

Larijani casts 12-day war as US-Israeli plot planned years ago

'Iran, Pakistan determined to seriously confront terrorism'

International Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Larijani said the 12-day aggression against Iran in June was a "plot" hatched by the United States and Israel years ago, stressing that Iran emerged victorious while the occupying entity is now grappling with severe internal disorder and decline.

Larijani made the remarks during a meeting with a group of heads of Pakistan's top think tanks and experts in the field of regional and international peace and security at a ceremony held at Iran's Embassy in the Pakistani capital Islamabad on Wednesday.

"This war was the result of an American-Israeli plot that had been designed years ago. [US President Donald] Trump also recently declared that since 2003 they had been working on a plan to attack Iran's nuclear facilities with their aircraft," Larijani said, add-

ing, "The power of God, however, prevented this assault."

"It was the will of the Iranian nation that revealed itself in this war. The Israeli regime, which thought it would defeat Iran, became completely frustrated," Larijani added.

Referring to the current situation of Israel, he stressed that the regime is facing internal disorder and a crisis rooted in its illegitimate existence.

"This regime is now facing reputational erosion and has never had such a challenge at the international level. The Zionists have fallen into a kind of internal disorder, and the statistics also show that an existential disorder for them lies ahead. Their posture of power in the region was never deep," Larijani emphasized.

He also stressed that the determination of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and the will of the Iranian nation triumphed over the enemy's weapons

and aggression in the recent war.

"The civilizational background of the Iranian nation is the secret of our heroic struggle and victory. Iran has been, is, and will continue to exist for thousands of years. It was the foolish idea of the aggressive enemy to imagine that it could break Iran with war," Larijani added.

Talks with Pakistani officials

Larijani, who was on an official visit to Pakistan, also held talks with several Pakistani officials for talks on security and economic cooperation.

On Wednesday, he held talks with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir in Rawalpindi, during which the two sides pledged to deepen cooperation on regional security challenges.

Pakistan's chief of army staff stressed the "need for closer collaboration with Iran to combat terrorism".

Munir also highlighted the growing



Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani (L) holds talks with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on November 26, 2025.

importance of strategic cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad in light of the evolving geopolitical situation. On his part, Larijani acknowledged Pakistan's vital role in ensuring peace and security in the region and expressed Iran's commitment to further expand Iran-Pakistan ties.

Larijani also underlined that Iran and Pakistan are determined to seriously confront terrorism.

The Iranian top official also underlined the significance of dialogue and partnership between the two nations in tackling regional challenges and ensuring long-term stability.

Iran condemns US 'bullying approach' towards Venezuela



The world's largest warship, US aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford, is seen on its way out of the Oslofjord at Nesodden and Bygdøy, Norway, September 17, 2025.

● LISE ASERUD/REUTERS

ized the use of covert CIA operations in the Latin American country, while reiterating that he has not ruled out ordering a military intervention there.

The Iranian foreign minister also slammed the activities of the Israeli regime in the Caribbean and Latin America as a major threat to the peace, stability, and tranquility of the region.

Israel is seeking to expand its relations with small Caribbean countries in domestic security and intelligence, a move critics view as a strategic effort to extend its geopolitical influence that risks destabilizing regional dynamics and which some believe is connected to the recent US military buildup in the area. The Venezuelan Foreign Minister, for his part, expressed gratitude for Iran's principled positions and highlighted the importance of strengthening strategic relations between Caracas and Tehran.

He also underscored the resolve of the Venezuelan nation and government to resist and stand firm against US pressures and illegal interventions.

face of "US belligerent unilateralism."

Since late August, the US has deployed the world's largest aircraft carrier to the Caribbean, accompanied by a flotilla of warships, under the pretext of fighting drug traffickers.

It has conducted some 20 air strikes against suspected drug trafficking vessels in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific, killing over 80 people.

Venezuela says that the US anti-drugs campaign in the region is a pretext to overthrow President Nicolas Maduro and seize the country's oil reserves.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly accused Maduro of overseeing a drug cartel.

The US president has also autho-

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Iran slammed the United States' "bullying approach" towards Venezuela and other independent nations in the Western hemisphere amid US military deployments across the Caribbean under the pretext of fighting drug trafficking. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a phone conversation with his Venezuelan counterpart Yvan Gil Pinto said that threats to use force against countries represent a clear violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and peremptory norms of international law.

He underscored the collective responsibility of the international community to uphold the principles and purposes of the UN in the

High-level Iran-Pakistan ...

Iran and Pakistan's shared security issues are largely bilateral and are not central to Pakistan's foreign-policy experiment. For this reason, the prospect of a high-level security accord that could transform Iran-Pakistan relations does not appear realistic, at least in the short term.

Given the two countries' similar views on Afghanistan, how might they cooperate on this issue?

Afghanistan is a shared concern due to the role played by the Taliban government in relation to terrorism and security incidents occurring either inside Iran and Pakistan or along their borders. The Taliban authorities seem unwilling — or perhaps unable — to resolve these issues diplomatically. Considering the influ-

ence of the Haqqani Network within the Taliban government, Kabul may lack the capacity to control TTP, which is closely linked to this faction. This combination of factors shows the severity of the threat and highlights the need for Iran and Pakistan to coordinate their foreign policies toward the Taliban government so they can keep a lid on these risks. While Pakistan has taken a far more forceful approach, including carrying out military strikes inside Afghanistan, Iran does not appear to favor launching a broad military campaign to suppress terrorist groups there, likely for its own strategic reasons. However, at the technical and diplomatic levels, the two sides can cooperate by coordinating their policies and sharing security data to manage these shared challenges.

Do you think Iran has the potential to mediate between Pakistan and Afghanistan in their recent conflicts?

A country can mediate effectively only if it holds active common interests with both parties. Iran does indeed share such interests with both Pakistan and Afghanistan, but the nature of these interests differs. With Afghanistan, the common ground is primarily economic and less security-focused, while with Pakistan the opposite is true; the overlap is mostly security-related and less economic.

This mismatch reduces Iran's capacity to act as a mediator. It also explains why forums such as the Doha process emerge, or why meetings in Turkey take place, where Ankara attempts to mediate.

Top security official: Tehran ready for negotiations without predetermined outcome

International Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani said on Wednesday that Iran is ready to hold "genuine negotiations" with the United States, which its outcome is not predetermined.

"The Americans try to portray themselves as the turning point of every global development, but this is a form of self-deception. WE ACCEPT GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS, not artificial ones, AND THE OUTCOME OF ANY NEGOTIATION MUST NOT BE PREDETERMINED", Ali Larijani said in a post on X.

Tehran and Washington had held five rounds of nuclear talks since April, but a planned meeting on June 15 was cancelled after Israel and the US launched strikes on Iran, triggering the 12-day conflict.

During Iran-US talks, Washington insisted on zero uranium enrichment under any deal, which has been strongly rejected by Tehran.

Larijani's comments came as Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited France to hold talks with his counterpart Jean Noel Barrot to discuss Iran's nuclear program and the case of Iranian citizen held in France.

"This will be an opportunity for us to call on Iran to comply with its obligations to-

wards the IAEA and for a swift resumption of cooperation with the agency," Barrot said on Tuesday.

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 have long expressed concern that Tehran could be seeking the capability to develop nuclear weapons.

Despite their failure to fulfil their commitments under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, France alongside Germany and Britain triggered the return of UN sanctions against Iran in October, that had been lifted under a now-defunct nuclear deal. The 2015 deal, reached between Iran and the UN Security Council's permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — plus Germany, imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

But it unraveled when the United States, during Donald Trump's first term as president, unilaterally withdrew from the accord and reimposed sweeping sanctions.

The Europeans had pledged continued support for the deal, but the mechanism intended to offset US sanctions never materialized effectively.



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