

Iran: US has 'no moral authority' to cast aspersions on others

Araghchi: Trump cannot be man of peace while 'provoking endless wars'



International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry categorically censured US president's anti-Tehran allegations during his Monday's speech in the Israeli parliament (Knesset) as "unfounded and shameful," saying Washington has

"no moral authority" to level accusations against Tehran.

The US as "the world's largest producer of terrorism" and the supporter of the "terrorist and genocidal Zionist regime" — has no moral authority to level accusations against others, the ministry said

in a statement on Tuesday. In an address to the Israeli Knesset on Monday, Donald Trump claimed that "nothing would do more good" for the region than for Iran's leaders to what he called "renounce terrorists and stop threatening their neighbors."

He also alleged that the US wants "to ensure that Iran never, and I mean never, acquires a nuclear weapon." The US president, however, offered a "hand of friendship" to Iran.

"We are ready when you are, and it will be the best decision that Iran has ever made, and it's going to happen," Trump claimed.

"You know it would be great if we could make a peace deal with them," Trump said of Iran during a speech to Israel's parliament.

Call for 'peace deal'

Trump's plea for a peace deal came just months after his country joined Israel in striking Iran's nuclear sites and civilian infrastructure in June, which triggered a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 Iranians.

The ministry said Trump's expressed desire for peace and dialogue is "in conflict with the hostile and criminal actions of the United States against the Iranian people."

"How can one, in the midst of political negotiations, attack a country's residential areas and peaceful nuclear facilities, martyr over one thousand innocent people, including women and children, and then claim to seek peace and friendship?" the statement asked.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also reacted to Trump's remarks, saying that Iranians cannot trust the country that attacked their homes.

"There is also the question of how the Iranian nation can be expected to give any credence to an olive branch extended by the very same hand that was involved in the bombardment of homes and offices across Iran only 4 months ago," Araghchi said.

"One can hardly be branded as president of peace while provoking endless wars and aligning with war criminals. Mr. Trump can either be a President of Peace or a President of War, but he

cannot be both at the same time," he added.

Iran's peaceful nuclear program

Meanwhile, the Foreign Ministry in its statement warned that repeating false claims about Iran's peaceful nuclear program cannot in any way justify "the joint crimes" of the US and Israel, including attacks on Iran's soil and the assassination of Iran's scientists and military commanders.

The statement added that boasting of and admitting to such crimes "only increases the burden of responsibility on the US for committing these crimes and reveals the depth of hostility American policymakers hold toward the great people of Iran."

The statement underscored that Iranians are people of reason, dialogue and engagement, but will "act with courage and decisiveness to defend Iran's independence, national dignity and vital interests."

The US president arrived in the occupied territories on Monday before his visit to Egypt, where he attended a ceremony to sign a cease-fire deal on the Gaza Strip.

Israel kills nine more Palestinians in breach of Gaza truce

International Desk

Israeli soldiers killed on Tuesday at least nine Palestinians trying to return to their homes in Gaza, in the first major violation of a US-brokered cease-fire agreement between the regime and Hamas.

Hamas accused Israel of violating the cease-fire while the Israeli military claimed that it had fired on people who crossed truce lines and approached its forces after ignoring calls to turn back. Six bodies were taken on Tuesday to Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza City, while three others were transferred to Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, according to Palestine's official Wafa news agency.

Among the dead, seven were killed in Israeli attacks on Tuesday, while two others succumbed to earlier injuries, the sources added.

Tuesday's killings came days after Hamas and Israel agreed to cease hostilities. Under the 20-point peace plan proposed by the US president, Hamas also released all remaining Israeli captives held in Gaza in exchange for about 2,000 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons. The deadly attacks underscore the challenges ahead to keeping the cease-fire on track as hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who have been displaced multiple times throughout the war try to return to their homes.



A view of the Israeli destruction of civilian infrastructure as Palestinians return to the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis.

● GETTY IMAGES

The ceasefire is also expected to allow for a surge of humanitarian aid into Gaza, where famine has broken out amid Israel's bombardment and blockade of the territory. Many of Gaza's more than two million people are reported to be on the brink of starvation.

Israel delayed aid into Gaza and kept the territory's border shut on Tuesday. Three Israeli officials said Israel had decided to restrict aid into the shattered Gaza Strip and delay plans to open the border crossing to Egypt at least through Wednesday, because Hamas had been too slow to turn over bodies of dead captives. Hamas has said locating the bodies is difficult.

So far, Hamas has handed over four cof-

ins of dead captives, leaving at least 23 presumed dead and one unaccounted for, still in Gaza.

The cease-fire has stopped two years of devastating Israel's onslaught on Gaza. Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed nearly 68,000 people according to local health authorities, with thousands more feared dead under the rubble. Gaza's Civil Defense Service said 250 bodies had been recovered since the truce began.

Swathes of Gaza are in ruins and the global hunger monitor said in August there was famine in the territory. Thousands of Gazans have been returning to homes since the cease-fire, many finding whole streets bombed into dust.

US buildup aims to install 'puppets' in Caracas: Venezuela

International Desk

Venezuela's ambassador to Iran said that the United States is threatening his country with military action based on false allegations, aimed at bringing its "puppets" to power in Caracas. José Rafael Silva Aponte made the remarks during a press briefing at the Venezuelan Embassy in Tehran on Tuesday, shedding light on Washington's imperialistic policies toward Latin America, particularly its recent military buildup off Venezuelan coasts.

Aponte said the United States has been threatening Venezuela since 1999, when the late Hugo Chávez first became president.

The threats, he added, have persisted and even intensified under President Donald Trump, whose administration has been cracking down on Venezuelan migrants in the US, deporting many and subjecting others to torture in detention centers. He added that Washington is also spreading false narratives accusing Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro of involvement in drug trafficking, with the aim of bringing its own "puppets" in power.

Those accusations, Aponte said, are unfounded, especially considering that other countries, namely Colombia and Ecuador, are far more deeply involved in drug trafficking, while only about five percent of narcotics pass through Venezuela. He emphasized that Venezuela has intensified its anti-drug efforts since 2005. In line with those allegations, the United States has also increased its military threats, deploying warships, forces, missiles, and even a nuclear submarine in the southern Caribbean,



The USS Gravelly guided-missile destroyer docks in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

● REUTERS

the envoy said. He added that the deployment of a nuclear submarine violates the 1967 Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Venezuela has called on the United Nations for support over several deadly US military strikes on vessels off its Caribbean coast, which Washington alleges were carrying drugs.

Venezuela has said it is in a situation where it is rational to expect an armed attack against the country in the short-term, and Maduro has alleged the US is seeking a change in government.

Commenting on Western media reports about talks between Washington and Caracas, Aponte said that Venezuela is always open to negotiations but expects mutual respect. He added that while Venezuela remains ready for dialogue with the United States, Washington has shown no genuine interest in engaging.

Iran should not ...

Iran should pursue justice and assert its rights in global organizations, avoiding conflict and escalation. As for dialogue with the United States, it's far from straightforward. Beyond negotiations, Iran should also build the capacity to stand on its own feet—to strengthen its industrial and technological foundations so that Washington and its European allies are compelled to think twice before adopting aggressive policies.

If things continue the current course, a breakthrough with the US seems unlikely. Yet, completely ignoring Washington is not a realistic option either. The United States wields vast power and influence and Iran cannot simply act as it pleases while expecting Washington to remain a bystander.

American policymakers closely keep tabs on every internal and external move Tehran makes to ensure their interests in the Middle East remain intact. Thus, Iran must simultaneously

strengthen both domestic and foreign efforts to secure its rightful place on the global stage—without slipping into isolation from the international community.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said Tehran cannot give any credence to an olive branch extended by a country that bombed it just four months ago. Yet, he has also voiced readiness for diplomatic engagement. What conditions could make such a diplomatic process feasible?

Foreign Minister Araghchi raised valid points that Washington has persistently ignored. The US and Israel's hostile behavior has made any reconciliation almost impossible. The only way forward is for the Americans to build trust through concrete steps and to honor Iran's conditions before talks can get off the ground. Otherwise, no diplomatic window will open, and in fact, tensions may rise to the point where a new war

could erupt against Iran.

Given Trump's declared willingness for peace with Iran and Netanyahu's recent message to Russian President Vladimir Putin expressing no desire for confrontation with Tehran, can these gestures be interpreted as genuine or part of a joint psychological or deceptive operation against Iran?

These messages from Trump and Netanyahu are part of a broader psychological campaign aimed at catching Iran off guard and softening its stance. Trump is trying to paint himself as a peace-seeking leader capable of sparing the world from conflict. But behind that deceptive face lies no genuine intention to repair US-Iran relations.

Moreover, Trump is seeking justification—should he decide to strike Iran again—to rally global support, portraying himself as someone who "tried diplomacy" but was "forced into war" by Iran's refusal to cooperate.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

