

Negotiations need clear subject, fairness: *Former spokesman*

INTERVIEW

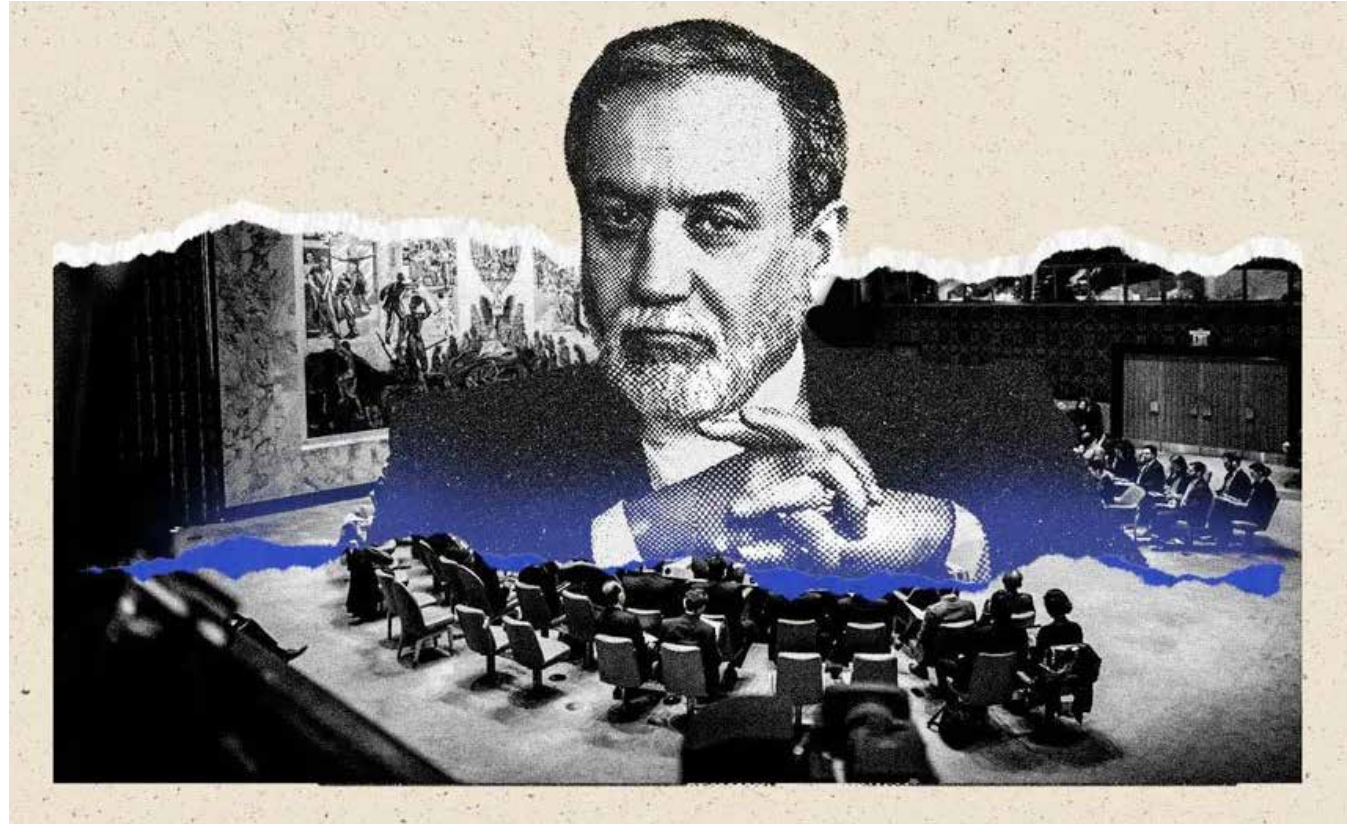
As the region stands on the brink of fundamental changes and global powers are looking to redraw the geopolitical map, the diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has once again stepped up to play a pivotal role in the fast-moving and sensitive developments across West Asia.

In a detailed and candid interview, Mohammad Ali Hosseini, former spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pulls back the curtain on the relentless backstage efforts of Iran's diplomatic apparatus to tackle the fallout of the imposed 12-day war and navigate through multi-layered regional crises; efforts that led to the issuing of multiple statements that supported Iran and undermined the fabricated image of unilateral power held by the Zionist regime. Below are parts of that interview:

We have just come through an imposed 12-day war with the Zionist regime and its enabler, the United States. Amid this, a notable event unfolded: 21 Arab and Muslim countries issued a statement backing the Islamic Republic of Iran, including some countries that have ties with the Zionist regime. What factors do you think brought about this level of condemnation?

HOSSEINI: At the international and regional level, no consensus, agreement, or support — even a politically biased stance — comes together without the diplomatic apparatus's efforts. Of course, the weight and sensitivity of the issue itself, as you pointed out regarding this 12-day war, naturally plays into the equation; Because when war, security, and aggression against a sovereign country are at stake, this naturally sets off many countries in and beyond the neighborhood.

That said, if the diplomatic machinery, especially the foreign minister himself, had not rolled up their sleeves from the moment the crisis unfolded, and if our ambassadors had not quickly stepped up and swiftly established diplomatic contacts, such a rapid reaction simply would not have come together. Not only did we witness the stance and support of about 120 countries or more, but many of these statements were the direct result of contacts personally made by Dr. Araghchi and the tireless efforts of our ambassadors on the ground. When you want to hammer out a joint declaration condemning one party in organizations like the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, the Arab League, and the Persian Gulf



Cooperation Council, it naturally calls for broad and persistent coordination and effort. Moreover, we aimed to have countries speak out at the level of heads of state or foreign ministers. The quality of these statements mattered a great deal; that they collectively and unambiguously condemned the aggression and voiced support for the Islamic Republic of Iran and its legitimate right to defend itself.

This move is significant both quantitatively and qualitatively in terms of the nature of the positions declared by these countries. So, the sensitivity of the issue had an impact, but even more so, the efforts of the diplomatic apparatus, both inside the country and by our ambassadors in each country where they serve.

What happened in the early hours of October 7, 2023, set our region on a fast and hectic course of developments. One of the things that transformed during this time was the deterrence equation in the region and Iran's own deterrence capability. What changes do you see in these equations after the recent developments, both regionally and for our country?

The Zionist regime's goal, naturally supported by the US, in launching this war was crystal clear: regime change of the Islamic Republic. They openly talked about the Libya and Syria models, meaning fragmentation, chaos, unrest, and instability inside Iran. They bluntly declared these aims as the core

objectives of the war imposed upon us: destruction of infrastructure, dismantling the nuclear program, and more. Nevertheless, the Islamic Republic of Iran was the clear winner of this battle; Not only did it not allow them to achieve any of their stated goals, but it also quickly and effectively showcased its deterrence power. We put into practice the slogan often voiced by senior officials that if the Zionist regime slips or acts foolishly, our response will be swift, decisive, and devastating. This deterrent strength was witnessed by all, both regionally and beyond.

As a result, the enemy missed all their targets. One goal — seeking to break a wedge between the people and the Is-

lamic Establishment — even backfired. National cohesion and unity among the people picked up steam, and widespread support for the establishment was on full display. Hence, Iran's deterrence power was clearly showcased.

Let's not forget that in the first two or three days of the war, when it seemed the Zionist regime had the upper hand, a reporter asked Mr. Trump whether he intended to call for a cease-fire to end the clashes, to which he replied it would be very difficult to ask a side on the verge of victory to agree to a cease-fire. But just 72 hours later, after witnessing the heavy bombardment of the Occupied Territories, Iran's destructive missile capabilities,



Mohammad Ali Hosseini



The illustration shows a picture of Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi over a session of the United Nations Security Council.
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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (c) takes part in the 51st session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Istanbul, Turkey, on June 21, 2025, in the midst of the Israeli aggression against Iran.
● [UMIT BEKTAS/REUTERS](https://www.umat.com)



The view from Euronews's newsroom shows Ali Bahraini (upper-L), Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, answering the TV station's questions on June 19, 2025.
● [EURONEWS](https://www.euronews.com)