

Araghchi: Strait of Hormuz open to all except US, its allies

Washington plotting false flag ops against Americans, Larijani says

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the Strait of Hormuz is open to all ships except those of the United States and its allies.

Araghchi reiterated in an interview with Al-Arabi Al-Jadid that the United States and Israel initiated the war, saying, "We are defending ourselves, and we only attack American bases and interests in the region."

The chief Iranian diplomat underscored the Iranian Armed Forces have not targeted any civilian or residential areas in the region, speculating that the Israeli regime may have targeted non-military areas in Arab countries to sever their relations with Iran.

"The Americans have made a drone identical to our Shahed drone, named Lucas, and it is being used to attack targets in Arab countries," he stated. Araghchi also voiced Iran's readiness to form a joint investigation committee with the participation of regional countries regarding the areas that have been targeted.

Addressing regional mediation efforts, the foreign minister said, "So far, no specific initiative has been proposed to



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi
IRNA

end the war, but we welcome any regional initiative that leads to a just end to the war." "However, the end of the war is contingent upon ensuring that it does not recur and compensation is paid," he added.

Araghchi warns France of expanding conflict

In a phone call with his French counterpart, the Iranian foreign minister noted that the root cause of insecurity in the entire region, including Lebanon, is the aggression and hegemony of the Zionist regime.

In the telephone conversation on Saturday night, Araghchi stressed the importance of refraining from any actions that could escalate and broaden the scope of conflict.

While US President Donald Trump has called on France, China, Japan, South Korea and the UK to send warships to keep the Strait of Hormuz open, France's Minister of Armed Forces and Veteran Affairs Catherine Vautrin said Paris has no plans to send naval vessels to the strategic waterway.

In an interview with FRANCE 24, she also stressed that France is not participating in the war in the Middle East.

Iran 'has no war' with Americans

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council wrote on his social media page that Iran is fundamentally opposed to terrorist schemes and "has no war with the American people".

Ali Larijani wrote Sunday on his X account, "I have heard that remnants of the Epstein team have plotted a scheme to create an incident similar to September 11 and to accuse Iran of it."

Emphasizing that Iran is fundamentally opposed to such terrorist plans, the top security official added, "Today, in response to US and Israeli aggression against Iran, it is acting in self-defense. In this defense, however, it is strong and resolute in punishing the aggressors."

President: Iran will rise stronger

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized that with the cooperation of "the noble people of Iran," the country will overcome the current circumstances and rebuild everything the enemy has destroyed and make them "better than before".

Addressing the Iranian people on the 15th day of the war, Pezeshkian wrote in a post Saturday night on X, "Despite transportation and communication difficulties, thanks to our colleagues in the government, there has been no significant interruption in public services."

IRGC resolved to pursue, kill 'child-killer' Netanyahu if he is still alive

Enemy drones shot down over Tehran sky



The emblem of the IRGC

International Desk

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) underscored the elite force's resolve to pursue and kill the "child-killer" Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu if he is still alive.

In a statement on Sunday morning, the IRGC said that uncertainty over Netanyahu's fate and the possibility of his death or escape with his family from the occupied territories reveals the crisis and tremor in the illegal regime.

"In the event that this child-killing criminal is alive, we will continue to pursue and kill him with all our might," it said.

The statement also said that the 52nd wave of Operation True Promise 4 was carried out against the industrial sectors and the concentration points of American forces in three American air bases with powerful missiles and drones.

The IRGC said it attacked Israeli targets, adding, "Continuous sounds of ambulance sirens and the admission by Israeli entities of the rising number of casualties due to Iran's effective operations revealed the depth of the heavy strikes by the IRGC's missiles on the industrial sectors of Tel Aviv."

In another statement released on Sunday morning, the IRGC stated that 10 hypersonic Fatah and Qadr missiles, as well as destructive drones, were

fired at the US terrorist army forces at Al-Zafra base, which played a supporting and intelligence role in the attack on the Islamic Republic.

"With God's grace, continuous and powerful attacks against targets, centers, and interests of the United States and the Zionist regime will continue until the aggressor surrenders and is punished," the statement read.

Moreover, the IRGC said a three-stage solid fuel-powered Sijjil, super-heavy Khorramshahr with a two-ton warhead, as well as, Qadr, Emad, and Kheibar-Shekan missiles were successfully fired at key decision-making centers, military infrastructure, and gatherings of the regime's forces in the heart of the occupied lands.

Drones downed before breaching Tehran's airspace

The IRGC also announced the downing of three enemy drones before they could carry out operations in the airspace of Tehran. During Saturday night's aggression by US-Israeli enemy drones against Tehran's airspace, the IRGC fighters, using a modern air defense system controlled by the country's integrated air defense network, successfully shot down three armed enemy drones, IRGC said.

The IRGC had earlier announced that three waves of attacks were carried out

against the US terrorists' bases in the region on Saturday morning.

Iran as 'graveyard' of enemy drones

Iran's Army in a statement released late on Saturday put the number of the enemy's drones downed and destroyed by its forces thus far at 116.

More than 80 percent of the drones destroyed by the Iranian Army Forces are of the most advanced and sophisticated combat drones of "MQ-9", "Heron" and "Hermes".

Iran is the graveyard of the enemy's drones, the statement said, adding, "Relying upon the assistance of the God Almighty, the destruction of the most advanced and sophisticated drones of the aggressive enemy will be continued by commanders and fighters of the defense systems of the Army and IRGC under the command of the Air Defense Headquarters with its utmost power and strength."

The United States and Israeli launched an unprovoked war on Iran on February 28, assassinating former Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and top Iranian military commanders in the midst of Tehran-Washington negotiations.

Iran immediately launched retaliatory strikes against Israeli and American targets across the region using volleys of drones and missiles.

Deputy FM raps targeting Iran's ancient sites as attack on civilizational identity

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Kazem Gharibabadi, has stressed the fact that US-Israeli attacks against museums and historical sites constitute an assault on part of Iran's civilizational identity.

"Attacks against museums and historical sites constitute an assault on part of Iran's civilizational identity and on cultural property protected under international law," Gharibabadi wrote on his X account on Sunday, IRNA reported.

"Damage to dozens of historical and cultural sites during the US-Israeli attacks shows that the scope of this aggression has extended to cultural heritage

as well," he added.

"This situation is a clear manifestation of the systematic violation of international law in its various dimensions by the US and the Israeli regimes," he noted. Earlier, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi thanked UNESCO for its prompt and responsible reaction to the bombing of Tehran's Golestan Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

He expressed that, "UNESCO will maintain firm and principled stance against further attacks on cultural heritage," including "historical monuments in Isfahan as site protection is international concern."

In the US-Israeli attacks against Iran, the aggressors



Kazem Gharibabadi

have been bombing different parts of Tehran and other cities, which has resulted in damages to various Iranian historical sites, including Golestan Palace.

Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has declared

that at least 56 museums, historic buildings and cultural sites across the country were damaged following US-Israeli military attacks, describing the move as a crime against Iran's historical identity and humanity's shared heritage.

Bringing war to ...

The battlefield, in effect, has been transformed into a negotiating arena where legitimacy, resilience, and asymmetric capabilities matter as much as force itself.

Endurance, authority & new regional equation

The developments of the past two weeks suggest that Iran's governing structure has proved more resilient than many of its opponents expected. Under Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, political authority has been

portrayed as resting on a combination of religious legitimacy, strategic discipline, and national consensus.

The Strait of Hormuz, once treated largely as an energy transit route, has emerged as a central factor in global stability. Iran's ability to influence this maritime chokepoint has become a defining feature of its deterrence doctrine — one based less on expansion than on endurance, calculated pressure, and the projection of resolve.

Ultimately, the conflict appears to have produced

the opposite of its intended effect. Rather than eroding Iran's sovereignty, it has reinforced it. Across the region, and increasingly beyond it, Iran's posture is being framed as evidence that national resilience may now play a more decisive role in shaping security than external intervention.

If that assessment holds, then the confrontation with Iran may come to be remembered not as a demonstration of Western control, but as a warning about the costs of miscalculation in an interconnected world. History has repeatedly

shown that wars launched to impose order can end up producing the very instability they were meant to prevent. The unfolding confrontation with Iran risks becoming another such example.

For Washington, the strategic question is no longer simply how to pressure Iran, but how to manage the cascading consequences of a conflict whose effects now extend across the global economy and the wider geopolitical landscape. Bringing war to Iran, it turns out, may also mean bringing crisis back home.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

