

Araghchi: Iran ready for 'fair deal' on nuclear issue but rejects diktats



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks during an interview with Russia Today's Worlds Apart program published on December 21, 2025.

IRNA

resolved following US-Israeli aggression against Iran in June when Tehran was in the midst of nuclear talks with Washington.

Israel carried out an unprovoked aggression against Iran on June 13, targeting several locations across Iran, including nuclear and military sites, killing senior commanders, nuclear scientists and civilians. On June 22, the US also joined the aggression and bombed three Iranian nuclear facilities – Natanz, Fordow and Isfahan.

"It was an unprovoked and illegal attack, and then the United States joined," Araghchi said. "So, it was very strange that in the middle of negotiations they decided to attack us. That became a very bad experience for us."

Despite the attacks, Iran announced its readiness for diplomatic engagement to resolve the standoff, but only based on respect and without pressure or threats.

Responding to a question about whether the current US administration can take an

approach consistent with Iranian policy, Araghchi said, "It depends if they come to the conclusion that negotiation is different from dictation. We are already ready for a fair and balanced deal, a negotiated deal, but we are not prepared for diktats."

Taking a question about Washington's demand for zero-uranium enrichment in Iran, Araghchi said under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), member states have the right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

"When you deprive a country of this clear right, you are in fact weakening the entire NPT," he said.

Araghchi emphasized that Iran upholds the right to the peaceful use of nuclear technology despite the fact that its nuclear facilities were damaged "seriously" in the June attacks. "We cannot give our right up, but at the same time, we are prepared to give full confidence that our program is peaceful and would remain peaceful forever," he said, noting that the United States should recognize Iran's right to enrich uranium.

On the possibility of a new war, Araghchi said Iran does not rule out another conflict but is fully prepared for it, even more prepared than during the June war, which he called a "failed experience."

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the Islamic Republic is ready for a "fair and

balanced" deal over its peaceful nuclear program, stressing, however, that he has not been in contact with US mediator in nuclear talks Steve Witkoff for

months. The Iranian foreign minister made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Russia Today's Worlds Apart program,

conducted during his trip to Moscow last week. The interview focused on tensions over Iran's nuclear program, which remains un-

Israeli threats, media hype aim to mask 12-day war defeat against Iran: Vahidi

International Desk

Deputy Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi said on Saturday that Israel is resorting to threats, political maneuvers, and media campaigns to cover up its defeat in the June's aggression against Iran.

Vahidi made the remarks in an interview with Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television after NBC News reported that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will present plans for a possible fresh assault against Iran to US President Donald Trump during an upcoming meeting in Florida.

Vahidi said Israel is using psycho-

logical warfare in a bid to distort reality after it failed to achieve any of its objectives in its 12-day war against Iran.

Israel is engaged in desperate attempts to survive amid growing isolation, as well as serious internal and strategic problems, while Iran continues to closely monitor regional and international developments. Vahidi, a veteran commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), further noted that Israeli statements and propaganda efforts are unlikely to produce results.

Between June 13 and 24, Israel waged its act of aggression against Iran, killing at least 1,064 people and targeting the country's civilian

infrastructure.

On June 22, the United States also joined Israel and bombed three Iranian nuclear sites. Two days later, the Islamic Republic managed to impose a halt to the criminal aggression through its successful retaliatory strikes.

Earlier this month, Israel's military intelligence directorate head Maj. Gen. Shlomi Binder reportedly admitted that Iran's ballistic missile program suffered less damage in the war than initially thought.

Iran has warned that any miscalculation or new act of aggression by the enemies against the country will be met with a deadly and firm response.



Ahmad Vahidi
DEFA PRESS



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON



Iran, China enjoy significant potential to advance multilateralism: Envoy



Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli
IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Ambassador to China Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli said Iran and China, as two independent Global South actors, hold significant potential for building up multilateralism within emerging institutions.

In an article published in China's People's daily, the Iranian ambassador said today's world is facing a deepening dearth of peace, development and governance. "In such a situation, the crisis of legiti-

macy and efficacy of the existing world order has not only limited the possibility of building global consensus but has also strengthened strategies which are based on containment and polarization, which have increased the costs of cooperation." Rahmani-Fazli said that in response to such conditions, the prominence of alternative models of pragmatic, multi-layered cooperation takes on strategic importance.

"In such an environment, close cooperation among Global South countries and other nations that emphasize the principles of mutual respect, independence, and shared development becomes increasingly important to put forward a genuine model for pragmatic, win-win cooperation," he said.

"Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization from 2023 has set up a new platform for cooperation in the areas of security, regional connectiv-

ity, and standing up to unilateral coercive measures. Furthermore, Iran's membership in BRICS from January 2024 has opened up a fresh opportunity for active participation in reforming the global economic governance structure and building up South-South cooperation."

In addition, the four global initiatives on governance, development, security, and civilization have also laid down a practical foundation for expanding strategic cooperation among all independent nations and have created the possibility for coming together on key issues, he concluded.

Referring to a recent trilateral meeting between Iran, China and Saudi Arabia in Tehran, Rahmani-Fazli described the meeting as a symbol of the practical realization of the Global Security Initiative. On December 9, Iran, China, and Saudi Arabia held the third meeting of their Joint Committee in Tehran.