

Pezeshkian raises alarm over foreign security intervention in Caucasus

Pashinyan says no deal inked unless Iran's interests respected

International Desk

Iran on Monday said there is a need for vigilance on any foreign military or security intervention in the Caucasus region following a US-brokered agreement reached between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which involves the implementation of a transportation corridor project with the participation of Washington.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a phone call with Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the preservation of Armenia's sovereignty and a lack of interference by military or security forces within the framework of the project.

Pezeshkian also "warned against possible actions by the United States, which could pursue hegemonic goals in the Caucasus region under the guise of economic investments and peace guarantees."

Pezeshkian further said that Iran welcomes any agreement that promotes peace, particularly among regional countries.

On Friday, 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.

Under the deal, 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.

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

The Armenian prime minister, for his part, presented the outcomes of the August 8 talks in Washington, underscoring that regional routes will function within the framework of the principles of the countries' territorial integrity and sovereignty.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's emphasis on preserving Armenia's sovereignty and territorial integrity is highly valuable and significant for us. We will not sign any agreement unless we are fully assured that the interests, considerations, and sensitivities of our friendly neighbor, Iran,



Nikol Pashinyan

Masoud Pezeshkian

are respected." 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.

Iran, Iraq sign MoU on border security coordination

International Desk

Top security officials of Iran and Iraq on Monday signed a joint memorandum of understanding (MoU) on security coordination on the common border between the two countries. The agreement was signed between the newly-appointed Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani and Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji in the capital Baghdad. Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani was also present at the signing ceremony.

Al Sudani emphasized Iraq's broad efforts to develop relations with Iran to strengthen cooperation in various fields for the benefit of the two nations.

He also reiterated Iraq's principled position in opposing the Israeli regime's aggression against Iran and anything that would escalate conflicts at the regional and international levels. The Iraqi prime minister also emphasized Baghdad's support for the resumption of negotiations between Tehran and Washington on

Iran's nuclear program.

Before his departure to Baghdad on Monday, Larijani told reporters that Tehran and Baghdad have been working on the security agreement that will be signed during his visit.

"We have drafted a security agreement with Iraq, which is a very important issue. Iran's perspective and approach in relations with its neighbors are based on [the fact] that the security of Iranians is the focal point but Iran also pays attention to the security of the neighboring countries," he said.

He noted that Iran's security is intertwined with that of neighboring countries.

Iran enjoys close trade ties with the friendly country of Iraq, while the two nations also have a very good level of cooperation, he said.

In March 2023, Iran and Iraq signed a security agreement in Baghdad, encompassing coordination in protecting the shared border.

Larijani also plans to visit Lebanon. He said Iran has deep and broad cooperation with Lebanon as one of the "very important" and influential



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani (L) shakes hands with Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji during a meeting in Baghdad on August 11, 2025.

● *Iraq's National Security Advisory*

countries in West Asia, adding that both sides hold constant contacts on various regional developments.

He once again reiterated Iran's clear stance on developments in Lebanon, stressing the need to maintain the country's national unity under any circumstances.

"Lebanon's independence has always been important to us," the SNSC secretary said, urging the promotion of trade relations between the two countries.

Tehran ready to curb nuclear program for sanctions removal: Deputy FM

International Desk

Iran's deputy foreign minister said that Tehran is prepared to accept certain limitations on its nuclear program for "a certain period" in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions, but ending uranium enrichment entirely is nonnegotiable.

"Iran can be flexible on the capacities and limits of enrichment, but cannot agree to stop enrichment under any circumstance because it's essential, and we need to rely on ourselves, not on empty promises," Majid Takht-e Ravanchi told Japan's Kyodo News in an interview.

"If the United States insists on zero enrichment, then we have no agreement," the Iranian official said.

Since April, Iran and the United States have held five rounds of negotiations to resolve a dispute over Iran's nuclear program. But an unprovoked aggression by the US and its ally, Israel, against Iran before a sixth round of the negotiations derailed the talks.

During the talks, the US insisted on zero uranium enrichment in Iran. But the Islamic Republic underlined that it will not accept the US demand.



Majid Takht-e Ravanchi
● *AFP*

"Iran is ready to negotiate with the United States, but the United States must make clear whether it is truly interested in a win-win dialogue or in imposing its will," Takht-e Ravanchi said.

The deputy foreign minister also referred to the "illegal" US strikes on Iran's three nuclear sites during its aggression on June 22, saying that the strikes inflicted severe damage on the facilities.

The Iranian official warned that any new threat by the US would be met with a decisive response.

He said that Tehran is in contact with Washington through a third country mediating between the two sides.

Baqaei confirms Iran's official accession to Palermo since August 6

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei on Monday confirmed Iran's membership in the "United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime," known as the Palermo Convention since August 6.

Speaking in his weekly press conference, Baqaei said the decision to join the convention was made by the country's decision-making authorities based on the national interests. After the approval of Iran's accession to the convention by the country's authorities, the accession document was submitted by the secretary-general of the United Nations, Baqaei said, adding the move took place on August 6 and Iran officially became a member of the UN convention.

Iran's Financial Intelligence Unit announced that the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has, for the first time in six years, formally invited the head of Iran's Financial Intelligence Unit to participate in direct negotiations. The invitation follows Iran's recent presentation of its an-

ti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures to FATF's regional group, as well as the ratification of the Palermo Convention by the country's Expediency Council.

According to the statement, FATF's secretariat has officially invited Hadi Khani, head of the Iranian Finance Ministry's financial intelligence department, to attend the talks. The meeting will take place in Madrid, Spain.

The Palermo Convention, adopted by the UN in 2000, was approved by Iran's Expediency Council earlier this year.

Work on ratifying the CFT (Combating the Financing of Terrorism) convention — seen as complementary to the Palermo Convention — is ongoing.

Iran's accession to the two conventions remains the sole obstacle to the country's membership in the FATF. Resolving the issue would enable Iran to soon exit the FATF's "blacklist," which outlines recommendations for combating financial crimes, including terrorism financing and money laundering.



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