

Iran won't return to nuclear talks as long as US makes 'unreasonable demands': FM

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Wednesday that Iran would not return to the negotiating table as long as the United States makes "excessive" and "unreasonable" demands. "Talks that were ongoing with the US as well as New York negotiations were suspended and did not go forward because of excessive demands of the American side," Araghchi told reporters upon his arrival to the northeastern city of Mashhad where he attended a provincial conference. "We have shown that we have always been committed to diplomatic solutions, but this does not mean giving up the rights of the Iranian people. Wherever the interests of the Iranian people and the interests of the country have been secured through diplomacy, we have taken action. However, we are faced with those who have nev-

er committed to diplomacy," he added. Iran and the United States held five rounds of negotiations through Omani mediators before Israel launched a 12-day aggression against the country on June 13.

US President Donald Trump's decision to join Israel in striking Iranian nuclear facilities effectively ended the talks which were set to resume on June 15. The aggression claimed the lives of more than 1,000 Iranians, most of them civilians.

Despite the war, both Iran and the US signaled willingness to return to the negotiating table, though Tehran has said it will not abandon its right to enrich uranium – as demanded by Washington.

"Regardless of the past experience, this year five rounds of negotiations were held, and during the talks, Iran came under attack. The US also supported the strike," Araghchi said.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (c) talks with reporters upon his arrival to the northeastern city of Mashhad to take part in a provincial conference on October 22, 2025.

● IRNA

The top diplomat noted that return to the negotiations would not be possible as long as such approach exists, unless US officials change their approach. In 2015, Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany reached an agreement that saw the easing of sanctions on Tehran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program.

But the US unilaterally walked out of it in 2018 and reimposed biting economic sanctions. Tehran adhered to the deal even a year after Washington's withdrawal, but a year later it began rolling back on its



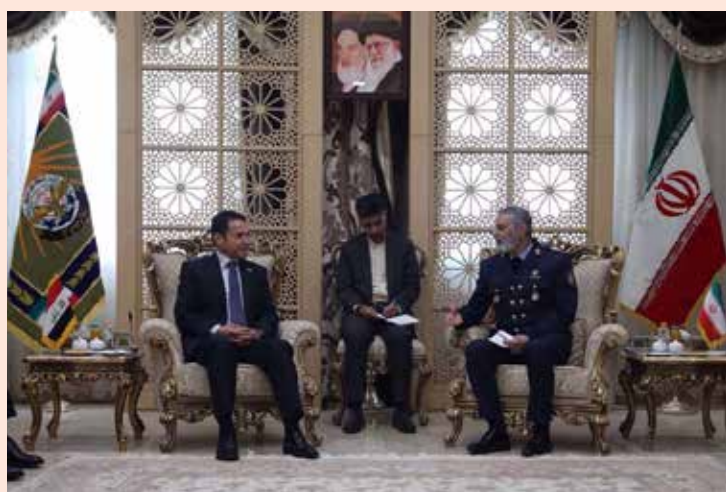
commitments.

The European parties to the deal also failed to fulfill their commitment to the accord.

Several rounds of talks to revive the agreement failed, and in August, Brit-

ain, Germany and France triggered the snapback of sanctions on Iran process on the pretext of Tehran's non-compliance with its obligations, leading to the re-imposition of the UN sanctions.

Top general calls for full implementation of security deal with Iraq



Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi (R) meets with Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji in Tehran on October 22, 2025.

● IRNA

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi stressed the importance of fully implementing the security agreement between Iran and Iraq, calling for increased cooperation between the two countries to maintain regional security.

General Mousavi made the remarks in a meeting with a high-ranking Iraqi delegation led by Iraqi National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji in the capital Tehran on Wednesday, Press TV reported.

Mousavi also hailed the strong bond and brotherhood between Iran and Iraq, much to the dismay of the United States and the two countries' adversaries.

He also pointed out that the recent attacks by the US and the Israeli regime on Iran exposed Washington's plans to wrest control over Iraq.

According to Iran's General Staff of the Armed Forces, Israeli fighter jets used US-controlled airspace over Iraq to launch missiles at Iranian military sites during the regime's June act of aggression against Iran.

"If the recent acts of aggression by the Zionist regime and the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran had not occurred, Washington's true intentions in seeking control over Iraq's affairs might not have been fully revealed," he said, referring to the presence of US-led military

coalition in the Arab country. Araji, for his part, highlighted the deep and special ties between the two nations and reaffirmed Iraq's commitment to fulfill the terms of the security agreement with Iran. Referring to the June 12-day war against Iran, he noted that despite losses, the Iranian people stood united in support of their armed forces and government and manifested their resilience.

Araji further emphasized the necessity of enhancing military, political, and economic cooperation to contribute to regional stability, reiterating the commitment of both the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to uphold Iran's security and prevent the use of Iraqi territory against neighboring states, particularly Iran.

Back in August, Iran and Iraq signed a memorandum of understanding in Baghdad to boost security along the border.

During his state visit to Iran, the Iraqi official also called on President Masoud Pezeshkian, security chief Ali Larijani, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and other senior officials.

UN high court rebukes Israel over Gaza aid restrictions

The United Nations' top court issued a legal opinion Wednesday stating that Israel, as an occupying power, is obligated to work with UN agencies to facilitate humanitarian aid in Gaza, a rebuke of the blockade it imposed on the Palestinian territory earlier this year.

The International Court of Justice also said in its advisory opinion that the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the main UN body serving Palestinian refugees, has not violated impartiality, CNN reported.

"The occupying power may never invoke reasons of security to justify the general suspension of all humanitarian activities in occupied territory," Judge Iwasawa Yuji said while deliver-

ing the opinion. "After examining the evidence, the court finds that the local population in Gaza Strip has been inadequately supplied."

The opinion was requested by the UN General Assembly in December after Israel passed laws banning UNRWA, from operating in the country, significantly curtailing its ability to deliver aid to Gaza.

The advisory opinion – aimed at addressing Israel's obligations to the UN, aid organizations and third-party states in the occupied West Bank and Gaza – is non-binding, but it does carry political weight and is expected to increase pressure on Israel to cooperate with the UN and other aid agencies.

Minister urges ambassadors in neighboring countries to help attract tourists

National Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Reza Salehi-Amiri called on Iranian ambassadors in regional and neighboring nations to help draw more tourists into the country.

Addressing a regional conference on provincial diplomacy in northeastern city of Mashhad, Salehi-Amiri said that visitors from five important regions — Central Asia and the Caucasus, Turkey, Pakistan, the Persian Gulf area — are interested in coming to Iran.

Referring to the government's plans for attracting more tourists, he said that the Parliament had already approved five incentive plans which were "unprecedented" and could lead to a major development in the country's tourism. "As of this year, all investors have been able to build multipur-

pose accommodations throughout Iran," the minister said referring to the incentive plans. He also added that the import of 200 essential goods used in hotels would be subject to zero tariffs and customs duties. Iran has lagged behind neighboring countries in tourism. The country's Seventh Economic Development Plan highlights growing the tourism sector in the next four years and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts aims to attract 15 million tourists annually.

Iran received 6.2 million foreign tourists in 2023 and nearly 7.4 million in 2024. Arrivals dipped in June and July 2025 following a 12-day aggression by Israel and the US against Iran.

According to the latest figures from the United Nations World Tourism Organization, Iran was named one of the world's top 20 tourist destinations.

The way to ...

A recent proposal by former US energy secretary Ernest Moniz outlines an innovative

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roadmap: a "regional nuclear condominium," distributing different stages of the nuclear fuel cycle among Persian Gulf countries under international oversight. Enrichment facilities, for example, could be located on an island in the Persian Gulf administered by the United Nations or a multinational body. While Tehran would likely object to certain elements of this plan, the broader concept of regional cooperation in peaceful nuclear technology merits serious consideration. From Iran's perspective, any such

proposal would require significant modification to safeguard sovereign rights and ensure equitable benefits. Still, exploring these ideas through technical and diplomatic discussions could yield practical results. For this to happen, Washington must move beyond the illusion of a "grand bargain" that resolves every issue at once. The experience of the JCPOA and US withdrawal from it have shown that ambitious, all-encompassing deals are fragile. A step-by-step approach—focused first on limited, verifiable arrangements providing tangible security and economic benefits to both sides—is more sustainable. Ultimately, the future of Iran-US

diplomacy depends less on declarations of willingness than on the realism of expectations. Iran will not negotiate under duress, and the United States cannot force it to do so. Yet both have reasons to avoid further confrontation: Iran seeks economic relief and recognition of its rights; the US wants to avoid another Middle Eastern conflict. In this overlap of interests lies the possibility of a modest but meaningful diplomatic opening.

Incremental steps such as technical cooperation and revived channels may not produce a grand agreement, but they could gradually restore trust and open the door to practical diplomatic gains.



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