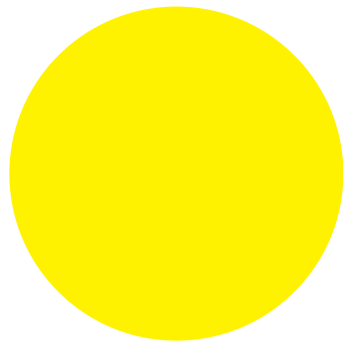


Iqbal's school can dynamize global peace dialogue

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Iran Daily

Vol. 8102 • Monday, April 27, 2026 • Ordibehesht 07, 1405 • Dhu al-Qadah 09, 1447 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages



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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) shakes hands with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said in Muscat on April 26, 2026. IRNA

Islamic Republic's security architecture in ceasefire era



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OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In the strategic lexicon of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a ceasefire is rarely viewed as a terminal point of conflict or a transition to Western-style "liberal peace." Instead, it is interpreted through the lens of "tactical consolidation" and "active deterrence." For Tehran, the period following the cessation of kinetic hostilities is a critical phase of the "grey zone" conflict, where security is maintained not by the absence of threat, but by the meticulous management of it.

Doctrine of 'forward defense' & proxy calibration

A primary pillar of Iranian strategy during a ceasefire is the preservation and recalibration of its "strategic depth." Iran utilizes the lull in direct kinetic action to replenish the inventories of its regional partners—the Axis of Resistance. From a security perspective, a ceasefire is the optimal window for logistical reinforcement. Rather than de-escalating, Tehran focuses on "qualitative upgrading." This involves transitioning allied groups from using unguided munitions to precision-guided missiles (PGMs) and advanced loitering munitions. By doing so, Iran ensures that the cost of breaking the ceasefire remains prohibitively high for its adversaries. In this context, security is defined as a state of "armed equilibrium" where the threat of a multi-front resurgence serves as the primary guarantor of the status quo.

Asymmetric deterrence & technological leapfrogging

For the Islamic Republic, a ceasefire provides the necessary "strategic breathing room" to address vulnerabilities exposed during active combat. From a technical security standpoint, this involves a rapid feedback loop between the battlefield and the laboratory. Iranian military doctrine emphasizes asymmetric capabilities—specifically drones, ballistic missiles, and fast-attack naval craft. During a ceasefire, the focus shifts to cyber-electromagnetic activities (CEMA) and hardening critical infrastructure. The strategy is to move the confrontation from the "visible" battlefield to the "invisible" digital and cognitive realms. By enhancing its cyber-offensive capabilities during a ceasefire, Tehran maintains a "latent strike" capability that can bypass traditional air defenses, thereby maintaining a psychological edge over its opponents without firing a physical shot.

Strategic patience & cognitive warfare

The Iranian leadership often employs the concept of "strategic patience." In a ceasefire environment, this manifests as a sophisticated form of cognitive warfare. The security apparatus shifts its focus toward domestic and international narratives. Iran utilizes diplomatic channels and public diplomacy to highlight the fact that the adversary was the aggressor.

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