

# No message sent to US on resumption of nuclear talks: *Tehran*

## Iran, Russia FM's sign cooperation document

### International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday dismissed some speculation about resumption of nuclear negotiations between Tehran and Washington, saying that, "No message has been sent to the American side from Iran."

Iran and the United States were in the middle of negotiations to resolve a decades-long dispute over Iran's nuclear program when Israel launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran in June.

The US also joined the attacks and carried out strikes on three Iranian nuclear facilities.

The attacks derailed the negotiations which had been started in April. Speaking during a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow, Araghchi said, "We did not leave the negotiation table; rather, it was the Americans who betrayed diplomacy in the



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (4th R) and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov (4th L) hold a meeting in Moscow, Russia, on December 17, 2025.  
● IRNA

middle of the negotiations by launching military aggression against Iran."

"If the Americans correct their approach and are ready to negotiate on equal footing and mutual respect and based on mutual interests, we will consider it (resumption of talks) again."

However, he said that based on the experience Iran has gained over the past year, what they (Americans) mean by negotiation is dictating their positions.

### Negotiations with Europe

He also referred to the possibility of any talks with the European parties to the 2015 nuclear agreement – Germany, France and the UK, saying that the European powers have no



longer any capacity for negotiation due to their illegal activation of the snapback mechanism under the 2015 nuclear agreement.

"They have practically lost their last tool and capacity for negotiations; therefore, Iran sees no

reason to enter into dialogue again with these three countries," the Iranian foreign minister told reporters.

### Russia's support for Iran

Citing Russia's support for Iran's right to uranium enrichment, its

positive role in the 2015 nuclear talks and Moscow's "constructive and decisive" position at the UN Security Council regarding Europeans' anti-Iran moves as well as US-Israel strikes on Iran, Araghchi said that the Islamic Republic appreciates Russia for

its supportive stances, stressing that, "We trust Russia and its goodwill" toward Iran.

### Cooperation roadmap

The Iranian foreign minister also announced the signing of a cooperation document between the two countries' foreign ministries. He said the strategic partnership between Iran and Russia has entered "a new, accelerated phase" following the signing of a three-year cooperation roadmap with his Russian counterpart.

Araghchi confirmed that the newly signed document establishes the agenda for the two foreign ministries from 2026 to 2028, acting as a "roadmap for future three-year cooperation."

Russia's foreign minister, for his part, said, "Without any doubt, the main and key document in our relations is the comprehensive strategic partnership treaty between the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was signed this year and has entered into force."

The comprehensive strategic partnership treaty, signed in January by Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Iranian counterpart, Masoud Pezeshkian, and ratified by both countries' parliaments, commits Moscow and Tehran to closer cooperation across political, economic, security and technological fields.

## Venezuela's president hails Iran as model in fight for int'l rule of law

### International Desk

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro praised Iran as a global example in defending international law, appreciating the Islamic Republic's unwavering support for Caracas amid escalating threats from the United States. Speaking during his weekly television program "With Maduro," the Venezuelan president expressed appreciation for Iran's steadfast stance and principled positions on the global stage.

He offered details of a recent phone conversation with President Masoud Pezeshkian, saying he was informed of Iran's full support for Venezuela's sovereignty and stability. Maduro said President Pezeshkian conveyed the "comprehensive and unequivocal support" of the Leader of the Islamic Rev-



Nicolas Maduro  
● AFP

olution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the government, and the Iranian people for Venezuela.

### 'Comprehensive support'

"When I say comprehensive support, I mean total and unconditional," Maduro said, adding that the support is directed toward Venezuela's fight for peace, sovereignty, dignity, and stability, "not only for today or tomorrow,

but forever."

Highlighting Iran's role in international affairs, Maduro described Iran as "a shining example in the struggle to establish international rule of law". The US government has escalated pressure on Venezuela through a military buildup in the Caribbean, accusing it of pursuing an anti-drug trafficking mission without offering evidence. The US has also carried

out at least 21 strikes on alleged drug vessels in the Caribbean and Pacific since September, killing more than 80 people.

### 'Warmongering threats'

US President Donald Trump has also ordered "a total and complete" blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela – a move that Caracas has denounced as "warmongering threats". Trump wrote that Maduro's government had been designated a foreign terrorist organization (FTO), which had also engaged in "Drug Smuggling, and Human Trafficking". His remarks come after the US seized an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela last week – a move that was seen as significant given Venezuela's reliance on oil.

## Iran summons Cyprus envoy over remarks on trio islands

Iran summoned the Cypriot ambassador to Tehran to express strong protest to the country's recent meddlesome remarks regarding Iran's territorial integrity, particularly about the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf.

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Cyprus ambassador to Tehran, Petros Nacouzis, on Tuesday after a joint statement issued by officials from Cyprus and the UAE included claims regarding Iran's Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb, Press TV reported. Mohammad Alibek, Assistant Foreign Minister and Director General for the Persian Gulf at Iran's Foreign Ministry, handed over a formal written protest to Nacouzis, conveying the Iranian government's strong objections to the provocative statement.

Alibek reminded the Cypriot ambassador that the three islands in question are inseparable parts of Iranian territory, emphasizing the Islamic Republic's undisputed and long-standing sovereignty over these islands. He stressed that Iran's historical and effective control over the islands is beyond question.

Alibek also reiterated Iran's firm stance in condemning any territorial claims against its sovereignty, stressing that such actions violate the fundamental principle of respecting national sovereignty and territorial in-



Iran's Foreign Ministry  
● IRNA

tegrity of states.

During the meeting, he further reminded the Cypriot envoy of Iran's longstanding policy of non-interference in the sovereign affairs and territorial integrity of other nations, including Cyprus.

Alibek called for swift action by Cyprus to rectify the false stance and avoid repeating such mistakes in the future.

The three Persian Gulf islands have been part of Iran, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world. However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid claim to the islands. The islands fell under British control in 1921, but on November 30, 1971, a day after British forces left the region and just two days before the UAE was to become an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

## Iran envoy, Lebanon's speaker hold talks on bilateral ties, regional issues

### International Desk

Iran's ambassador to Lebanon and the Arab country's Parliament speaker discussed a range of issues during a meeting on Wednesday, amid western-fueled tensions over the disarmament of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah.

According to IRNA, Iranian Ambassador Mojtaba Amani and Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri reviewed the latest political developments in Lebanon and the region, bilateral relations, and Israel's repeated violations of a ceasefire between Tel Aviv and Hezbollah.



Nabih Berri

Mojtaba Amani

After the meeting, Amani said that the meeting was held within the framework of his ongoing consultations with Lebanese officials.

The Iranian ambassador emphasized Iran's support for Lebanon's independence and its commitment to preserv-

ing the country's unity and territorial integrity.

Amani added that the meeting also addressed prospects for Iran's participation in Lebanon's reconstruction process and support for the Lebanese people. He further said the two sides discussed the resumption of direct flights between Iran and Lebanon via Iranian or Lebanese airlines, a move that could facilitate travel for tourists, students, and businesspeople between the two countries.

Foreign-instigated tensions between Tehran and Beirut have increased in recent months over Lebanon's decision to disarm Hezbollah under pressure from Israel and the United States. Hezbollah has long been defending Lebanese soil against Israel's frequent acts of aggression.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

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