

Pezeshkian: West's anti-Iran propaganda aimed at creating 'unrealistic illusion'

International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian once again underlined that nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's defense doctrine, saying Western countries' allegations of Iran's efforts to develop nukes are aimed at creating an "unrealistic illusion in the world."

He made the remarks in an interview with Fox News on the sidelines of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in New York last month.

In response to a question about the US president's claim during his UN speech that the Islamic Republic is "the world's top state sponsor of terrorism," and should never possess nuclear weapons, Pezeshkian said that during negotiations with Western countries Tehran has repeatedly announced that nuclear arms have no place in its doctrine and has clearly stated that it is ready to allow the inspection of any

nuclear facility that they believe to have been established for developing nuclear weapons.

Pezeshkian said Iran is ready to assure the world that the Islamic Republic is not seeking and will not pursue building nuclear weapons.

However, he said, Western countries' actions, including attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, have been contrary to all commitments and international principles.

"There has been no reason for Iran to move toward nuclear weapons; nonetheless, violations have occurred that should not have happened."

He also pointed to the enrichment of uranium to up to 60% purity in Iran, saying that it was a response to the US unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal that he said led to Europe's failure to fulfill its commitments under the deal and departure of European companies from Iran.



President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) speaks during an interview with Fox News in New York, US.

● [president.ir](#)

The problem began when not only did they fail to observe their commitments, but they also imposed new sanctions and tried to increase pressure and promote the notion worldwide that Iran is pursuing nuclear weapons, Pezeshkian said.

Last week, the UN Security Council restored the anti-Iran sanctions under pressure from Western countries, especially US, France, Germany and Britain. The sanctions, which had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal, will again freeze Iranian assets abroad, halt arms deals with the Islamic Republic and target the country's defensive missile program.

The sanctions came back as part of a



so-called snapback mechanism that three European parties to the deal used after they accused Iran of non-compli-

ance with the agreement despite their own failure to adhere to their part of the commitments.

Hezbollah leader: Trump's Gaza peace plan seeks to exonerate Israel



Palestinians walk on a coastal path northwest of Nuseirat refugee camp as they are displaced southward following an Israeli announcement of closing Al-Rashid road towards the north of the besieged Gaza Strip on October 4, 2025.

● [AFP](#)

International Desk

Secretary General of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement Sheikh Naim Qassem said on Saturday that the US president's Gaza peace plan is an effort to exonerate Israel in the face of widespread global condemnations.

He said the peace plan submitted by US President Donald Trump for Gaza is "fraught with dangers."

Trump on Friday set a Sunday deadline for the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movement, Hamas, to respond to his 20-point peace proposal, threatening that they would face "all HELL, like no one has ever seen before" if they rejected the offer.

On the same day, Hamas submitted its response to the proposal, saying that it agrees to "release all Israeli captives, living and deceased," and that it approves of "handing over the administration of the Gaza Strip to a Palestinian body of independents (technocrats) based on Palestinian national consensus and based on Arab and Islamic support."

Hamas noted that it had come up with the response "based on national responsibility and out of concern for the constants, rights, and supreme interests of our people." Naim Qassem said that the original plan, which was presented in a draft form to some Arab states, was subsequently modified after meetings with the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, resulting in amendments that serve the Israeli entity entirely and align with the so-called "Greater Israel" project. He said that after failing to achieve its objectives through aggression and massacres, the Israeli regime now seeks to realize this project through political means.

"We are facing a plan full of question marks, which is what some officials in the Arab countries have themselves stated, expressing their surprise and demanding clarifications." However, many world leaders positively reacted to Hamas's partial acceptance of the US plan to end Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip.

Trump said Hamas's response showed

the resistance group was "ready for lasting peace," and demanded that "Israel must immediately stop the bombing of Gaza." The US president later pledged in a brief video that all sides would be treated fairly in Gaza talks, hailing the movement's agreement to free captives as a "special day." "In light of Hamas's response, Israel is preparing for the immediate implementation of the first stage of the Trump plan for the release of all the hostages," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said.

"We will continue to work in full cooperation with the President and his team to end the war in accordance with the principles set out by Israel, which align with President Trump's vision," the statement added.

Israel continues attacks

Despite ongoing efforts to end the conflict in Gaza, Israel continued its deadly bombardment on Saturday, killing at least 20 Palestinians.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres welcomed Hamas's statement, with spokesperson Stephane Dujarric saying the UN chief "urges all parties to seize the opportunity to bring the tragic conflict in Gaza to an end."

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Hamas's "acceptance of the US peace plan is a significant step forward."

He said the UK, alongside its partners, "stands ready to support further negotiations and to work towards sustainable peace for Israelis and Palestinians alike."

President Emmanuel Macron said France "will play its full part in line with its efforts at the United Nations, alongside the United States, Israelis and Palestinians, and all of its international partners." He underlined the need for an immediate cease-fire and humanitarian access, adding that Paris was closely monitoring developments.

Peace 'within reach'

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said peace in Gaza was "within reach". Merz claimed that the plan represented "the best chance for peace" in the longtime

war and Germany "fully supports" Trump's "call upon both sides."

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni reaffirmed her "full support" for a proposed cease-fire plan in Gaza.

Meloni said the priority should be securing a cease-fire in Gaza, adding, "Italy remains ready to do its part."

Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin said that Hamas's response to the Gaza peace plan could lead to lasting peace.

"There is an opportunity now to create the circumstances for a lasting peace, and I urge all parties to take it," Martin said in a statement on X.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed al Ansari, whose country has mediated between the warring sides over the past two years, said Doha "welcomes Hamas's announcement of its approval in principle of President Trump's proposal" and confirmed coordination with Egypt and Washington to continue mediation.

'Positive development'

Egypt's Foreign Ministry called Hamas's response a "positive development" that reflected "the keenness of all Palestinian factions to spare the blood of the Palestinian people."

The ministry said Cairo would work with Arab states, the US and European countries to achieve a permanent cease-fire.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan described Hamas's response to the US president's plan as "constructive and a significant step toward achieving lasting peace," pressing Israel to end the genocide in Gaza.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Canberra "welcomes progress on President Trump's plan to bring peace to Gaza," urging Hamas to agree to the plan and release remaining captives "without delay."

Colombian President Gustavo Petro said he agrees with Trump "this time," as he demanded the "cessation of the genocide." Petro added that if Trump "moves his army to stop the oppression over Palestine, that army will be accompanied by the army of Colombia."

UN rights chief Volker Turk said Trump's peace plan was a "vital opportunity" to stop bloodshed in the Palestinian territory "once and for all".

Trump's plan comes amid Washington's unbridled military, intelligence, and political support for the Israeli genocide that has so far claimed the lives of more than 67,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, in the Gaza Strip.

The United States has also vetoed several United Nations resolutions aimed at bringing an end to the brutal military onslaught in Gaza.

Iran will not bow to US policy of 'peace through strength': Minister

Nasirzadeh urges Iranians not to fall for psychological warfare

International Desk

Iran's Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh dismissed the US pursuit of "peace through strength," calling it nothing more than "surrender" and saying "freedom-seeking countries" would not bow to pressure.

"The US government wants to force everyone into submission through force. This is not peace, but surrender. It means: I have strength, I have power, whatever I say, you must do," Nasirzadeh said in a televised interview published on Saturday by Tasnim after his recent visit to Turkey.

He added that "freedom-seeking countries" and those in the developing world had long rejected the notion of "peace through strength."

The remarks came in response to a question about US military buildup in the region, which the minister downplayed.

Nasirzadeh insisted that Iran's Armed Forces were prepared to respond to aggression, but stressed that, "Other sectors of the country should not be affected by the psychological operations of these military deployments."

He described such moves as part of the enemy's "soft war," saying it had grown "more pronounced" of late.

"When they keep repeating that an attack is imminent, they want to unsettle society ... and disrupt economic stability," the minister pointed out.

Nasirzadeh urged Iranians to contin-



ue their daily lives "without becoming trapped in the enemy's psychological warfare."

His comments follow days of speculation by Persian-language outlets abroad and Western media, which have circulated claims of an "imminent" Israeli strike on Iran, a narrative that Iranian officials say is intended to sow public anxiety.

The backdrop to his remarks is a dramatic escalation in June, when Israel, backed by the United States, carried out 12 consecutive days of airstrikes on Iran's military and nuclear facilities, killing hundreds of people, most of them civilians.

Iran hit back with dozens of ballistic missile barrages targeting military and energy infrastructure inside the occupied territories.



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