

Iran calls US 'law-breaking actor' after Trump's threats of new strikes

Tehran has 'no plans' to enter new nuclear talks with Europe

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Ismaeil Baqaei called the United States a "law-breaking" country after its president threatened Tehran with new military strikes.

US President Donald Trump on Sunday warned that Washington would bomb Iran again if it restarted its nuclear program, while speaking at a ceremony marking the 250th anniversary of the US Navy at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia.

"We'll have to take care of that too if they do," Trump said, referring to Tehran's potential resumption of nuclear activity. "You want to do that, it's fine, but we're going to take care of that and we're not going to wait so long."

Trump also praised the June 22 US airstrikes on Iran's nuclear

facilities as "perfectly executed," saying American B-2 bombers and submarine-launched Tomahawk missiles hit every single target.

The operation targeted three key Iranian nuclear sites following the Israeli aggression that began on June 13.

"Admitting and acknowledging a criminal and illegal act brings no credibility to the US. Rather, it only proves to the international community and the Iranian nation that the United States is a law-breaking actor who fails to live up to the accepted international rules and regulations," Baqaei said during his weekly press conference.

No negotiations for now

The Iranian official also said that Tehran has no plan to enter new nuclear negotiations with the European parties to

the 2015 nuclear deal, which triggered the reimposition of international sanctions by invoking the snapback mechanism of the nuclear agreement.

"We currently do not have any plans to enter negotiations. At this stage, our focus is on considering the impacts and consequences of the actions of the three European countries and the United States." However, Baqaei said that, "Whenever we feel that diplomacy can bear fruit, we will definitely make decisions based on the interests and benefits of the country."

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said on Sunday that the snapback of sanctions and nuclear restrictions must not be the end of diplomacy.

"In this spirit, I will continue to reach out to all stakeholders, including Iran. Because a sustainable solution to the Ira-



Ismaeil Baqaei
● IRNA

nian nuclear issue can only be achieved through negotiation and diplomacy", she said.

Western countries, spearheaded by the United States, accuse Iran

of pursuing nuclear weapons and define uranium enrichment as a red line.

Iran categorically rejects the accusations, insisting that its

nuclear program is solely for civilian purposes and that it has a right to enrichment under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Tehran voices support for bids to halt crimes, ethnic cleansing in Gaza



People run for cover during an Israeli airstrike on a high-rise building in Gaza City, on September 5, 2025.

● Yousef Al Zanoun/AP

posal for Gaza and called on Israel to "immediately stop bombing Gaza," while Israel has continued its deadly bombardment of Gaza, killing at least 20 more Palestinians since dawn.

The ministry stressed that stopping the violence must be accompanied by "legal and judicial" action to hold the regime accountable, and to "identify and prosecute the commanders and perpetrators of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip, with the aim of ending the decades-long impunity of the Zionist regime."

The statement was referring to a Trump-proposed cease-fire plan, which demands the rapid release of captives held in Gaza, staged Israeli withdrawals, and the creation of a transitional administration.

On Friday, Hamas submitted its response to the 20-point proposal, with the group agreeing to hand over administration of the besieged territory to Palestinian technocrats and free all Israeli captives.

The Gaza-based resistance group's response said it was willing to "immediately enter" peace negotiations through mediators.

The statement said that decisions over any cease-fire or political settlement must rest with the Palestinians themselves, including the armed resistance.

It said Tehran welcomes any decision by them that "entails stopping the genocide of Palestinians, the withdrawal of the occupying Zionist army from Gaza, respect for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the entry of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction of Gaza."

Tehran also warned that a cessation of hostilities would not absolve international actors of their duty to pursue legal accountability.

US President Donald Trump welcomed at the weekend Hamas's positive response to a peace pro-

International Desk

Iran reacted to a recent peace plan proposed by the United States to end Israel's onslaught on Gaza, saying that it will support any decision aimed at halting war crimes and ethnic cleansing in the Palestinian territory.

In a statement on Sunday, Iran's Foreign Ministry said Tehran has always supported initiatives aimed at halting war crimes and ethnic cleansing in the Gaza Strip and securing Palestinian self-determination, citing the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the legal and moral responsibility of states to support the legitimate struggle of Palestinians to achieve freedom.

Araghchi raps Israel's social media push to sway US public opinion

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi denounced a recently revealed Israeli propaganda campaign aimed at drumming up support for the regime on social media.

In a post on his X account on Monday, Araghchi said, "We don't pay people to lie on social media. That's what Israel does." The comment followed a report by the Quincy Institute, which said that the Israeli regime pays a group of approximately 14 to 18 social media influencers around \$7,000 for each promotional post aimed at creating a positive image of the regime in American public opinion.

As global public opinion shifts decisively against Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza, the regime is intensifying efforts to dominate the space through a network of paid influencers, algorithm manipulation, AI content framing and covert media partnerships.

At the center of the campaign is a covert influence operation, exposed in documents filed under the US Foreign Agents Registration Act. The Israeli foreign ministry, through its contractor Bridges Partners, has reportedly paid up to \$7,000 per post for influencers to publish pro-Israel content on platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

According to Responsible Statecraft, the



Abbas Araghchi
● TASNIM

"Influencer Campaign" was budgeted at \$900,000 to cover 75-90 posts between June and September 2024. The content is being produced under an initiative called the "Esther Project."

The name bears resemblance to a separate initiative by the right-wing US think tank, the Heritage Foundation, which launched its own "Project Esther" in October 2024. The Heritage campaign aims to identify and counter what it describes as "antisemitic" rhetoric on US campuses and in public discourse — an effort that critics say equates legitimate criticism of Israel with support for terrorism.

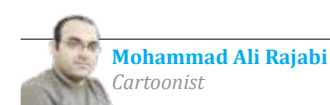
Iran should keep ...

Given the uncertainty and stalemate that have followed provocation of the snapback, how long can this situation persist, and what options does Iran have to break the impasse? What demands could Tehran put forward to return to the path of agreement?

A few points come to mind for exiting the deadlock. First, keeping diplomatic channels open with all influential parties to the nuclear file, including Europe, the United States, and other Security Council members.

Second, engaging in direct, public or private, interaction with US counterparts to speed the transmission of diplomatic messages at times of crises or in order to create openings in relations in case Iran formulates a strategy for comprehensive negotiations with the United States. Next, developing a post-snapback diplomatic strategy. Such diplomacy could involve a broad array of engagements with China and Russia aimed at forestalling the enforcement of Security Council sanctions, or at least finding new avenues for economic and secu-

rity cooperation with those states. It could also include outreach to regional actors to build new coalitions or strengthen existing partnerships in security and economic spheres. Finally, rebuilding the country's defense capabilities—through consultations with states like China for the purchase of air defense systems and weapons—and bolstering missile capabilities to raise the costs of any new military action against Iran. Those are the principal courses of action that come to mind for steering Iran out of the current impasse.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

