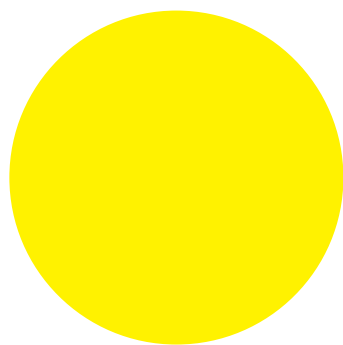


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Iran Daily

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Araghchi extols General Soleimani as 'architect of Axis of Resistance'

IRNA chief: Slain commander never engaged with battlefield-diplomacy duality

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The Iranian Foreign Ministry holds an international conference, attended by Minister Abbas Araghchi (4th R), to honor late Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani in Tehran on December 29, 2025 ahead of the commander's 5th martyrdom anniversary in Iraq at the hands of the United States.

• IRNA



FM spox: Talks 'unrealistic' without US adherence to principles of dialogue

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Iran close to reclaiming 2+1 ACL Elite quota after strong Asian run

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Historic, natural wonders of Zeyd village

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Ten most significant world events in 2025

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Iraqi government, popular forces reject using their territory against Iran

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE



The use of Iraqi airspace for operations against Iran has been a growing topic of discussion since the 12-day war. Mohammad Kazem Al-e Sadeq, Iran's ambassador to Iraq, recently Tehran has identified US surveillance flights

that used Iraqi airspace to monitor Iranian territory. Why the Iraqi government, despite its friendly relations with Iran, would allow such use of its airspace has become a matter of debate. At the same time, Iraq, seeking to stay clear of confrontation between Iran and the United States, has launched efforts to broker dialogue between Tehran and Washington. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani said Baghdad had proposed to Washington that Iraq's constructive ties with Iran be leveraged to help revive Tehran-Washington talks, adding that an important effort was underway to arrange a bilateral meeting

between Iran and the United States in Baghdad. Iran Daily spoke with Hassan Hanizadeh, a regional affairs analyst, to examine the issue. Hanizadeh believes that both the government in Baghdad and popular forces oppose the use of Iraqi territory against Iran, but with thousands of US troops still in Iraq, Baghdad's ability to firmly oppose American adventurism remains restricted.

IRAN DAILY: How do you assess the Iraqi government allowing the United States to use Iraqi airspace for reconnaissance operations against Iran, and what security and political consequences

es does this have for Tehran-Baghdad relations?

HANIZADEH: There are reports indicating that US forces stationed in Iraq have recently carried out a series of intelligence and aerial activities along the shared Iran-Iraq border. The purpose of these movements, which have typically involved the use of advanced aircraft, has been to gather information on Iran's military deployments and missile bases in northwestern Iran. Some military observers view these activities as routine and preemptive measures by US forces, aimed at preparing for any potential Iranian action.

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