

Pezeshkian: Iranian media dashed aggressors' hopes for destabilizing country

National Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday commended efforts made by the Iranian media during Israel's 12-day aggression against the country, saying that the journalists dashed the hopes of aggressors for sowing discord in Iran. Pezeshkian made the remarks during a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) on the occasion of the National Journalist's Day in Iran, which falls on August 8. Pezeshkian said Israel's goal in the imposed war against Iran was to create chaos in the country and foment unrest for the Islamic Establishment, "but it is not the case that by killing me and others like me, they will achieve their goals."

The Israeli onslaught on Iran, which began on June 13, claimed the lives of nearly 1,100 Iranians including ordinary people, nuclear scientists and top military commanders.

While standing in front of an IRIB building, which was targeted by the Israeli regime during its aggression, Pezeshkian expressed hope that the journalists would help the

country to achieve unity and cohesion despite differences. He said that the Israelis attacked the IRIB building because of its influence and effectiveness. According to the international rules, no one has the right to attack media centers in any war, and the regime showed that it does not adhere to any international frameworks, the Iranian president said.

He referred to the unity emerging in the country following Israel's strikes, saying, "Even those who we did not expect, and those who we had imprisoned whether rightly or wrongly, all stood firmly by Iran."

Pezeshkian also paid a visit to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

He pointed to the "very important role" of the media in maintaining unity and cohesion in the country, saying that "during the recent 12-day war, it became clear how much the unity and cohesion in the country and society can generate strength, faith, and a love for life in the face of enemy's aggression."

The president also congratulated the reporters on the National Journalist's Day.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a visit to Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) on the occasion of the National Journalist's Day in Tehran on August 9, 2025.

● president.ir

Tehran welcomes Baku-Yerevan peace deal; warns of 'foreign intervention'



US President Donald Trump (c) joins hands with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev (l) and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan during a signing ceremony in the White House in Washington, DC on August 8, 2025.

● ANDREW HARNIK/AFP

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement on Saturday welcomed the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace deal but warned against any foreign intervention as the US-brokered agreement grants Washington development rights to a strategic transit route across the Caucasus region.

On Friday, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev signed the US-mediated peace deal at the White House.

The accord includes the creation of a transit corridor through Armenia to connect Azerbaijan to its exclave of Nakhchivan – a longstanding demand of Baku.

The United States will have development rights to the corridor – dubbed the "Trump Route for International Peace

and Prosperity" (TRIPP) – in the strategic, resource-rich region.

Zangezur corridor

Iran has long opposed the corridor – often referred to as Zangezur – fearing it would cut the Islamic Republic off from the Caucasus.

In a statement, Iran's Foreign Ministry welcomed "the finalization of the text of the peace agreement by the two countries" but expressed "concern over the negative consequences of any foreign intervention in any way and form, especially in the vicinity of common borders."

The statement added that such a move would "disrupt the security and lasting stability of the region."

Christian-majority Armenia and Muslim-majority Azerbaijan have feuded for

decades over their border and the status of ethnic enclaves within each other's territories.

The nations went to war twice over the disputed Karabakh region, which Azerbaijan recaptured from Armenian forces in a lightning 2023 offensive, sparking the exodus of more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have committed to a lasting peace after decades of conflict, US President Donald Trump said.

Nobel prize for Trump

Pashinyan and Aliyev said Trump's mediation should earn him a Nobel Peace Prize – an award the US leader has long been craving.

The two former Soviet republics "are committing to stop all fighting forever, open up commerce, travel and diplomatic relations and respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Trump said at a White House signing event on Friday. The two leaders would have a "great relationship," Trump said.

"But if there's conflict... they're going to call me and we're going to get it straightened out," he said.

The Azerbaijan and Armenian leaders shook hands under the satisfied gaze of Trump before all three signed a document the White House called a "joint declaration."

Aliyev hailed the "historic signature" between two "countries which were at war for more than three decades."

"We are today establishing peace in the Caucasus," he said.

US-Azerbaijan military cooperation

Aliyev also thanked Trump for lifting restrictions on US military cooperation with Azerbaijan, which was announced on Friday.

Pashinyan said the "initialing of (the) peace agreement will pave the way to end decades of conflict between our countries and open a new era."

The Armenian leader said the "breakthrough" would not have been possible without "peacemaker" Trump.

"Today, we can say that peace has been achieved," Pashinyan told a news conference after signing the deal. The foreign ministry in Turkey, a longtime supporter of Azerbaijan, hailed the "progress achieved towards establishing a lasting peace."

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy congratulated the two countries "on the bold steps taken in Washington."

European Union chiefs said it would pave the way to "lasting, sustainable peace for both countries and across the entire region."

Iran nabs 20 suspects accused of spying for Israel's Mossad

National Desk

Iran has arrested 20 people accused of collaborating with Israel's Mossad spy agency in recent months in the capital Tehran and some other provinces, the Judiciary said on Saturday, warning that they will face no leniency.

"The Judiciary will show no leniency toward spies and agents of the Zionist regime, and with firm rulings, will make them all learn their lesson," Judiciary spokesperson Asghar Jahangiri told reporters in Tehran on Saturday.

Jahangiri said interrogators are working on the cases of the suspected spies, a number of whom had been captured before Israel's aggression against Iran on June 13.

He added that charges against some of the suspects arrested had been dropped and they were released. He did not give a number.

He said full details would be made public once investigations were complete.

On Wednesday, Iran executed Rouzbeh Vadi, who was convicted of spying for Israel and passing on information on another nuclear scientist killed in Israel's airstrikes on Iran.



● MIZAN

The Iranian Judiciary has tightened up on the spies and elements of enemies after the regime launched an unprovoked war against the country. Nearly 1,100 Iranians, including senior military commanders, nuclear scientists and ordinary citizens were killed in the Israeli attacks.

Ignoring Iran's role ...

From the provisions outlined in the agreement, the so-called "Trump Corridor" appears to mirror the "Zangezur" project—a transit and energy route that could redraw the map of the region's geopolitics. The viability of such a project will hinge heavily on regional political and security stability, as well as on the extent of overlapping interests among the main players, especially Iran.

If the Azerbaijan-Armenia peace agreement evolves into a stable, enforceable framework and the project's design allows Iran to benefit economically and in terms of connectivity, its chances of being implemented would rise significantly. But if mistrust and insecurity persist, and Iran's role is sidelined or diminished, the plan could face serious roadblocks and may even serve as a stage for heightened geopolitical rivalry.

Speculation has also surfaced about the corridor being used to supply part of Europe's gas needs. Europe—seeking in recent years to reduce its reliance on Russian gas—would welcome any alter-

native energy route, including the Zangezur Corridor. From a geo-energy perspective, such a plan poses a direct threat to Russia's position in the European energy market and could cut into Moscow's revenues and economic leverage. However, the history of transatlantic economic relations has shown that US dominance over an energy project does not necessarily guarantee European interests; Washington could well provide Europe's energy security at higher costs and within a framework of deeper political dependency.

For Iran, this corridor presents a highly complex equation. On one hand, it could limit some of its transit routes and strategic access to the Caucasus and Europe. On the other, it might become a complementary economic and transit channel for Iranian projects. This is likely why Tehran's cautious approach has been to postpone any final decision on the corridor's fate until its operational conditions become clearer, focusing for now on expanding bilateral economic and transit projects with both Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

