

# Deputy FM: Resumption of Iran-US talks depends on Washington's intention



Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeid Khatibzadeh (L) speaks during an interview with Japanese media in Tokyo, Japan.  
● **SNV**

Tokyo on Thursday.

The official pointed to the US excessive demands in September, including zero uranium enrichment in Iran and limits on its range of missile, saying that missiles were a matter of protecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and not up for negotiations.

Iran has repeatedly said it will not give up its right to uranium enrichment under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Iran and the US held five rounds of Oman-mediated indirect negotiations in the Italian and Omani capitals early this year before Israel derailed the diplomatic efforts by waging a war in June.

More than a week into the war, the US joined the aggression and bombed Iran's nuclear facilities that were under the International Atomic Energy Agency's watch.

The US attacks damaged Iran's nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.

The US-Israeli strikes also claimed the lives of more than 1,000 people Iran, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. Iran's nuclear program has been a source of contention with Western countries for more than two decades. While Iran insists that its nuclear activities are entirely peaceful and aimed at civilian purposes such as energy production and medical research, Western powers — particularly the US, UK, France, and Germany — have long expressed concern that Tehran could be seeking the capability to develop nuclear weapons. In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program by signing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with six world powers. But the US unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018 and reimposed biting economic sanctions. Tehran adhered to the deal even a year after Washington's withdrawal, and then began rolling back on its commitments. The European parties (France, Germany, UK) to the deal also

failed to fulfill their commitment to the agreement.

Several rounds of talks between Tehran and the US to revive the agreement failed, and in August, the European trio triggered the so-called "snapback" process on the pretext of Iran's non-compliance with its obligations, leading to the reimposition of the UN sanctions. Iran has called the European move "illegal and illegitimate".

## Trump's claims

On Thursday, US President Donald Trump said Iran had asked for US sanctions to be lifted and that he was open to discussing the matter.

"Frankly, Iran has been asking if the sanctions could be lifted. Iran has got very heavy US sanctions, and it makes it really hard," Trump said during a dinner with Central Asian leaders.

"I'm open to hearing that, and we'll see what happens, but I would be open to it."

Over the past years, the US has intensified its diplomatic and economic pressure on Iran over its peaceful nuclear program and other issues.

## International Desk

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeid Khatibzadeh said resumption nuclear talks with the United States is possible and depends on Washington's intention of reaching an agreement on "an equal footing."

Negotiations between Iran and the US over Tehran's nuclear program

have been suspended following US and Israeli aggressions against Iranian nuclear facilities in June.

"If the US has any genuine intention of reaching an agreement with Iran on an equal footing, uses the language of respect and abandons the delusions it has, then everything is achievable," Khatibzadeh said during an interview with Japanese media in

## Iran condemns 'savage' Israeli attacks on Lebanon

### International Desk

Iran strongly condemned on Friday "savage" Israeli attacks on Lebanon, after the regime launched new strikes on Lebanon in violation of a ceasefire agreement with Lebanese resistance movement, Hezbollah. In a statement, the Iranian Foreign Ministry urged "the United Nations, the international community and regional countries to confront the warmongering" of Israel while offering "condolences on the martyrdom of Lebanese citizens during the savage attacks".

The ministry warned about the dangerous consequences of Israel's impunity and the continuation of its belligerent and expansionist policies on regional peace and security. "The Zionist regime's attacks against Lebanon, which have martyred and wounded over a thousand innocent civilians since last year's ceasefire and destroyed infrastructure and residential areas, are a blatant violation of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the independent country and amount to a heinous crime against international peace and security," it added.

"These criminal attacks, which are undoubtedly planned and carried out with the United States' full support and partnership, are yet another indication of the criminal, terrorist, and hegemonic nature of



Smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike in the town of Tayr Debba in southern Lebanon on November 6, 2025.  
● **MOHAMMAD ZAATARI/AP**

the Zionist regime. Their sole aim is to undermine Lebanon's sovereignty and security and to obstruct the country's reconstruction and development."

On Thursday, Israeli warplanes conducted a wave of airstrikes on the southern Lebanese towns of Kfar Dounin, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Ayta al-Jabal, Taybeh, and Tayr Debba, killing at least one person and injuring nine others.

The regime claimed it had struck a series of targets belonging to the Hezbollah movement in its stronghold in southern Lebanon.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun denounced the strikes as a "fully fledged crime" under international

law.

"The more Lebanon expresses its openness to the path of peaceful negotiation to resolve outstanding issues with Israel, the more Israel intensifies its aggression against Lebanese sovereignty," he wrote on X.

Israel launched its aggression against Lebanon in October 2023 in response to Hezbollah's pro-Palestinian airstrikes against the occupied territories.

The regime, however, agreed to a truce on November 27, 2024. Since then, it has breached the ceasefire agreement hundreds of times and carried out near-daily fatal strikes on Lebanon.

## Trump's confession proves US complicity in Israel's aggression, Iran spox says

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesperson reacted to US president's admission that he was "very much in charge" of Israel's war against Iran in June, calling it "undeniable evidence" of Washington's direct intervention.

"From the very beginning, it was clear that the United States had fully participated in the crime of Israeli aggression against the Iranian nation," Ismaeil Baqaei said in a post on X on Friday. US President Donald Trump on Thursday claimed re-

sponsibility for Israel's attacks on Iran, contradicting previous assertions that the regime acted unilaterally. "Israel attacked first. That attack was very, very powerful. I was very much in charge of that," Trump told reporters. But in the early hours of the aggression, Washington stressed that Israel acted on its own and warned Tehran against retaliating against US troops and interests in the region.

"Tonight, Israel took unilateral action against Iran. We are not involved in strikes against Iran, and our top priority is protecting American

forces in the region," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said at that time.

"Do you remember when US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced on June 13, 2025, that Washington had no role in the aggressive and terrorist action of the Zionist regime against Iran, emphasizing that it was a "unilateral action" by Israel and that "we are not involved in attacks against Iran?" Baqaei asked. Calling it "an obvious lie," the spokesman said that Trump's confession added up to "undeniable evidence" of the US "direct intervention and active complicity"



Ismaeil Baqaei  
● **IRNA**

in Israel's unprovoked aggression against Iran and, at the same time, amounted to an open acceptance of US responsibility for "committing an illegal act and a flagrant violation of international law."

## FM slams US threats against Venezuela

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi deplores the United States' hostility towards independent countries, particularly its threats against Venezuela.

"The US domineering and aggressive behavior is evident across the world," Araghchi said on Thursday, referring to recent threats by American officials against Venezuela.

He added that the US only favors countries that serve its own interests and pursues a hostile policy in dealing with independent nations, Press TV reported.

This is how the US has treated the Islamic Republic of Iran for years, he emphasized.

The top Iranian diplomat said the international community condemns Washington's threats against Caracas, expressing Tehran's solidarity with the Venezuelan nation and government.

Araghchi noted that participants at the 19<sup>th</sup> Midterm Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement in Uganda's capital, Kampala, in October, had a consensus that US pressures and sanctions run counter to international rules and principles.



The Navy warship U.S.S. Sampson docked at the Amador International Cruise Terminal in Panama City in October 2025.  
● **MARTIN BERNETTI/GETTY IMAGES**

The United States has stepped up military deployments in the Caribbean under the guise of a counter-narcotics mission, sending warships, aircraft, and special operations forces close to the Venezuelan territory. While US officials frame the moves as security operations, governments across Latin America warn the buildup resembles preparations for coercive regime-change efforts, citing recent US strikes on boats accused of drug activity.

US President Donald Trump, however, has played down the prospect of a direct war with Venezuela while threatening that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's "days are numbered."

The US president has accused the Venezuelan leader of drug

trafficking without presenting evidence. Maduro, in turn, says Washington is using narcotics allegations as a pretext to pursue Washington's plan for a "regime change" and seize control of Venezuela's oil wealth.

Meanwhile, Republicans in the US Senate have voted down legislation that would have required Trump to obtain congressional approval for any military attacks on Venezuela. Fears are now growing that Trump will use the military deployment in the region — which includes thousands of US troops, a nuclear submarine and a group of warships accompanying the USS Gerald R Ford, the US Navy's most sophisticated aircraft carrier — to launch an attack on Venezuela in a bid to oust Maduro.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

## CARTOON

