

Iran open to negotiations with US; conditions not to change: *Leader's aide*

Tehran denies any talks with Washington despite Trump claim

International Desk

Head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Kamal Kharrazi said on Tuesday that Iran is ready to resume nuclear talks with the United States based on equal footing and mutual respect while insisting that Tehran will not budge on its positions. "They have to make the first move to show that they are ready to engage with us on the conditions that we put... it has to be based on equal footing and mutual respect," said Kamal Kharrazi, who is also an adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. "The agenda would be prepared in advance to ensure the clarity of substance and the process of discussions." "Unfortunately, President (Donald) Trump does not believe in diplomatic engagement but rather prefers to use force to achieve his objectives," he added. Later on Tuesday, Trump claimed that Iran is "very much" signaling interest in striking a deal with the US over its nuclear program. "They'd like very much to make a deal with us, and they call us, and we'll end up probably doing that,

that's Iran," Trump said in a room filled with high-profile guests at a White House dinner honoring Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"I am totally open to it, and we're talking to them, and we start a process." He added, "It would be a nice thing to have a deal with Iran," suggesting that Saudi support could facilitate negotiations.

Iran sharply rejected any notion of negotiations on Wednesday, directly contradicting Trump's claim that talks were underway. "There is no process of negotiation between Iran and the United States," Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei told reporters in Tehran on Wednesday. Baqaei reiterated Iran's long-standing position that engaging with the US is illogical while Washington continues to prioritize military pressure over diplomacy.

No change in Iran's conditions

Kharrazi, indicated that Iran's conditions for a rapprochement with Washington have not changed since the US and Israel struck its nuclear facilities in June, adding that uranium en-



Head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations Kamal Kharrazi (R) speaks during an interview with CNN's Fred Pleitgen in Tehran, Iran, on November 18, 2025.
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richment will continue because the country needs the fuel for its power plants and for medical purposes. Tehran's ballistic missile program, which he said is expanding, will also be off the negotiating table. "It is only the nuclear issue we will discuss with the United States," he said. The Trump administration and Iran were in the middle of talks to settle their dispute in June when Israel launched a surprise

attack on Iran, eventually drawing in Washington, which carried out strikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities, the first direct US attack inside Iran. Kharrazi said the "degree of enrichment," not enrichment itself, would be the focus of potential negotiations with the US.

Iran ready for any confrontation

Asked if he is concerned about

another military confrontation with the US or Israel, he said, "Everything is possible. But we are ready for that."

Back in June, Washington had reportedly made a proposal for a nuclear deal under which the US would invest in Iran's civilian nuclear power program and join a consortium that would oversee the enrichment of low-level uranium inside Iran for an unspecified amount of

time. That potential consortium would be expected to include Middle Eastern nations and the UN's nuclear watchdog. At the time, Iranian officials repeatedly said they are open to the idea of an enrichment consortium but insisted Iran must be able to keep control of its own enrichment capabilities. Asked if there is room to reach an understanding with the US on Iran's nuclear program, including on a potential consortium, Kharrazi said, "I think so."

"If there would be genuine negotiations between Iran and the United States, there are ways and means (of) how to ensure that Iran can continue its enrichment and at the same time assure the others that it's not going to look for nuclear weapons."

Kharrazi also had a message for Trump.

"Start with a positive approach with Iran. If it will be positive, certainly it will be reciprocated. But for that, they (the US) have to refrain from any force against Iran," he said. "They have tried that and they now understand that it's not acceptable and it's not workable."

Grossi confirms IAEA inspectors return to Iran

International Desk

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi said on Wednesday that the agency's inspectors have returned to Iran to resume work at some Iranian nuclear sites.

Grossi said the inspectors have carried out inspections and design information verifications at many of the facilities unaffected by June's strikes by Israel and the United States.

"But more engagement is needed to restore full inspections, including at the affected sites, so that Iran fulfils its obligations under its NPT Agreement. I am in regular contact with Tehran and urge Iran to facilitate Agency access at its affected facilities and especially of its inventories of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) and High Enriched Uranium (HEU), whose status needs urgently to be addressed," he said.

His remarks came as Europe's top three powers and the US have



Rafael Grossi
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launched a new campaign against Iran at the UN atomic agency.

The US, Britain, France and Germany have submitted a draft resolution

to this week's meeting of the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors demanding answers and access from Iran over its bombed nuclear sites and enriched

uranium stock.

The draft, which is expected to be voted on by the board, stresses that it is "imperative" for Iran to comply with its obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

It follows an IAEA report on Iran sent to member states last week.

The report claimed that Tehran has still not let inspectors into the nuclear sites Israel and the US bombed in June and that accounting for the uranium stock is "long overdue."

Iran's warning

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on Sunday warned the European powers that if they get through their draft resolution, Iran would make a "fundamental revision" in its interactions with the agency and issues related to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Tensions between Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog have repeatedly flared in recent years, with relations being

further strained in the wake of a 12-day aggression in June that saw Israeli and US strikes on key Iranian nuclear facilities.

Iran suspended its cooperation with the IAEA after the 12-day aggression against Iran as per a law adopted by Parliament.

Tensions escalated as Iranian officials said the IAEA effectively provided cover for the strikes by declaring the country in violation of its non-proliferation obligations shortly before the bombardment and then failing to condemn the aggression.

Iran emphasizes that the basis of cooperation with the IAEA is the law passed by the Parliament and the requirements of the Safeguards Agreement. The Iranian Foreign Ministry has reiterated that Tehran remains a member of the NPT and the interaction with the agency will proceed solely within the legal framework of the safeguards and with the guidance of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Iran: UN Gaza resolution undermines fundamental rights of Palestinians

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement on Tuesday censured a US-drafted resolution adopted by the UN Security Council that imposes a foreign guardianship mechanism on the Gaza Strip, warning it undermines the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

The Foreign Ministry said the resolution's drafters "consciously ignored" the central role of the United Nations and previous UN resolutions concerning Palestine.

Resolution 2803, passed on Monday, endorses the establishment of an "International Stabilization Force (ISF)" in Gaza under a 20-point plan devised by US President Donald Trump, who says

the plan is aimed at ending the Israeli regime's war of genocide on Gaza that began in October 2023.

The ministry expressed "serious concern" about the resolution, reiterating Iran's support for any regional or international initiative aimed at ending the Israeli genocide and crimes in Gaza, facilitating humanitarian aid, and ensuring the complete withdrawal of occupying forces.

According to the statement, parts of the resolution effectively impose a "guardianship system" on Gaza, stripping "the Palestinian people of their fundamental rights, especially the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital."

The ministry underlined that any international forces deployed must operate strictly under full UN supervision, with responsibilities limited to monitoring the ceasefire and overseeing humanitarian aid delivery and distribution.

The statement also emphasized the responsibility of the international community, especially the guarantors of the ceasefire agreement, "to force Israel to end the occupation of Palestine and completely withdraw from the Gaza Strip", noting that no decision can and should distort this.

Hamas and Israel agreed last month to the US-brokered Gaza ceasefire, aimed at ending the latter's two-year-long genocidal war against Palestinians in the besieged territory.

