

# Gov't pursues diplomacy to ease tensions with West despite intrigues: *SpoX*

## International Desk

The Iranian government spokeswoman said on Tuesday that the administration is striving to resolve tensions with Western countries through diplomacy despite their "belligerent approaches." "In a situation where approaches (toward Iran) are belligerent, the government is trying to resolve issues through diplomacy, in line with safeguarding national interests and promoting regional stability, and within the framework of international peace," Fatemeh Mohajerani said during her weekly presser.

"Of course, this does not mean that other options have been taken off the table by the government and the Establishment."

Mohajerani told reporters that Iran is in a hybrid and multilayered war and is in a state of full readiness to respond to any threat.

Tensions have worsened between Iran and the United States over the

past weeks after US President Donald Trump threatened to attack Iran over its response to the recent foreign-backed riots across the country. The US has also dispatched a strike group led by the USS Abraham Lincoln to the West Asia waters.

"We have a big armada next to Iran. Bigger than Venezuela," Trump told the Axios news site, weeks after US military action resulted in the capture of the Latin American nation's president, Nicolas Maduro.

But he added, "They want to make a deal. I know so. They called on numerous occasions. They want to talk."

In a subsequent briefing with reporters, a US official said, "With regard to Iran, we are open for business. If they want to contact us, and they know what the terms are, then we're going to have the conversation."

Earlier this month, US special envoy Steve Witkoff said any deal would have to include a ban on uranium enrichment in Iran, the removal of



*Iranian government spokeswoman Fatemeh Mohajerani listens to reporters during her weekly presser in Tehran on January 27, 2026.*

● IRNA

already-enriched uranium, a cap on Tehran's stockpile of long-range missiles and a rollback of the Islamic Republic's support for resistance groups in the region.

Tehran has expressed willingness to negotiate with the US but has rejected those terms outright.

In recent days, Iranian officials have repeatedly warned of a decisive response to any miscalculation.

Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement has also warned the US and Israel that they will resume their drone and missile strikes in the Red Sea against Israeli-affiliated vessels and ships bound for the Israeli-occupied territories in reprisal for any adventurism in the region.

The secretary general of the Lebanese



Hezbollah resistance movement also warned the US and Israel that a fresh round of strikes on Iran would have serious consequences for the entire region, as Tehran will respond forcefully

and decisively to any act of aggression. "A new war on Iran could set the entire region ablaze this time," Sheikh Naim Qassem said in a televised speech on Monday.

## Araghchi: Recent riots organized to drag US into another war with Iran



*The photo shows stores burned during recent protests over economic problems in Rasht, Iran.*

● IRNA

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said recent protests were derailed into violent riots and organized terrorist actions to provoke a new war by the United States against Iran.

Speaking by phone with his Sri Lankan counterpart, Vijitha Herath, on Monday, Araghchi discussed and exchanged views on the latest state of bilateral relations, as well as regional and international developments, Press TV reported.

Iran's top diplomat said that peaceful protests by Iranians on January 8-9 were diverted into violent acts and terrorist operations, stressing the organized and terrorist nature of these actions, whose objective was to draw the US into another

war against the Islamic Republic. Araghchi also appreciated the Sri Lankan government's support for Iran in the face of an anti-Tehran human rights resolution, describing it as a sign of Sri Lanka's independent, balanced, and friendly approach toward Tehran.

Herath, for his part, referring to the pattern of US behavior toward independent countries, emphasized that Sri Lanka, as a friendly country, will remain committed to continuing and strengthening its relations with Iran despite certain foreign interventions.

The two sides also stressed the necessity of joint efforts to enhance relations between the two countries. They agreed to continue and expand

bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly in the economic and commercial sectors, and to maintain ongoing consultations and close coordination in international organizations and forums.

Foreign-instigated riots in Iran escalated on January 8 and continued for several days, following peaceful protests in Iranian bazaars and markets where traders called for government action to halt the devaluation of the Iranian rial.

The violence, encouraged openly by the Israeli regime and US President Donald Trump, resulted in extensive damage to public and private property, with widespread destruction of shops, government institutions, public service facilities, and the killing of thousands of civilians, including women and children, as well as security forces.

Iranian authorities have confirmed that US and Israeli spy agencies were directly involved, and provided funding, training, and media support to rioters and armed terrorists acting on the streets.

## Iran summons Italy envoy over EU proposal for IRGC designation



● IRNA

### International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Italy's Ambassador to Tehran Paola Amadei on Tuesday after the country announced its plan to propose to the European Union to designate the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist" entity. The Foreign Ministry's Director General for Western Europe Affairs Alireza Yousefi lodged a strong protest against "irresponsible positions" by Italy's foreign minis-

ter, stressing the IRGC's legal status as an official branch of the Iranian Armed Forces.

He warned about the consequences of the move and called on Rome to change its "ill-considered approach" toward Iran.

The Italian ambassador said she would promptly convey Iran's position to her government.

The summon came a day after Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani urged the European Union to proscribe the

IRGC as a "terrorist organization" in the wake of recent riots across Iran. Tajani claimed that the "losses suffered by the civilian population during the protests demand a clear response."

"I will propose, in coordination with the other partners [in the European Union], the inclusion of the Revolutionary Guards on the list of terrorist organizations," he said.

He also called for the EU to levy individual sanctions against those responsible.

## Tehran, Baku must ...

When a regime resorts to such tactics, it is natural for its positions adopted in Baku to be unfounded, illogical, and unprincipled, and no country in the world will accept such positions. Therefore, I believe these positions should not be given any credence. At the same time, caution must be exercised to prevent Israel's presence in Baku from damaging relations between Iran and Azerbaijan, and to protect Iran's relations with Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani government should also be called out for facilitating Israel's emergence from isolation at a time when it is widely reviled across the globe and for allowing it to make such statements against its friendly neighbor, Iran.

**How do you analyze Azerbaijan's stance regarding recent developments in Iran? Is Baku merely monitoring development plans or does it have a pre-determined plan in this regard?**

The official position of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which was also voiced by Pres-

ident Ilham Aliyev just two days ago, is the expression of concern over these events and hope for stability, security, and peace to return to Iran. That was the official stance of the government in Baku.

**It has been reported that an attack on Israel's embassy in Azerbaijan has been foiled shortly after Sa'ar's statements. Can this event be assessed as a project aimed at advancing the policy of Iranophobia in Baku?**

These claims by the Israeli regime are an attempt to project victimhood and have been made repeatedly in the past. It should be remembered that Israel is a regime that launches attacks on Qatar to target figures like Hamas leaders. Therefore, this regime is hardly in a position to discuss these matters. Moreover, Israel's embassy in Azerbaijan is located on the upper floors of the Hyatt hotel and is adjacent to the Japanese embassy, making it virtually impossible for a terrorist or sabotage operation to take place there. Also, the Hyatt hotel is also fully under the se-

curity coverage of the Azerbaijani government. Therefore, the claims made by the Israeli regime, although it has not directly accused Iran in this matter, are a move to play the victim and to extricate itself from the pressure it faces globally.

**What measures can Iran take to preserve and strengthen its positive relations with Azerbaijan and prevent their exploitation and destruction by hostile countries?**

I believe that the more positively Iran and Azerbaijan's relations progress, the more they can neutralize the plots of the Israeli regime to undermine these relations. Therefore, the active diplomacy that currently exists between the two countries, the exchange of various delegations, and the holding of joint economic commissions should continue with strength and should not be affected by trips like these, which are undertaken with the aim of Israel's emergence from isolation. Both Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan must look after their good relations.



**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist

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