

Araghchi: Compensation for war prerequisite to resuming Iran-US talks

International Desk

Speaking in an interview with the Financial Times in Tehran published on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the United States must compensate the Islamic Republic for losses incurred during the 12-day US-Israeli imposed war before the resumption of nuclear talks.

Araghchi said Iran would not agree to “business as usual” in the wake of Israel’s acts of aggression last month, which the US later joined despite having been in talks with Iran.

“They should explain why they attacked us in the middle of ... negotiations, and they have to ensure that they are not going to repeat that [during future talks],” he added.

“And they have to compensate [Iran for] the damage that they have done.”

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 occu-

pied 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 counter-strikes, was compelled to seek a ceasefire.

‘Real confidence-building measures’

Araghchi further pointed to his exchange of messages with US envoy Steve Witkoff during and since the war, saying that he had stressed the need to find a “win-win solution” to resolve the years-long stand-off over the country’s nuclear program.

“The road to negotiation is narrow but it’s not impossible. I need to convince my hierarchy that if we go for negotiation, the other side is coming with real determination for a win-win deal,” the top Iranian diplomat added.

Araghchi explained that Witkoff has tried to convince him and has proposed resuming talks, but emphasized, “We need real confidence-building measures from their side.”

The veteran Iranian diplomat, without giving details, added that any resumption of talks should include financial compensation and assurances that no

more attacks would take place against Tehran during negotiations.

The top Iranian diplomat noted that the war had only deepened distrust of US President Donald Trump, who during his first term abandoned a 2015 deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“Anti-negotiation feelings are very high,” Araghchi said.

“People are telling me, ‘Don’t waste your time anymore, don’t be cheated by them ... if they come to negotiations, it’s only a cover-up for their other intentions.’”

Iran and the United States had held five rounds of indirect talks on Tehran’s peaceful nuclear program before the beginning of Israel’s acts of aggression. Mediated by Oman, the 6th round of talks was planned to be held in the Omani capital of Muscat on June 15, but was called off due to the anti-Iran attacks.

On June 22, the United States officially joined the war against Iran by launching attacks on three nuclear facilities in the country in violation of the United Nations Charter and the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

No deal with US over Trump’s zero enrichment

Araghchi once again reiterated Iran’s resolve to continue its enrichment activities, saying there could be no deal



Abbas Araghchi

as long as Trump demanded that Iran agree to zero enrichment.

He, however, added that Washington should address its concerns through negotiations.

“We can negotiate, they can present their argument and we will present our own argument,” the Iranian minister said. “But with zero enrichment, we don’t have a thing.”

Iran to terminate E3 talks if snapback invoked

Araghchi also hit out at the European troika – Britain, France and Germany—who have warned they would trigger a so-called snapback mechanism to rein-

state UN sanctions at the end of August if Tehran does not resume negotiations with Washington and its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He noted that the three European signatories to the JCPOA have failed to fulfill their obligations as per the nuclear deal, emphasizing that Tehran would end talks with the trio if they trigger the snapback mechanism.

“With the Europeans, there is no reason right now to negotiate because they cannot lift sanctions, they cannot do anything,” he said. “If they do snapback, that means that this is the end of the road for them.”

‘Baseless and ridiculous’: Tehran decries Western assassination accusations

International Desk

The Iranian Foreign Ministry dismissed on Friday “baseless and ridiculous” claims leveled by certain Western countries about Tehran collaborating with international criminal groups to perform assassination plots abroad.

Esmail Baqaei, the ministry spokesman, condemned the anti-Iran accusations by the United States, Canada and a dozen European states in their joint statement released the previous day.

Baqaei said the “blatant blame game” is an attempt to divert public attention from the most pressing issue of the day, which is the Israeli genocide in the occupied Palestine.

“The United States, France, and other signatories to the anti-Iran statement must themselves be held accountable for actions that violate international law, as they support and host terrorist and violent elements and groups,” he added.

Baqaei touched on the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression against Iran in June and Israel’s ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip against the backdrop of active support or approving silence of the 14 Western



Iran's Foreign Ministry building in downtown Tehran.

countries that signed the statement against the Islamic Republic. He further denounced the accusations as “blatant lies and an escape forward, designed as part of a malicious Iranophobia campaign aimed at exerting pressure on the great Iranian nation.”

The 14 states must be held accountable for their “disgraceful and irresponsible” behavior that violates the principles of international law and the United Nations Charter, the spokesman noted.

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the UK, and the US alleged in their statement that Iranian intelligence agencies are engaged in attempts to “kill, kidnap, and harass people in Europe and North America.”

Dozens of Palestinians killed amid US envoy’s Gaza visit

International Desk

Local medical sources reported on Friday that a total of 24 Palestinians had since dawn been killed by Israeli forces across the Gaza Strip, including five who were seeking humanitarian aid amid US special envoy Steve Witkoff’s visit to the besieged territory and Israel’s ongoing starvation campaign.

Palestine’s official news agency WAFA, citing medical sources, said at least 83 Palestinians were killed and 554 others were injured in the Gaza Strip over the last 24 hours as a result of the ongoing Israeli genocide in the region.

Local health authorities confirmed that the Palestinian death toll from the Israeli onslaught since October 2023 has risen to 60,332 fatalities, with an additional 147,643 people sustaining injuries. The majority of the victims are women and children.

According to the same sources, the death toll since Israel’s resumption of the genocide on March 18 after a two-month truce has also climbed to 9,163, in addition to 35,602 others injured. Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former military affairs minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

Witkoff’s visit to Gaza aid sites

The latest casualties occurred as Witkoff travelled to Gaza to inspect aid distribution amid mounting pressure on Israel over its starvation policy in the war-ravaged Palestinian enclave.

Witkoff and US ambassador to the occupied territories, Mike Huckabee, visited aid distribution sites run by the controversial US- and Israeli-backed GHF on Friday.

The two “spent over five hours inside Gaza,” Witkoff said in a post on X, accompanied by a photo of himself wearing a protective vest and meeting staff at a distribution site. He claimed that the purpose of the trip was to “help craft a plan to deliver food and medical aid to the people of Gaza.”

Friday’s visit was “to learn the truth” about the GHF’s distribution activities, Huckabee claimed on X. During the trip, they were briefed by the Israeli military and spoke to “folks on the ground,” he added. Earlier this week, Donald Trump contradicted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s insistence that reports of hunger in Gaza were untrue, with the US president saying the enclave was experiencing “real starvation.”

The United Nations and independent experts had warned for months that starvation was taking hold in Gaza due to the Israeli military blockade on humanitarian relief, and this week, they said “famine is now unfolding.”

Hamas slams US envoy’s Gaza visit as ‘publicity stunt’

Moreover, a senior official of Palestinian resistance movement Hamas decried Witkoff’s visit to Gaza as a “publicity stunt” aimed at containing growing anger over US-Israeli involvement in the ongoing starvation of people in the blockaded territory.

“Witkoff only sees in Gaza what the Israeli occupation wants him to see. He views the ongoing tragedy through a distorted Israeli lens,” Izzat al-Rishq, a member of Hamas’s political bureau, said in a statement.



WAFA

He stressed that the US envoy “will not witness the workings of the hunger guillotine known as the ‘Gaza Humanitarian Foundation,’ nor how it prepares the killing ground for the Zionist war machine.”

Al-Rishq added that the White House’s recent recognition of famine in Gaza — after months of denial — without holding Israel accountable, “amounts to absolving the perpetrator and offering political cover for what is the worst crime in modern history.”

The remarks come as suffering in the besieged enclave worsens, with warnings that hunger has reached extreme levels and reports of rising deaths due to starvation.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), founded in February 2025 amidst the prolonged Israeli assault on Gaza that started in October 2023, is a US-funded initiative working in collaboration with the Israeli military. Nearly 170 non-governmental organizations have called for the immediate discontinuation of the controversial GHF program, and called for a return to the UN-led aid mechanism that existed in the war-torn territory until March, when the Israeli regime imposed a full blockade on humanitarian assistance entering Gaza.

Pezeshkian’s visit to Pakistan ...

Diplomatic ties unfold at bilateral, regional, and international levels. Security cooperation between Iran and Pakistan must be understood across these dimensions. While both countries raise concerns about each other’s support for militant groups, those frictions have not derailed bilateral relations—evidenced by Pakistani backing during Israeli aggression against Iran.

That said, it is a troubling contradiction. If both nations continue to point fingers at each other for aiding separatist or mil-

itant groups, they are doing something that harms both sides. A shared threat—Baloch separatism—exists in the trans-border region of Balochistan. If one part of this region breaks away, the other will inevitably face a crisis—because the issue revolves around the idea of a “Greater Balochistan.” Thus, both countries—particularly their military establishments—appear to have made a strategic miscalculation that could backfire if not corrected. It is surprising that in the highly sensitive case of Balochistan, both nations are backing forces whose victory would

necessarily come at the other’s expense. If Baloch separatists succeed in Iran, it would be disastrous for Pakistan—and vice versa. This is a dangerous misjudgment and a strategic blunder that could carry heavy costs.

Regarding Pakistan’s hesitation in completing the Iran–Pakistan gas pipeline stems largely from US pressure. Washington has warned Islamabad of sanctions if it proceeded with the project. Despite Pakistan’s warm ties with Washington, it could have followed the path of Turkey or Iraq and moved ahead. However, it has

refrained, likely due to lack of US approval. Even though Iran has legal grounds to file a claim against Pakistan for breaching the agreement, the specter of US sanctions continues to hold back progress. Yet economic ties often plateau not from fewer opportunities but from structural mismatch. Iran and Pakistan suffer from a lack of economic complementarity—their economies do not naturally mesh. This gap limits trade potential.

Another issue is the lack of technological depth in bilateral trade. Nations often pursue economic ties to gain access

to cutting-edge technologies. Neither Iran nor Pakistan possesses advanced industrial capabilities that would make such collaboration attractive. Thus, both states tend to focus trade relationships elsewhere—where technology transfer is feasible. Still, in sectors like agriculture, complementarities exist and are already being explored. However, given climate change, there is room for reevaluation and new initiatives to strengthen collaboration.

The article first appeared in Persian on IRNA.