

# Putin hails Iranians' heroic fight for independence

## Araghchi calls Tehran-Moscow relations 'strategic partnership'

### International Desk

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday praised Iranians' courageous and heroic fighting for their independence and sovereignty in the face of an unprovoked aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime.

The Russian president made the remarks during a meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in Saint Petersburg which was the final leg of his regional tour, which also took him to Pakistan and Oman.

Putin told Iran's top diplomat that Moscow would do everything it could to help secure peace in the Middle East. "For our part, we will do everything that serves your interests, the interests of all the people of the region, so that peace can be achieved as soon as possible," the Russian state media quoted Putin as telling Araghchi.

Putin also hailed "how courageously and heroically the people of Iran are fighting for their independence and sovereignty," the TASS news agency reported.

"Russia, just like Iran, intends to continue our strategic relationship," the

Kremlin chief added.

The Iranian foreign minister, for his part, said relations between Moscow and Tehran are a strategic partnership and will continue to be strengthened. Regarding the ongoing aggression against Iran, Araghchi said that the whole world witnessed Iran's true power in confronting the US, and it became clear that Iran is a stable and powerful system.

He added that the people of Iran, with their courage, were able to resist American aggression and will be capable of overcoming it.

Araghchi also thanked Moscow for its support for Iran, noting that in the recent war, it became clear that Iran has great friends and allies such as Russia. His tour came as regional countries, especially Pakistan, are trying hard to hold the second round of negotiations between Tehran and Washington after the first round in Islamabad failed to produce an agreement.

### Peace talks

Speaking on his arrival in Russia, Araghchi blamed Washington for the failure of talks on brokering a deal to end



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) shakes hands with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi during their meeting at the Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library in Saint Petersburg on April 27, 2026.

• TASS

the fighting, with a ceasefire between the sides still holding.

Araghchi said it was America's approach that "caused the negotiations to be delayed" that had been planned in Islamabad.

"The previous one, despite the progress that had been made, could not achieve its goals," he said, blaming what he called Washington's "excessive demands."

Washington and Tehran are at a costly impasse as Iran has largely closed the Strait of Hormuz, which normally carries one-fifth of global oil shipments, while the US blocks Iran's oil exports. Iran refused to participate in the second round due to the US violation of a Pakistan-brokered ceasefire by imposing a blockade on Iran's ports.

The US and Israel launched a war of aggression against Iran on February 28, assassinating Leader of the Islam-



ic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, several top military commanders and hundreds of Iranian civilians.

Iran's Armed Forces responded with 100 waves of retaliatory strikes un-

der Operation True Promise 4 against American military bases across West Asia and Israeli positions throughout the occupied territories.

On April 8, a ceasefire was brokered by Pakistan between the two sides.

## Resistance Front standing firm by Hezbollah: Quds Force cmdr.

### Hezbollah chief rejects Lebanon-Israeli talks, vows to confront regime

### International Desk

The chief commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) categorically dismissed Israeli propaganda aimed at downplaying Hezbollah's power, while underlining regional resistance forces' all-out support for the movement.

"The heroic resistance of Hezbollah in Lebanon has proven that the narratives being communicated by the child-killing Zionist regime claiming the end of resistance and the destruction of Hezbollah are nothing but lies," Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani said in a message on Monday.

"The [entire] arenas of resistance are standing by the heroic Hezbollah's side stronger and more cohesively than ever," he added.

The comments came amid the regime's continued violations of a 10-day ceasefire announced earlier this month, which has been met with steadfast retaliation on the part of Hezbollah.

Tel Aviv has simultaneously been trying to pressure Lebanon to act towards Hezbollah's disarmament, besides spreading propaganda alleging weakening of the movement's firepower and resolve, only to be faced with the group's unequivocal rebuttal of such claims.



### Iran's unbridled support

Meanwhile, Hezbollah's secretary general said on Monday Iran's insistence on ending Israeli aggression against Lebanon during indirect negotiations with Washington was the decisive factor that made a ceasefire with Israel possible.

"A ceasefire would not have been achieved without Iran's position during the Pakistan talks," Sheikh Naim Qassem said in a televised statement on Monday.

The Hezbollah chief noted that the Tel Aviv regime is currently at an impasse, and Hezbollah remains staunchly prepared, strong, and invincible.

Earlier this month, negotiations began between Iranian and US delegations in Islamabad on an end to the US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Ever since, Tehran had kept pushing for a ceasefire in Lebanon as a major condition for any progress in the talks

and the start of the second round of negotiations.

This finally forced US President Donald Trump and the Tel Aviv regime to comply on this issue.

Israel was trying to continue the war on Lebanon despite the ceasefire in Iran, and the United States was also trying to evade this issue by violating its initial commitment.

Iran once again showed that it stands by its principled positions and that resistance pays off.

"The resistance continues to be strong and cannot be defeated, and the enemy was surprised by the steadfastness of the fighters," the Hezbollah leader said.

### Talks with Israel

Sheikh Qassem went on to roundly dismiss the notion of direct negotiations with Israel, emphasizing such talks would neither be in the interest of Lebanese authorities nor the Arab nation at large.

The Hezbollah leader also sharply criticized the Beirut government for making concessions to the occupying Tel Aviv regime, urging officials to abandon the initiative seeking direct talks and instead opt for indirect negotiations.

Sheikh Qassem also underscored that Hezbollah's weapons are tied to deterring Israeli aggression and stressed that the Lebanese resistance movement would not disarm.

## Qalibaf: US has burned its oil options as Iran holds major levers in reserve

### International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf issued a direct response to fresh provocations from the US administration, exposing Washington's exhausted playbook in the oil market while Tehran holds decisive strategic cards.

Qalibaf on Sunday took to social media to dismantle American bravado over energy leverage, reminding Washington that the global oil equation remains firmly balanced, with Iran still possessing major unplayed cards, Press TV reported.

He posted on X, "They brag about the cards. The message was interpreted by analysts as a calm, factual warning to US policymakers: do not mistake temporary market maneuvers for real strength. While the Islamic Republic has only partially activated its options -- including the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, and key pipeline routes -- the United States has already burned through its easiest and most immediate measures, notably Strategic Petroleum Reserve releases and limited demand-side pressure.

Iranian officials have repeatedly stressed that the Islamic Republic maintains full sovereign control over critical energy chokepoints that supply a massive share of



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf  
• IRNA

the world's oil. These assets remain largely unplayed, giving Tehran significant flexibility to respond to any escalation.

In contrast, Washington's toolkit is visibly depleted. The US has already drawn heavily on emergency reserves and witnessed partial demand erosion, leaving it with few genuine options as the American summer driving season -- a period of peak gasoline consumption -- approaches.

Analysts note that further US provocations risk driving pump prices toward six dollars a gallon or higher, directly threatening the summer vacation plans of ordinary American families.

Speaker Qalibaf's pointed reference to "summer vacation" underscores the domestic political cost the US administration would face if its aggressive posture backfires on voters.

## Hormuz may take ...

Still, the success of such maneuvering ultimately depends on how far Moscow is prepared to bear the political cost of openly backing such a plan.

What matters here is that Iran appears to have correctly recognized that the core conflict is not simply a war over a maritime passage, but a contest over control of one of the principal nodes in the vital flows of global order. Such a field naturally requires a degree of prior strategic coordination before any new order becomes institutionalized at the international level.

From that angle, making intelligent use of the capacities of powers that share interests with Iran in certain domains is not a luxury option, but a necessity for elevating Tehran's position in the architecture of a future order.

### If the United States does not agree to this proposal, what alternative short-term scenarios could Iran pursue?

First, intensifying tactical control over the Strait of Hormuz in a way that raises the cost of ignoring its proposal, while avoiding direct military confrontation.

Second, strengthening parallel diplomatic tracks with Russia, China and Arab states to demonstrate that Iran's complete isolation is not feasible.

Third, managing time by preserving the status quo in the nuclear file to prevent a new consensus from forming against it until political conditions in the United States or the region shift.

It could be said that although this phase carries risks of escalation, it still forms part of a "diplomatic timing game," through which Iran seeks to leverage time itself while increasing its bargaining power.



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