

US military buildup near Venezuela 'dangerous precedent': *Pezeshkian*

Maduro says escalation in Caribbean 'contrary to UN Charter'

International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian condemned on Tuesday the US military deployment in the Caribbean and the coast of Venezuela, describing it as a dangerous precedent that threatens global security.

"The US government's deployment of a war fleet to the Caribbean and the coast of Venezuela under baseless pretexts is a completely illegal action, a violation of international norms, and a dangerous precedent that threatens global peace and security," Pezeshkian said in a phone call with his Venezuelan counterpart, Nicolas Maduro. 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. The US military 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 Maduro and seize the country's oil reserves.

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

In his phone conversation, Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's support for the independence, security, and stability of Venezuela.

"We are closely following developments in the Caribbean region and the movements of the United States, and we declare our full solidarity with the government and people of Venezuela," he said.

"Iran considers Venezuela its true friend and ally and supports this

country in all circumstances, especially in the current sensitive situation," he noted.

Maduro, for his part, expressed appreciation for Iran's constant support for the government and people of Venezuela.

"Our nations have always been united, and over the years, by establishing strong relations, they have been able to provide a model of friendly relations for peace, cooperation, and development," he said.

Addressing the heightened tensions in the Caribbean, Maduro slammed the US actions as "provocative, unnecessary, and contrary to the United Nations Charter."

"The false claims of the US against the noble Venezuelan people have been met with opposition from world public opinion, even within the US, as well as the firm opposition of our people,"



Nicolas Maduro



Masoud Pezeshkian

he noted. Maduro emphasized that the Venezuelan people remain united in defending "peace, independence, and

truth," adding that they are "stronger and more united than ever, and are increasingly prepared to achieve peace and victory."

Iran UN envoy urges global action to end Gaza genocide

International Desk

Iran's UN envoy on Tuesday called on the international community to decisively and immediately act against Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip.

Addressing the UN General Assembly's meeting marking the 10th anniversary of the International Day in Commemoration of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide, Amir Saeid Iravani said genocide could not be erased through silence, underscoring that confronting genocide was not optional, but a legal and moral duty.

"Preventing genocide is not just a shared aspiration; it is a binding obligation under international law, and a solemn duty owed to humanity. It is indeed our collective responsibility to prevent and punish genocide wherever and whenever it threatens", Iravani said.

Referring to reports by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory that present deeply



Amir Saeid Iravani
IRNA

alarming conclusions regarding acts amounting to genocide by Israel in the Gaza Strip, he said Israel had repeatedly and openly defied international law, violating international humanitarian law and international human rights law in ways extensively documented by UN mechanisms.

"The International Court of Justice in its advisory opinion has already described genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. Israeli military operations have resulted in unprecedented killing and serious harm, the imposition of total siege and starvation, systematic destruction

of healthcare and education systems as well as acts of sexual violence and widespread torture, direct targeting of women and children, widespread attacks on cultural and religious sites, and the obstruction of life-saving humanitarian aid. These acts cannot be justified, minimized, or obscured."

The envoy urged the United Nations to lead efforts to end Israel's atrocities and uphold the dignity of victims of genocide.

He also pointed to the role of certain Western media platforms in justifying genocide. "We must confront the role of certain Western

media platforms whose distortion and dehumanizing rhetoric have facilitated the justification of these genocidal acts. As the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Albanese, has highlighted in her report, many Western states have facilitated, legitimized and eventually normalized this genocidal campaign, reproducing colonial narratives and Israeli distortions of international law, all while hiding behind diplomacy."

Israel launched an all-out aggression on Gaza in October 2023 after a Hamas operation in the occupied territories that had come as a response to decades of Israeli occupation and aggression.

The war has so far claimed the lives of around 70,400 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

The victims include hundreds who have been killed during daily Israeli violations since early October when Tel Aviv supposedly agreed to a cease-fire deal with Gaza's Hamas resistance movement.

Iran seeks 'strong region free from foreign interference': *FM*



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (2nd-R) meets with visiting heads of Chinese and Saudi delegations, Waleed al-Kharaji, Saudi Arabia's deputy foreign minister, and Miao Deyi, China's vice foreign minister, in Tehran on December 9, 2025.
IRNA

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday that Iran pursues a "strong region" free from "disruptive interference" by certain extra-regional powers.

The top diplomat made the remarks in Tehran on Tuesday, meeting with senior envoys from Beijing and Riyadh following the countries' third trilateral meeting, Press TV reported.

Araghchi stressed that lasting stability and security in the region required collective cooperation among the regional states.

He, meanwhile, praised China's "constructive approach" to West Asian issues and underlined the Islamic Republic's commitment to strengthening ties with its neighbors, including Saudi Arabia, under its good-neighborliness policy.

He highlighted the "growing trajectory" of Tehran-Riyadh relations across areas of mutual interest, noting continued consultations between the two sides, particularly at the foreign-minister level.

Araghchi also identified China's role in reinforcing international peace and stability, supporting multilateralism and the rule of law, and bolstering cooperation across the developing world as "very im-

portant."

He noted that Tehran and Beijing were determined to use all available capacities to expand bilateral relations.

For their part, the heads of the Chinese and Saudi delegations, Waleed al-Kharaii, who is Saudi Arabia's deputy foreign minister, and Miao Deyi, China's vice foreign minister, thanked Iran for hosting the trilateral session and affirmed their countries' readiness to broaden cooperation with Tehran "in all fields."

The meeting, attended by Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs, concluded with the signing of a joint document by the three deputy foreign ministers.

A section of the document underscored Beijing's readiness to continue supporting and encouraging the steps taken by Tehran and Riyadh to strengthen their bilateral ties across multiple domains.

In March 2023, after several days of intensive negotiations hosted by China, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to resume their diplomatic relations and reopen their embassies and diplomatic missions following seven years of estrangement.

The countries had severed their ties in January 2016 after Riyadh's execution of Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, a prominent Shia cleric, prompted angry protesters to storm the Saudi Embassy in Tehran.

Tehran and Baku ...

Now, with the resolution of the Karabakh conflict, the South Caucasus is on the threshold of a new era—a new environment that presents a golden opportunity for peace, stability, and shared development. Our deep belief is that security and stability in this region are not imported goods; they can only be achieved through the participation of regional countries and without foreign interference.

At a time when West Asia is grappling with the return of the tension-inducing and unilateral policies of the Trump administration and the dangerous adventurism of the Zionist regime and Netanyahu, the

vigilance of Tehran and Baku in safeguarding mutual interests through stable, tension-free, and predictable relations is vital. Any factor that disrupts the region's geopolitics in undesirable ways is abnormal and requires joint prudence.

Undoubtedly, achieving sustainable stability requires a comprehensive outlook, avoidance of schemes that disregard the vital interests of neighbors, the utilization of indigenous capacities, and the recognition that our intertwined security demands intelligence and discernment—ensuring that foreign actors whose interests lie in instability do not infiltrate the brotherly relations of the

two countries.

We emphasize that the new regional environment offers a favorable ground for strengthening convergence and expanding purposeful economic cooperation in the fields of transit, energy, trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges. The ultimate goal of advancing these interactions is none other than building a prosperous future for both nations. Today, the resolve of Tehran and Baku is firmly set on building a shared, bright, and sustainable future—one in which borders become gateways of friendship and rivers sing the songs of cooperation.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

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