow up on the recent US-Israeli aggression on Iranian soil through legal channels.

Kazem Gharibabadi, who is the deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, made the statement in an interview with the official website of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on the sidelines of a ceremony in the capital Tehran that commemorated the 40th day of those martyred in the 12-day war last month. Gharibabadi stressed that the Islamic Republic's legal follow-up after the recent aggression is an important part of the work as the US-Israeli crime was completely in contravention of international law, the UN Charter, and human rights. Iran's deputy foreign minister said two reports concerning legal violations during the aggression by the US and the Zionist regime and the martyrdom of children, women, and families had been prepared, and their documentation work was almost complete.

"The aggressors received a firm response, but now our job is to legally follow up on it ... The documentation work is almost complete. Some comprehensive international reports have been prepared and registered with the Security Council and the United Nations," Gharibabadi said. "Regretfully, legal work in the international arena is intertwined with political stances and approaches, but this should not culminate in disappointment," he added.

"The first stage is to register and document these crimes, file a lawsuit, and pursue it seriously. If it yields results, that will be excellent, and we must exert



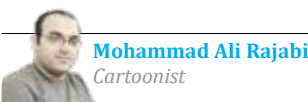
First-responders gather outside a building that was hit by an Israeli strike in Tehran on June 13, 2025.
● Tasnim

all our efforts to achieve that outcome. Even if it fails, we should not abandon the work, and it should remain at the top of the Islamic Republic's priorities as a primary claim."

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked war against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians. More than a week later, the United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, managed to impose a halt to the illegal assault as Tel Aviv, overwhelmed by the unceasing counterstrikes, was compelled to seek a ceasefire.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

