

# Araghchi: US pursuing 'law of jungle' over diplomacy

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi stated that the United States pursues "the law of jungle" over diplomacy, resorting to force and sanctions to advance its interests.

Araghchi made the statements while addressing a host of students and academics at Russia's MGIMO University last week. The Foreign Ministry released his remarks on Friday, Press TV reported.

In his address, the minister stressed that the international system is "unfortunately moving toward disorder." "After the establishment of the United Nations, countries tried to create an order based on international law and regulations, but what we are witnessing today, especially in the new policies of the US government, is a disregard for laws and a replacement with force and power," Araghchi said.

Iran's top diplomat added that US President Donald Trump's foreign policy is based on "peace through force", while humanity has been trying for years to achieve peace through diplomacy and law.

"Peace through force means that whoever has greater power imposes their

will on others; this is 'the law of jungle,'" he explained.

The Iranian minister further said that Washington is not only "intervening anywhere in the world, carrying out attacks, conducting assassinations and imposing sanctions", but also giving its ally in West Asia, Israel, a green light to "act freely in violation of all international laws."

"In recent years, Israel has attacked several regional countries, and tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, with genocide ongoing, but, unfortunately, the US and some European countries have remained silent," he said.

Araghchi also referred to the June attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, which are under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as "one of the biggest violations of international law."

"These are examples of the lawlessness in the international system that is pushing the world towards greater insecurity."

Unlike the past, Araghchi said, the US is now explicitly acknowledging the use of force. He pointed out that "While we



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (C) speaks during a visit to Russia's MGIMO University on December 17, 2025.

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were negotiating, we were attacked, and then we were asked to engage in negotiations based on surrender. Even the President of the United States explicitly called for [Iran's] 'unconditional surrender.'"

However, he stressed that Iran's resistance and response to the aggression managed to force Washington and Israel to "shift from demanding surrender to seeking an unconditional ceasefire."

"We decided to resist and utilized our capabilities, including our defensive and missile capabilities. Our armed forces gave a decisive response. While it is said that the sky over Iran was within the enemy's reach, it is not mentioned that the sky over the occupied territories was also within the range of Iranian missiles."

"This experience shows that in the current international system, countries have no choice but to be powerful,"



Araghchi emphasized. Supported by the United States, Israel conducted an aggression on Iran on June 13, a few days before the sixth round of indirect nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington.

More than a week later, the United States also entered the war by bombing

three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

On June 24, Iran, through its successful retaliatory operations against both the Israeli regime and the US, managed to impose a halt to the illegal assault.

## Deputy FM: Anti-Iran enmity rooted in Islamic Establishment, not nuclear program

### International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said on Thursday that enmity towards Iran did not stem from its nuclear program, but from the Islamic nature of its ruling Islamic Establishment, the country's independence, and its progress.

Gharibabadi stressed that attacks by Israel on civilians and residential areas during its aggression against Iran in June demonstrated that the nuclear issue was merely a pretext for targeting the country. Addressing a group of instructors of the Qom Seminary, Gharibabadi noted that the indirect negotiations with the new American administration that preceded the war, were being conducted with complete mistrust of Washington and alongside full preparedness to confront any potential military action.



Kazem Gharibabadi

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He noted that, given the state of wariness, diplomacy and defensive preparedness proceeded in parallel and in coordination throughout the negotiation period.

Reiterating absence of any link between the war and the nuclear issue, the official said Iran's enemies had been preparing for the aggression for many years. He reminded that in addition to targeting innocent civilians and residential areas, the war took aim at parts of Iran's infrastructure.

According to Gharibabadi,

Israel and the United States suffered a complete failure in their military action and stopped short of achieving their strategic objectives.

The Islamic Republic, in turn, inflicted heavy and painful blows on the regime, to the point that it was forced to seek a ceasefire, he stated.

The official also described Iran's forceful strike on a US military base in retaliation to Washington's cooperation with the regime in the war, served as a clear sign of the country's strength. Gharibabadi, meanwhile, noted that the creation of international consensus to condemn the aggressors, national unity and cohesion inside Iran in the face of the strikes, and regional countries' acknowledgment that the regime represented the main threat to the region, were among the most important issues that had to be highlighted when assessing the 12-day war.

## US targets Daesh in Nigeria after Trump warns of attacks on Christians

### Nigeria: Terrorists target both Muslims, Christians



● AP

### International Desk

The United States carried out a strike against Daesh terrorists in Nigeria, claiming the group had been targeting Christians in the region.

Camps run by the group in Sokoto state, which lies on Nigeria's border with Niger, were hit, the US military said, adding that an "initial assessment" suggested "multiple" fatalities. US President Donald Trump said the Christmas Day strikes were "powerful and deadly" and labelled the group "terrorist scum", saying it had been "targeting and viciously killing, primarily, innocent Christians".

Nigeria's government confirmed the attacks but dismissed Trump's assertions, saying armed groups target both Muslim and Christian

communities in the country, and US claims that Christians face persecution do not represent a complex security situation and ignore efforts by Nigerian authorities to safeguard religious freedom. The director of the non-profit Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) also dismissed Trump's narrative that a strike was necessary to prevent a "slaughter" of Christians in Nigeria. "Muslims are being killed and harassed every day by the same criminals," Auwal Musa Rafsanjani was quoted as saying by the local Leadership news outlet. "This conversation should be about human life, not religion or geography." Rafsanjani said Nigerians of any religion are victims of terrorism and warned that claiming otherwise could ignite ethnic or

religious tensions.

The director stressed that any intervention, local or foreign, must prioritize accuracy, accountability and protection of innocent lives. The US military's Africa Command said the strike was carried out in Sokoto state and killed multiple Daesh terrorists. Nigerian Foreign Minister Yusuf Mai-tama Tuggar told BBC the strike was a "joint operation" targeting "terrorists", and it "has nothing to do with a particular religion".

Without naming Daesh specifically, Tuggar said the operation had been planned "for quite some time" and had used intelligence information provided by the Nigerian side. He did not rule out further strikes, adding that this depended on "decisions to be taken by the leadership of the two countries". Tuggar said the strikes had been planned "for quite some time" and had used intelligence information provided by Nigeria. He also did not rule out further strikes.

The Nigerian government has for several years been fighting a complex network of terrorist groups, which includes Boko Haram and Daesh-linked splinter groups, but largely in the north-east of the country, hundreds of miles away from Sokoto state.

## Russia holds memorial for Gen. Soleimani on 5th martyrdom anniversary



A memorial ceremony is held in the Russian capital Moscow on December 25, 2025 to commemorate Iranian Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani who was assassinated by the United States in Iraq in 2020.

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### International Desk

A memorial ceremony was held in Russian capital on Thursday to commemorate Iranian Lieutenant General Qassem Soleima-

ni who was assassinated by the United States in Iraq in 2020.

The event, titled "Spiritual Unity of the Peoples of Russia and Iran," was organized by the All-Russian People's Union and

attended by Iran's Ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, along with a number of Russian scholars and intellectuals.

Addressing the ceremony, the adviser to the head of RosGeo, Russia's largest state-owned geological holding Dmitry Malyshev praised the late Iranian anti-terror commander Soleimani for his exceptional valor, honesty, and wisdom.

Malyshev noted that the ceremony coincided with the fifth anniversary of General Soleimani's assassination, adding that participants were remembering heroes who, like Soleimani, served humanity.

"One could even say this occasion is a celebration for us," Malyshev said, "because Qassem

Soleimani is still with us today." General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), and their companions were assassinated in a US drone strike authorized by US President Donald Trump near Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020.

Calling General Soleimani's loss a tremendous tragedy, Malyshev said it was accurate to describe him as the victim of a terrorist act.

He concluded by saying that those responsible for the assassination — both those who carried it out and those who ordered it — would ultimately be held accountable.

Sergey Baburin, a former deputy of the Russian State Duma, said the assassination of General Soleimani was a very clear violation of international regulations, criticizing the silence of the international community towards the terrorist act.

Despite Trump's claiming responsibility for the assassination, the advocates of international law did not condemn the US move.

Özgür Bursali, Secretary-General of Turkey's Patriotic Party, was another speaker at the event who said General Soleimani had left behind "a very great legacy," adding his path continues to be followed. He described Iran as resisting "imperialism and Zionism in

a heroic manner," and said the party believes Soleimani was assassinated on this path, but that "thousands of other Soleimanis were born" as a result.

Bursali also argued that the world is approaching "the end of US hegemony and the power structure designed after World War II."

General Soleimani was highly revered across West Asia because of his key role in fighting the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group in the region, particularly in Iraq and Syria. Two days after his assassination, Iraqi lawmakers approved a bill that required the government to end the presence of all foreign military forces led by the US in the country.