

Pezeshkian: Iran-Armenia 'strategic ties' should not be disrupted by foreign powers

International Desk

Foreign powers should not be allowed to disrupt "friendly and strategic relations" between Tehran and Yerevan, President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday, after a US-brokered peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan caused security concerns for Iran. During a meeting with Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan in Tehran, Pezeshkian pointed to the recent peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, signed in Washington, and voiced concern over the presence of foreign forces in the region. The Iranian president, however, noted that these concerns had

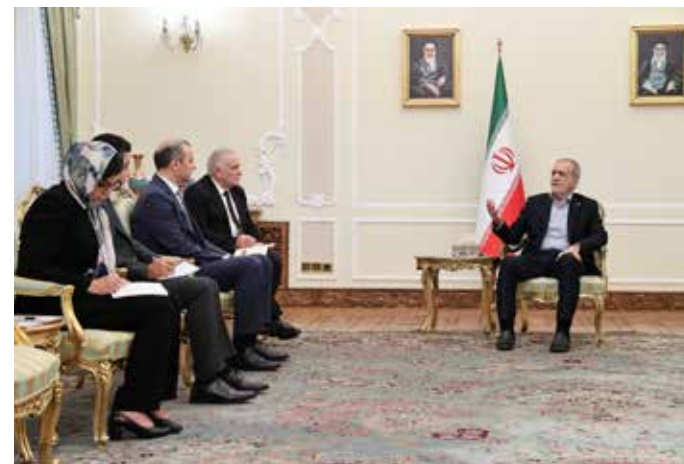
been largely alleviated following the explanations and reassurances provided by Armenian officials. On August 8, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a peace agreement brokered by the US President Donald Trump, under which a transport corridor linking Azerbaijan to its landlocked exclave Nakhchivan is to be established. Under the deal, Armenia granted exclusive rights to the United States to develop a corridor in its southern province of Syunik, which borders Iran, to connect Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan. Iran has 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. Earlier on the day, Grigoryan held a meeting with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani, during which Larijani expressed Tehran's opposition to any move resulting in geopolitical changes in the Caucasus region. Larijani declared Iran's support for peace dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and elaborated on the Islamic Republic's theory of regional peace and stability. "Iran has always supported the independence and strength of regional countries to ensure lasting security," he stated. Grigoryan, for his part, hailed the bilateral relations as unprecedented, stating that his visit to Tehran is aimed at the



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) talks with Secretary of the Security Council of Armenia Armen Grigoryan (3rd L) in Tehran on August 30, 2025.
● [president.ir](https://www.president.ir)

expansion of ties in various spheres. He added that Armenia seeks to sign a comprehensive strategic partnership document with Iran in the near future. The secretary of the Security Council of Armenia stressed that his country attaches paramount significance to the five principles of national sovereignty, respect for territorial integrity, exercise of national judicial jurisdiction, inviolability of borders, and the principle



of reciprocity. Grigoryan also stated that Yerevan is ready to provide the necessary guarantees to Tehran to ensure that relations between

Iran and Armenia will not be harmed. He underlined Armenia's inherent opposition to regional geopolitical changes.

Iran says seeking to preclude snapback activation Tehran calls E3 demands 'unrealistic preconditions'



● [REUTERS](https://www.reuters.com)

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said Tehran is trying to prevent the activation of a mechanism that reinstates UN sanctions against the country amid threats by the European powers to do so if Iran does not meet their demands, which the Islamic Republic called "unrealistic preconditions." "We are not actually seeking the activation of the snapback (mechanism); however, this raises a question: how is it that some European countries, which themselves violate many international laws, are now accusing us of not adhering to a framework? How can such claims from these countries be accepted?" Pezeshkian said in a meeting with three prominent media and political figures on Friday. Britain, France and Germany — the European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal

— on Thursday invoked the process, known as the "snapback" mechanism, which initiates a 30-day deadline for reimposing sanctions lifted under the UN Resolution 2231, which endorses the nuclear deal.

'Harmful effects' of sanctions

The president's political advisor Mehdi Sanaei also reacted to the Europeans' move, saying that, "The return of international sanctions should not be underestimated." In a post on X, he said long-term sanctions have harmful effects on any country and prevent development. Sanctions will further limit Iran's presence in the international arena and even cause difficulties in relations with Eastern powers. On Friday, the three European countries — known as the E3 — urged Iran at the United Nations on Friday to meet three requirements so their threat of reimpos-

ing UN sanctions can be delayed to allow space for talks on a deal on Iran's nuclear program. The E3 offered to delay reinstating sanctions for up to six months if Iran restored access for UN nuclear inspectors, addressed concerns about its stock of enriched uranium, and engaged in talks with the United States. "Our asks were fair and realistic," said Britain's UN Ambassador Barbara Woodward, who read the statement. "However, as of today, Iran has shown no indication that it is serious about meeting them." In response, Iran's UN Ambassador Amir Saied Iravani said the E3 offer was "full of unrealistic preconditions." "They are demanding conditions that should be the outcome of negotiations, not the starting point, and they know these demands cannot be met," he told reporters.

Extension of Resolution 2231

Iravani said the E3 should instead back "a short, unconditional technical extension of Resolution 2231," which enshrines a 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). He said Iran will not negotiate under "threats or coercion," describing a pro-

posal from Russia and China about resolving nuclear issues as a "practical step." According to Iravani, the move has been done "with the sole intention of blackmailing Iran and exerting political pressure." Iran has repeatedly said that the European trio lacks all legal and moral authority to activate the mechanism as they failed to live up to their commitments under the JCPOA after the United States unilaterally withdrew from the deal and reimposed sanctions against Iran. The Europeans' move took place just days after Iranian and European diplomats held talks in Geneva, the second since Israel and the US launched strikes on Iran on the eve of a sixth round of talks with the US. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a post on X said the path chosen by Europe will additionally have severe consequences for the credibility of the UN Security Council. "Iran was bombed. First by Israel, and then by the United States. It is repugnant for Europe to now accuse Iran of having left the table and spurning dialogue. The reality is that we are at a point where the West cannot even guarantee that it will cease further unlawful military strikes on my people while negotiations are held."

Yemen confirms Israeli airstrike assassinated PM, several other ministers

International Desk

Yemen's Ansarullah movement confirmed on Saturday that an Israeli air strike had killed the country's prime minister in the capital, Sana'a. The movement said in a statement that Ahmed al-Rahawi and a number of ministers were assassinated in a Thursday Israeli strike in Sana'a. The attack targeted a routine workshop held by the government to evaluate its activities and performance over the past year, the statement said. Several senior officials also sustained various degrees of injuries in Thursday's strikes, and are currently receiving medical treatment. Al-Rahawi, who was appointed last year, is the most senior official known to have been killed in a series of Israeli strikes on Yemen. The Israeli military in a statement claimed that its forces on Thursday struck an Ansarullah's military target in Sana'a. The attack came as tensions between the two sides continue to escalate over the regime's onslaught on the Gaza Strip, which has claimed the lives of more than 62,000 Palestinians. In response to the escalating genocidal war on Gaza, which began in October 2023, Yemeni forces implemented a strategic maritime blockade aimed at disrupting the supply of military resources to Israel and urging the international community to address the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Simultaneously, they carried out numerous missile and drone strikes against strategic targets within the Israeli-occu-



Ahmed al-Rahawi
● [AFP](https://www.afp.com)

pied territories in solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza. The Yemeni Armed Forces have made it clear that they will not halt their operations until Israel ceases its ground and aerial offensives in Gaza. The group has repeatedly said Israeli attacks on Yemen will not deter their military operations in support of Palestinians. "The blood of the great martyrs will be fuel and a motivator to continue on the same path," Yemen's presidency said in its statement. "We affirm to our great Yemeni people, to the sons of the oppressed Palestinian people, to all the sons of our nation, and to all the free people in the world, that we are continuing in our original stance in supporting and aiding the sons of Gaza, and building our armed forces and developing their capabilities to confront all challenges and dangers, as is the stance of our great Yemeni people, present in all fields and arenas with all determination, will, and faith."



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

Appointing special envoy ...

At present, countries such as China, India, and Pakistan brush aside US sanctions on Iran, but the revival of UN resolutions would bind them to adhere. The main concern is that once the snapback triggered, the Iran issue would no longer remain limited to disputes with the US and Israel. It could escalate to UN-mandated action under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. On relations with the IAEA, it must be noted that the last resolution by its Board of Governors, though only a warning and not a referral to the Security Council, demonstrated that further reductions in cooperation could

pave the way for greater international pressure. During the previous administration, Iran gradually escalated its countermeasures in response to Western and IAEA actions—higher enrichment levels, advanced centrifuges, limited inspector access, camera shutdowns, and now, parliament's resolution suspending cooperation with the Agency. These steps, while aimed at resisting foreign pressure, naturally triggered tougher reactions from the West. The IAEA and its reports by Director-General Rafael Grossi have provided the main pretext for mounting pressure. Yet Iran's countermeasures,

though intended as deterrence, may in practice play into the hands of its adversaries by exposing national interests and security to greater risks. To weather this crisis, it is recommended that Iran appoint a special envoy mandated by Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and formally authorized by the president. This envoy, working in parallel with diplomats of the Foreign Ministry, could set up fresh initiatives to handle the crisis and head off the snapback mechanism. Such a step, even in the short time remaining, could help prevent mounting pressure or at least keep down their costs.

