

Araghchi warns against disruption in transportation in Caucasus region

International Desk

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday Tehran welcomes a recent peace agreement reached between its two northern neighbors – Armenia and Azerbaijan – which involves the implementation of a transportation corridor project, but warned against any disruption in Iran's access to transportation corridors.

"These routes must not lead to geopolitical changes in the region or disrupt Iran's access to other transportation corridors," the Iranian foreign minister told his Armenian counterpart Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan in a phone conversation.

Araghchi reiterated that any decision or measure must fully respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.

Referring to some sensitivities related to the issue, the top Iranian diplomat pointed out that observing the considerations related to the stability and security of the region and surrounding countries is a must for any plan or agreement in this field.

Armenia and Azerbaijan on

Friday 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 for long opposed the idea, saying it would change the geopolitical order of the Southern Caucasus and would restrict Iran's ability to use transport networks in the region.

During the phone call, Mirzoyan acknowledged the principled position of Iran in respecting Armenia's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as its attention to geopolitical sensitivities and regional peace and stability.

He assured Araghchi that Yerevan would consider regional peace, stability, and mutual Iran-Armenia interests when making decisions about transit routes.

On Monday, Iranian President



Masoud Pezeshkian told Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan that there is a need

for vigilance on any foreign military or security intervention in the Caucasus region.

Pezeshkian emphasized the preservation of Armenia's sovereignty and a lack of interfer-

ence by military or security forces within the framework of the project.

Top gen. vows 'more decisive response' to any act of aggression

International Desk

Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said on Tuesday that the country's Armed Forces are ready to deliver a "more decisive response" to another act of aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime.

Given a history of breaking promises by the US and Israel, Iran's Armed Forces are prepared to deliver a more decisive response to another act of aggression by them, Mousavi told visiting Chief of the South African National Defense Force, General Rudzani Maphwanya, in Tehran.

A cease-fire on June 24 proposed by the US ended a 12-day aggression by Israel and the US against Iran after Iran's Armed Forces "crushing" missile strikes targeted Israel's positions in the occupied territories as well as the US largest military site in the Middle East in Qatar.

Major General Mousavi also referred to the Israel's genocidal war in the Gaza Strip and hailed South Africa's move to file a complaint against the regime in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Maphwanya said Iran has always supported the freedom-seeking struggles of the people of South Africa against apartheid, which has created a historical bond between the two nations.

The South African official also held a separate meeting with Iran's Army commander Major General Amir Hatami, during which they commended their countries' common goal of fighting the global arrogance and aggressive colonial approaches.

The Iranian commander noted that the two sides were similar-



ly bound by anti-colonial, anti-arrogance, and justice-driven principles, hailing that the African nation had been accorded a "prioritized" position in the Islamic Republic's foreign policy approach.

"The Islamic Republic and South Africa have always supported each other and oppressed nations," Hatami declared, underscoring that the shared mission had to last until restoration of an international order "based on justice and human dignity."

The commander described South Africa's "firm stance" in condemning the Israeli regime's and the United States joint atrocities against Palestinians as both "courageous and commendable."

As a case in point regarding Pretoria's fight against the regime's aggression, he cited and praised Pretoria's decision to challenge the Zionist regime at the ICJ over its ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip.

The move, he said, would "go down in history."



Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi (R) talks with Chief of the South African National Defense Force, General Rudzani Maphwanya (L) during a meeting in Tehran on August 12, 2025.

IRNA

Recalling Israel's unprovoked war on Iran in June, the commander denounced Tel Aviv and Washington for violating international law through the aggression.

He, however, underlined that the duo's all-out campaign to damage the country ended in humiliation, with Iranian missile counter-strikes forcing Tel Aviv to seek a ceasefire and Washington to refrain from resuming its attacks.

The commander further stressed that the political alignment between Tehran and Pretoria had lent South Africa "a special position" in Iran's strategic outreach to Africa, expressing hope to translate shared capabilities, especially in the military sphere, into concrete joint projects.

Veep: Direct nuclear talks with US possible under 'suitable conditions'

International Desk

Iran could hold direct nuclear talks with the United States if conditions are suitable, First Vice President Mohammadreza Aref said on Tuesday.

"Iran is ready for negotiations under equal conditions in order to safeguard its interests ... The Islamic Republic's stance is in the direction that people want and, should there be suitable conditions, we are even ready for direct talks," Aref said.

A sixth round of talks between Tehran and Washington was suspended following Israeli and US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in June.

Previous rounds of negotiations, which started in April, were indirect, mediated by Oman. Washington claims uranium enrichment in Iran constitutes a pathway to developing nuclear weapons and should be dropped.

Iran has repeatedly said that its nuclear program is peaceful and has announced its readiness for trust-building measures to resolve a decades-long tension over Iran's nuclear program.

Aref said that Iran has repeatedly announced that it is ready to build trust but



Mohammadreza Aref

the US has turned a blind eye. He said Washington has a habit of dictating its own demands in the negotiations but the Iranian nation has not accepted (such negotiations) and will not allow the government to negotiate under such conditions.

"We will negotiate with dignity and will not give up (uranium) enrichment, and the idea of zero enrichment is a big joke," he said.

On Sunday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian also made a statement in favor of resuming negotiations with the US regardless of current levels of distrust.

"You don't want to talk? Well then, what do you want to do? Do you want to go to war? ... Going to talks does not mean we intend to surrender," he said, adding that such issues should not be "approached emotionally".

Israel fears journalists ...

With the visible political and military backing of the United States, many countries

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and international bodies are too afraid to confront Washington and therefore avoid condemning Israel's atrocities. Israel has taken full advantage of this climate, committing acts of barbarity that would make even history's worst criminals pale in comparison.

By directly targeting journalists, Israel seeks to intimidate others into abandoning their mission of conveying the plight of Gaza's people to the world. Yet journalists in Gaza have shown, through courage and self-sacrifice, that they fear neither death nor danger and will carry on with their professional and moral duty.

The work of these reporters is already having an impact internationally. Their coverage has stirred public opinion in many countries—especially those backing Israel,

including European states and even the United States—against the regime's atrocities. Widespread protests are now unfolding in these nations, condemning both their governments and their silence.

Sustained reporting on Gaza's reality, coupled with growing public outrage, could force pro-Israel politicians and leaders to rethink their positions and back away from their passive stance on these crimes.

History offers a parallel: during the Vietnam War, the US government initially tried to stamp out voices opposing the conflict. But in the end, the American people and the anti-war movement succeeded in driving pro-war leaders out of the political arena. In Gaza's case too, the continued efforts of journalists could turn the tide, prompting citizens in Western countries to keep up their protests and ultimately pushing governments to change course.