

Pezeshkian: Iran seeks no war, adheres to constructive interaction with world

Pakistani delegation in Tehran to deliver US message

International Desk

The Iranian president said on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic is not seeking war and has always emphasized the importance of dialogue and constructive interaction with all countries as there are regional efforts to pave the way for holding the second round of negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

"Iran is not seeking war and instability, instead, it has always emphasized the importance of dialogue and constructive interaction with all countries of the world. However, any attempt to impose any will on the country or force it to surrender is doomed to fail and the Iranian nation will never cave in to such an approach," Masoud Pezeshkian said during a visit to Tehran Province's Emergency Organization.

His remarks came days after Friday's negotiations between Iran and the United States in Pakistan to put an end to a US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic failed to produce an agreement due to the American delegation's excessive demands.

The talks followed a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire agreement which temporarily ended the aggression which began on February 28. The 14-day ceasefire expires on April 22.

During the aggression, the US and Israel assassinated Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and several high-ranking military commanders and killed more than 3,000 civilians.

"What justified military aggression on our country? What justification exists within international law and humanitarian principles for targeting civilians, elites, children, and destroying vital centers such as schools and hospitals?" Pezeshkian asked.

The Iranian president also criticized current double standards in international policies, an apparent reference to policies pursued by Western powers, stressing that any military offensive against sovereign countries is in sheer violation of all accepted international principles.

Resumption of negotiations

Mediators moved closer Wednesday

to extending the ceasefire between the US and Iran and restarting negotiations to salvage the fragile truce before it expires next week.

The US blockade on Iranian ports and renewed Iranian threats have imperiled the week-old agreement, but regional officials said Wednesday they were making progress, telling The Associated Press that the US and Iran had given an "in principle agreement" to extend it to allow for more diplomacy.

Before the two-week ceasefire expires on April 22, mediators are pushing for a compromise on three main sticking points that derailed direct talks last weekend — Iran's nuclear program, the Strait of Hormuz and compensation for wartime damages — according to one of the regional officials who is involved in mediation efforts.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the matter. World leaders including US President Donald Trump and UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on Tuesday that revived talks in the upcoming days were likely.



President Masoud Pezeshkian (2nd R) visits the Emergency Medical Services Organization of Tehran on April 15, 2026.
president.ir

"You should stay there [Islamabad], really, because something could be happening over the next two days, and we're more inclined to go there," Trump was quoted as saying in an interview with the New York Post.

Pakistan's Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-level political-security delegation, carrying a new message

from the US. Munir's delegation, which includes representatives from the Foreign Ministry, security institutions and technical experts, landed in the Iranian capital on Wednesday. The purpose of the visit is to deliver a US message to the Iranian leadership and to plan the next round of negotiations.

Arms used in Iran war part of Persian Gulf states' arsenals: UN envoy

International Desk

Iran's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani said on Tuesday that physical remnants recovered from weapons used in recent aggression by the US and Israel against Iran confirm these arms were part of the arsenals of some Persian Gulf Arab states.

Iravani made the remarks in a letter addressed to Secretary-General António Guterres and Security Council President Jamal Fares Alrowaie in response to a letter from Bahrain to the UN in which it had leveled accusations against the Islamic Republic.

"The Islamic Republic categorically dismisses as wholly unfounded and deliberately misleading the assertions claimed in said letter. In this regard, I am further instructed to place on record the definitive affirmation of the clear international responsibility borne by the same States as a consequence of their own internationally wrongful acts." Iravani detailed a response to a



letter dated April 7, 2026, from Bahrain's UN representative, which deliberately omits a "central and determinative fact": an unlawful armed attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran on February 28, 2026, carried out by the United States and Israel.

The letter said that the attack was a flagrant violation of international law, including the prohibition of the use of force and the norm against aggression.

It further notes that the aggressors utilized the "facilities, territory and airspace of certain States in the region" for planning and executing these acts of aggression. As a specific example, the letter cited "barbaric terrorist attacks

against a school in Minab," which resulted in the deaths of at least 168 primary school children and were launched from the territory of these states.

Monitoring data from Iran's Armed Forces, according to the letter, indicates the repeated use of these states' territories and airspace for "planning, preparation, arming and execution of unlawful military operations against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

"Physical remnants from the weaponry used in the aggression, identified in multiple Iranian cities, confirm they were part of the arsenals of certain Persian Gulf states," it added.

It further argued that this evidence demonstrates complicity and direct engagement in acts of aggression as defined by international law.

The letter emphasized that such conduct engages the international responsibility of these states, requiring them to make "full reparation, including, in particular, the provision of full compensation for the damage caused."

Top cmdr. warns US over illegal naval blockade in Persian Gulf

Iran's top military commander, Major General Ali Abdollahi, issued a stern warning to the United States, saying that any attempt to block maritime trade in the Persian Gulf or Sea of Oman would be met with decisive action.

In remarks made on Wednesday, General Abdollahi, the commander of Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, emphasized that if the US continues its illegal maritime blockade and creates insecurity for Iranian commercial vessels and oil tankers, it would be a violation of the ceasefire agreement, Press TV reported.

He added that Iran's military forces would not allow any exports or imports to take place in the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, or the Red Sea. "Should the aggressive and terrorist United States continue its illegal action of naval blockade in the region and creates insecurity for Iranian commercial ships and oil tankers, this action by the US will be the precursor to violating the ceasefire, and the powerful Iranian armed forces will not allow any exports or imports to continue in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the Red Sea," he said.

"Iran will take strong measures to defend its national sovereignty and interests," he added. On Monday, US President Donald Trump announced a sweeping naval blockade of Iranian ports, declaring that the US Navy would "seek and interdict every vessel" attempting to enter or leave Iran's coastal areas.

The move was framed as a response to col-



Ali Abdollahi

lapsed peace talks in Pakistan and Iran's administration of traffic in the Strait of Hormuz. But within hours, the blockade showed its first cracks. At least four Iran-linked vessels, including a US-sanctioned Chinese oil tanker, transited the strait without incident.

Shipping data cited by Reuters showed the first full day of the blockade made little difference to Strait of Hormuz traffic, with at least eight ships crossing the waterway.

The blockade has created even further uncertainty for shippers, oil companies and war risk insurers. Traffic remains at only a fraction of the 130-plus daily crossings before the US and Israel's war on Iran began on February 28, industry sources said.

The US Central Command claims it has defined a 21,000-square-mile enforcement zone along Iran's coastline, with at least 15 warships monitoring shipping transponder data, radar, and aerial patrols. The stated objective is to stop Iranian oil exports.

Parliament speaker, Emirati VP discuss de-escalation efforts after war

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and the United Arab Emirates Vice President Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan discussed de-escalation efforts as the US-Israeli aggression against Iran has plunged the region into a wider conflict.

The UAE state news agency WAM reported on Wednesday that discussions between the Emirati official over the phone with the Iranian speaker dwelt on regional developments and ways to de-escalate tensions in the region.

Qalibaf led the Iranian delegation during recent negotiations between Iran and the US in Pakistan's capital. The phone call was the first contact



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf



Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan

between the two countries' officials since the establishment of a two-week ceasefire between Iran and the US, which temporarily ended the US-Israeli aggression against Iran. During the aggression, the US military bases and economic benefits in

the UAE as well as the Arab country's refineries and oil fields were the target of Iran's retaliatory attacks.

Iran had earlier warned the regional countries about the US's use of their territories to launch strikes on Iran.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

