

‘Doctrine of impunity’ for Israel menacing regional stability: Araghchi

Iran’s missile program ‘never negotiable’

International Desk

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned that allowing Israel to act beyond international law would lead to broader regional instability, saying that a “doctrine of impunity does not bring peace.” Speaking as a special guest at the Al Jazeera Forum’s opening panel on Saturday, Araghchi said the war in Gaza has become a defining test for international law and global moral credibility. “Let no one miscalculate: a region cannot be kept stable by allowing one actor to act above the law,” he said, adding, “The doctrine of impunity will not produce peace; it will produce wider conflict.” Araghchi described Palestine as the central issue shaping justice and security in West Asia, noting that Gaza is no longer only a humanitarian crisis but part of a broader expansionist project carried out under the banner of security. According to Araghchi, the immunity granted to Israel has set a dangerous precedent, allowing attacks on civilians, infrastructure, and cross-border assassinations without accountability. Since the beginning of its genocidal war on Gaza in 2023, the Israeli regime has killed about 72,000 Palestinians and wounded over 171,000 people and caused widespread destruction, with approximately 90 percent of Gaza’s civilian infrastructure damaged. Araghchi’s speech in Doha came a day after he held new round of negotiations with the US officials in Oman’s capital over Iran’s nuclear program.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses the Al Jazeera Forum's opening panel in the Qatari capital of Doha on February 7, 2026. ● AL JAZEERA

The negotiations were the first since nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington collapsed last year following Israel’s unprecedented bombing campaign against Iran, which triggered a 12-day war. During the war, US warplanes also bombed Iranian nuclear sites.

Iran-US nuclear talks

Friday’s talks came amid a major US military buildup in the region on the pretext of Iran’s response to recent riots in the country, which were triggered by nationwide protests last month over economic problems. According to the Iranian officials more than 3,100 people have lost their lives in the protests. The two sides hailed the “good beginning” of the negotiations and agreed to resume the talks after consultations with their capitals. Before the talks, Washington had sought to address Iran’s ballistic missile program and its support for resistance groups in the region – issues which Is-

rael has pushed to include in the talks, according to media reports. However, Tehran has repeatedly rejected expanding the scope of the negotiations beyond the nuclear issue with the Iranian foreign minister saying that talks in Muscat only focused on nuclear issues.

According to excerpts published on his official Telegram channel during an interview with the Al Jazeera network, Araghchi reiterated Tehran’s red lines in the talks. He said that Iran’s missile program was “never negotiable” because it relates to a “defense issue.” “There can be no negotiations on missiles, neither now nor in the future, because this is a purely defensive issue.”

Uranium enrichment

Araghchi also pointed to uranium enrichment, stressing that the enrichment is Iran’s “inalienable right and must continue” in Iran. However, he said that, “We are ready to reach a

reassuring agreement on enrichment.” Regarding any aggression by the US against Iran in the case of failure of the negotiations, Araghchi warned that Tehran would target US bases in the region. He called the talks “a good start,” but added that building trust would take time. He said the talks would resume “soon.” US President Donald Trump also on Friday called the talks “very good,” and pledged another round of negotiations next week. Despite this, he signed an executive order effective from Saturday that called for the “imposition of tariffs” on countries still doing business with Iran. The United States also announced new sanctions against numerous shipping entities and vessels, aimed at curbing Iran’s oil exports. At the Friday’s talks in Oman, the US delegation was led by Trump’s Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and his influential son-in-law Jared Kushner.

US coercive diplomacy ...

Washington wanted to signal that, alongside diplomacy, it is prepared for war. Another likely reason relates to the multifaceted nature of the negotiations; given that the talks could touch on various issues, the presence of a senior military commander would allow him both to present his views and to provide expert input to the Trump team.

While Iran’s foreign minister has described the talks as “a good start,” Washington immediately pursued a path of intensified pressure, without rolling back its regional military deployments. How do you evaluate this approach, and what impact will it have on confidence-building and the continuation of negotiations? Under these conditions, how do you see the future of the talks, and is there genuine will on the US side to reach an agreement?

I believe the United States is not acting in a contradictory manner. Its approach toward Iran is grounded in what is commonly referred to as coercive diplomacy, or diplomacy

backed by force. Within this framework, Washington seeks a diplomatic solution, but will resort to military action if diplomacy fails. During Trump’s first term, the administration largely pursued a policy of maximum pressure, in which the use of military force did not play a central role. In coercive diplomacy, however, military power and force are integral components of the framework itself. This explains why the United States, even while continuing negotiations, is simultaneously attempting to keep the military option on the table and thereby make its diplomatic message appear more credible. Naturally, however, if Washington places excessive emphasis on force and coercion, the prospects for successful diplomatic negotiations will decline. This may be one of the reasons financial markets have reacted cautiously to the outcome of the latest talks. Despite participating in negotiations, the United States continues to escalate pressure, impose tariffs on Iran’s trading partners, and sanction Iranian officials and companies. This, in effect, undermines the

credibility of diplomacy, disrupts the necessary balance between diplomacy and force, and reduces the likelihood of success.

Given the continuation of US military movements and simultaneous threats in the region, how decisive do you see Iran’s deterrence factor in keeping diplomacy on track?

Iran’s deterrence factor certainly plays an important role. The key issue, however, within deterrence theory, is the extent to which Iran’s message about regionalizing a potential war is perceived as credible by the United States. At times, threats are issued but not taken seriously by the other side, and as a result they lack the desired impact. It appears that, judging by the scale of US military equipment deployed to the region, Washington has taken Iran’s threat of regionalizing a conflict and targeting US bases in the event of war seriously. The United States is therefore seeking to establish three different layers of defense in the region in order to contain Iran’s threat should a military confrontation occur.

Anti-Iran adventurism to destabilize entire region: Top general

Iran’s top military official warned that any adventurist act against the Islamic Republic will bring “strategic defeat” to enemies and spread war across the entire region. Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi issued the stark warning in a Saturday message to Brigadier General Bahman Behmard, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army Air Force, marking Air Force Day, Press TV reported.

“The enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran are well aware that any adventure or attempt to impose war against Islamic Iran will not only lead to their absolute and strategic defeat but will also cause the expansion of war and crisis throughout the region,” he said.

He added that any adventure or war against Iran will also impose “heavy and irreparable” costs on its supporters.

Iran’s Army Air Force plays a strategic role in strengthening active deterrence, promoting defensive preparedness and confronting enemy threats under the current sensitive circumstances and amid complex domestic and regional developments, especially after the Israeli-American 12-day imposed war against the country in June, he emphasized. Mousavi said the Air Force has constantly been engaged in modernization and upgrading its combat capability and comprehensive preparedness, and currently stands at the “highest level of readiness.”

“In complete coordination with other Armed Forces, the Air Force is ready to give a decisive, rapid, and regrettable response to any threat, aggression, or miscalculation by the enemy,” the top commander emphasized. He reiterated that the Islamic Republic will



Abdolrahim Mousavi ● IRNA


never start a war but will not hesitate to firmly defend its security, territorial integrity, and vital interests. Mousavi also described the force as a symbol of the Army’s deep bond with the nation and the Islamic Establishment. Israel launched the unprovoked war on June 13 last year while Iran was engaged in nuclear talks with the US, which also joined the aggression by striking Iranian nuclear sites. In response, Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories and at Al-Udeid, the largest US military installation in West Asia. Iran has since moved to enhance both its defensive and offensive capabilities. The region is once again bracing for another potential military confrontation after the United States deployed air and naval forces to the region and threatened to attack the Islamic Republic. Iranian officials have warned that any US attack would prompt an immediate response and could ignite a regional war. Last week, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei warned that any war initiated by the United States against Iran would turn into a regional war.

More positive regional reactions to resumption of Iran-US talks

International Desk

Reactions are still pouring in following resumption of nuclear talks between Iran and the United States in Oman, which has brought hope for easing tensions in the region. Secretary-General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassem Mohamed al-Budaiwi welcomed the new round of indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States in Oman, expressing hope that the results of the talks would contribute to maintaining stability and security in the region. According to Kuwaiti newspaper “Al-Jarida”, Budaiwi hoped that the negotiations would lead to positive outcomes that help enhance peace, solidify the foundations of security and stability in the region, secure common interests, and strengthen the environment for co-operation and development. Tajikistan’s Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhriddin also welcomed the recent Iran-US talks, saying that Dushanbe supports the peaceful resolution of disputes between the two countries. Speaking at a press conference on Friday, Muhriddin stressed that Tajikistan supports peace, stability, security, and calm in the region. Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty held high-level discussions with his Omani counterpart and the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the Iranian nuclear file, following a

new round of negotiations between Washington and Tehran. In a telephone call on Friday, Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi briefed Abdelatty on the progress of talks held in Muscat. Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tamim Khallaf stated that Abdelatty expressed appreciation for Oman’s “constructive role” in hosting the dialogue, while Busaidi commended Egypt’s recent diplomatic efforts to bridge viewpoints between the parties. Abdelatty affirmed that Egypt will continue to support all efforts to reach a “consensual settlement” that addresses the concerns of all sides. The diplomatic outreach continued on Saturday with a call between Abdelatty and IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi. The Egyptian minister emphasized the need for continued international and regional efforts to lower tensions and priorities diplomatic solutions. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the announcement of talks between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Sultanate of Oman, affirming that this positive development reflects ongoing efforts to advance dialogue and promote de-escalation. The Foreign Ministry of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in a statement expressed hope that such consultations will yield positive outcomes that contribute to de-escalation, strengthen regional security and stability, and support regional and international peace.



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