

Pezeschkian hails truce as fruit of martyred Leader's blood, nation's sacrifices

SNSC: War objectives largely achieved; US talks due in Islamabad

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeschkian announced on Wednesday that a two-week ceasefire agreement between Tehran and Washington was reached based on the acceptance of the Islamic Republic's general principles and the sacrifices of the Iranian nation.

In a post on his X account, Pezeschkian said the achieved two-week truce was the result of the sacrifices made by our great martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and the presence of all the people on the scene.

"From today onward, we will remain united. Whether in diplomacy, defense, on the

streets, or in service provision," he added.

Following 40 days of joint US-Israeli war against Iran, the two sides finally agreed early Wednesday Tehran time to a two-week ceasefire mediated by Pakistan.

US President Donald Trump announced Washington's decision to step back from the war late Tuesday local time in a statement posted on the Truth Social platform.

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Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) announced in a statement that almost all of the country's war objectives have been achieved, while announcing that negotiations with the United States are expected to take place in Islamabad on Friday to finalize the political outcome of the conflict. The SNSC said early on Wednesday that Iran had continued the war for more than 40 days despite repeated requests by its adversaries to halt hostilities. According to the statement, Iranian authorities rejected several deadlines issued by Trump, emphasizing that Tehran

would not accept any timetable imposed by its enemies. According to the council, the decision to continue the conflict had the full backing of the Iranian people and would persist as long as necessary to secure major strategic gains and new regional security arrangements.

However, the statement added that, following guidance from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini Khamenei and approval by the Supreme National Security Council, the Islamic Republic has agreed to negotiations aimed at finalizing the details of a potential settlement.

According to the statement, Iran had rejected proposals



from the United States and instead submitted a 10-point plan to the US through Pakistan. The proposal reportedly includes conditions such as the withdrawal of US combat

forces from regional bases, the lifting of primary and secondary sanctions on Iran, the release of frozen Iranian assets abroad, and compensation for damages caused

by the conflict. The plan also calls for a security protocol governing passage through the Strait of Hormuz under coordination with Iranian armed forces, as well as an end to hostilities involving resistance groups in the region. In a post on his X account on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, on behalf of the SNSC, wrote, "If attacks against Iran are halted, our Powerful Armed Forces will cease their defensive operations."

Araghchi added, "For a period of two weeks, safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz will be possible via coordination with Iran's Armed Forces and with due consideration of technical limitations."

Iran: UN draft resolution on Strait of Hormuz distorts realities

Russia, China veto UN resolution

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations described a draft resolution prepared by Bahrain over the closure of the Strait of Hormuz as "entirely one-sided and biased", saying that it distorts the realities on the ground by falsely attributing responsibility to Iran.

Addressing a meeting of the UN Security Council on Tuesday to vote on the draft resolution, Amir Saeid Iravani called the resolution flawed and biased, arguing that it misrepresents Iran's lawful actions in the face of the US-Israel aggression and seeks to legitimize unlawful conduct by the aggressors and their allies under the pretext of safeguarding freedom of navigation and maritime safety in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. Iravani said the "politically motivated" resolution is an "attempt to unjustly attribute blame to Iran" while deliberately ignoring the root causes of the current crisis which

caused by an unprovoked aggression by the US and Israel against Iran.

Russia and China vetoed the resolution which received 11 votes in favor, two against and two abstentions. Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani said Persian Gulf Arab states "regret" the outcome.

Iravani said Iran's measures in the Strait of Hormuz have been taken in the exercise of its inherent right of self-defense in accordance with the UN Charter.

Iran has imposed an effective blockade on the critical waterway, which normally carries a fifth of the world's oil, since the US and Israel launched the war on February 28, sending ripple effects throughout the global economy.

US reaction

"Today's result does not restrict the United States to continue to act in its own self-defense and in the collective defense of our allies and partners," US ambassador Mike



Waltz said after the Security Council vote.

Al Zayani, speaking on behalf of the oil-exporting Persian Gulf countries, claimed the failure to pass the resolution "sends the wrong signal to the world." "This signal that the threat to international waterways can pass without any decisive action by the international organization responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security," he said.

Iran's UN ambassador said the text was designed

"to punish the victim for defending its sovereignty and vital national interest in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz."

"Had this draft been adopted, it could have opened the door to dangerously broad and abusive interpretation that could be used to justify further use of force and unlawful actions in clear violation of the UN Charter," said Iravani.

He also said Russia and China stood firmly on the right side of history by vetoing the resolution.

World leaders welcome two-week ceasefire, hope for lasting peace

International Desk

Global reactions poured in on Wednesday after Iran and the United States agreed to a two-week ceasefire in a joint war launched by Washington and Tel Aviv against Tehran on February 28.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the ceasefire mediated by Pakistan but urged all parties to work toward long-term peace in the Middle East.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the two-week ceasefire would bring much-needed de-escalation and called for an enduring solution.

European Council President Costa urged "all parties to uphold its terms in order to achieve sustainable peace in the region."

Kaja Kallas, the European Union's top diplomat, said the ceasefire deal was "a step back from the brink after weeks of escalation".

Pope Leo on Wednesday praised the ceasefire, hours after calling US President Donald Trump's threat against the population of Iran "unacceptable." The pope, who has emerged as an outspoken critic of the war in recent weeks, said he welcomed the announcement of

the ceasefire with satisfaction and urged continued negotiation to bring a full end to the regional conflict.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the United States, Iran and their allies had agreed to a ceasefire "everywhere", including Lebanon. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia received the news of a truce with satisfaction.

"We welcome the decision not to proceed further down the path of armed escalation."

French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed the ceasefire and said about 15 countries were planning to facilitate the resumption of traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil supply usually flows.

Japan said that "concrete steps" were needed to de-escalate the crisis, including ensuring the safe passage of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz.

"We hope the final agreement will be reached through diplomacy at an early date," Japanese government spokesman Minoru Kihara said.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry hoped the ceasefire would bring about the safe passage of all vessels, including its own, through the Hormuz Strait.

Australia cautioned that the

longer the war draws on "the more significant the impact on the global economy will be, and the greater the human cost".

"Australia wants to see the ceasefire upheld and a resolution to the conflict," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's office said.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese welcomed the ceasefire, while criticising the rhetoric of Trump who had threatened that "a whole civilization will die tonight" if his demands were not met.

"I don't think it's appropriate to use language such as that from the president of the United States, and I think it will cause some concern," Albanese said. While supporting US attacks on Iran in the early days of the war, Albanese has expressed unease about the conflict in recent weeks.

New Zealand welcomed the ceasefire but warned that there remains "significant work" to be done to secure peace.

"New Zealand will stand in support of all efforts to bring about a lasting, durable end to this conflict," Foreign Minister Winston Peters' spokesperson said.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry called for "serious and sustainable dialogue" between the US and Iran.

Ceasefire signals start ...

Iranian officials have consistently argued that any halt must be tied to assurances against renewed aggression. While such thinking reflects a desire to avoid a return to hostilities or a prolonged "no war, no peace" situation, history offers a more cautious lesson. The 1994 assurances given to Ukraine, signed by Russia, the United States and Britain, ultimately failed to prevent conflict.

Deterrence, by contrast, rests on capability. During

the current conflict, Iran imposed restrictions on movement through the Strait of Hormuz in response to the unlawful aggression. The result was instructive. It demonstrated that reopening the waterway by force would not be straightforward. Iran's asymmetric capabilities altered the equation. That experience may now serve as a more credible form of guarantee than any written commitment.

The costs of the past forty days have been substantial. Iran has absorbed both material damage and

psychological strain from the US-Israeli war. The prospect of escalation, particularly into attacks on infrastructure, would have significantly raised those costs. Under continued sanctions and financial pressure, recovery would have been difficult to sustain in the short term.

There is also a regional dimension that cannot be ignored. Given the largely air-based nature of the conflict and the geographic distance separating Iran from its adversaries, retaliation would likely have

focused on assets in neighboring countries. Such a path would have risked entangling regional actors more deeply and complicating efforts to rebuild relations with them.

It is expected that, following a positive turn of events after a difficult period, Iran's foreign policy will enter a new phase. This would pave the way for rebuilding what has been damaged and advancing the country's development and people's well-being, particularly given the upcoming diplomatic changes.

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