

# 'We haven't even started': Iran warns of escalation as US buckles in Hormuz

## International Desk

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf warned that the ongoing situation in the Strait of Hormuz is becoming "unbearable" for the United States, while Tehran has "not even started yet."

In a post on X on Tuesday, Qalibaf asserted that a "new equation" is being established in the strategic waterway. "The security of shipping and energy transit has been endangered by the United States and its allies through the violation of the ceasefire and the imposition of a blockade," Qalibaf wrote. "Of course, their evil will be diminished." "We know very well that the continuation of the current situation is unbearable for the United States, while we haven't even started yet," he added.

Iran's military on Monday warned that it will target any foreign forces approaching or entering the Strait of Hormuz after the US said it would help guide ships through the strategic waterway.

On Sunday, US President Donald Trump claimed that the new US maritime operation, which he dubbed "Project Freedom", was a humanitarian gesture for crews aboard the many ships stuck in the Persian Gulf who may be running low on supplies. He said the US would help ships from countries not involved in the conflict.

Shortly after Iran's warning, Fars News Agency reported that a US frigate in the strait "was targeted by a missile attack after ignoring a warning from the Iranian navy," adding that it was hit and forced to turn back.

However, CENTCOM denied the report, saying that no US frigate was struck by the Iranian forces.

The Iranian Navy also fired warning shots at several US destroyers in the Sea of Oman, which tried to enter the strait.

## FM: 'Project Freedom' turning to 'Project Deadlock'

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also took to the X, saying that recent



The photo shows two men sitting in a skiff and fishing near a vessel anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas in southern Iran on May 5, 2026.

ISNA

developments in the Strait of Hormuz have once again made it crystal clear that there is no military solution to the political crisis in the West Asian region, reaffirming the Islamic Republic's policy of pursuing diplomacy from a position of strength.

In a post on X on Monday night, Araghchi highlighted steady progress in indirect talks between Iran and the United States, crediting Pakistan's sincere and constructive mediation efforts.

"As talks are making progress thanks to Pakistan's gracious efforts, the U.S. should be wary of being dragged back into a quagmire by ill-wishers. So should the UAE," the top Iranian diplomat said.

Araghchi also sharply dismissed Washington's much-publicized "Project



Freedom" — a naval initiative aimed at exerting military pressure in the Strait of Hormuz — calling it "Project Deadlock."

Iran shut down the chokepoint to enemies and their allies following the launch on February 28 of the United States' and the Israeli regime's latest bout of unprovoked aggression target-

ing the Islamic Republic. The Islamic Republic began exercising far stricter controls last month after Trump announced a blockade of Iranian vessels and ports in continuation of the aggression and in violation of the terms of a ceasefire agreement reached between the two countries following peace negotiations in Pakistan.

## Araghchi in China for high-stakes talks amid Persian Gulf tensions

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi was scheduled to arrive in Beijing on Tuesday for talks with Chinese officials on the latest developments in the West Asia region as well as the peace negotiations between Iran and the US, in which "some progress" have been made.

"During the visit, he will meet his Chinese counterpart (Wang Yi) to discuss bilateral ties and regional and international developments," Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The visit to China comes after a three-leg diplomatic tour that took the Iranian foreign minister to Russia, Pakistan and Oman last week.

The war, launched by the US and Israel with a vast wave of surprise strikes on February 28 has been on hold since April 8, but only one round of direct talks has taken place between Iranian and US representatives.

Since the failure of the first round of the negotiations in Pakistan, regional countries have been trying to get the US and Iran to the second round of ne-



Abbas Araghchi  
IRNA

gotiations. But 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.

Iranian officials have also blamed the US side for putting forward excessive demands and shifting its position at the negotiating table for the failure of the first negotiations.

Tehran has submitted a 14-point proposal to Washington aimed at permanently resolving the issue of war.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said on Monday Iran has received Washington's response to Tehran's proposal regarding negotiations, saying that reviewing the US re-

sponse is not easy due to its pattern of "excessive demands and unreasonable requests."

The diplomatic efforts come as attacks on ships and the UAE's refineries in recent days have reignited tensions in the Persian Gulf which has been calm for weeks after the ceasefire between Iran and the US.

The Iranian foreign minister said on Monday that developments in the Strait of Hormuz show that there was no military solution to the crisis. He said peace talks were progressing with Pakistan's mediation while warning the US and the UAE against being drawn into a "quagmire by ill-wishers." Meanwhile, Pakistan's prime minister condemned missile and drone attack on civilian infrastructure in the UAE, and said it was "absolutely essential" for the cease-fire between the US and Iran to be upheld.

Shehbaz Sharif, whose country played a significant role in recent negotiations between the US and Iran, said in a post on X that maintenance of the truce would allow the diplomatic space for dialogue and lead to enduring peace and stability in the region.

## Tehran blasts Arab League move for distorting 'root causes' of regional crisis

### International Desk

Iran condemned on Tuesday a recent resolution adopted by the Arab League, saying that the resolution willfully disregards the "undeniable root causes" of the current situation in the region.

In a letter addressed to the United Nations Security Council, Iran's Permanent Representative, Amir Saeid Iravani, dismissed Resolution 9245, transmitted by Bahrain as chair of the 165th session of the Council of the Arab League.

"Any attempt to misrepresent realities or to shield the perpetrators of aggression from accountability will neither alter the legal facts nor absolve those responsible of their international obligations and consequences," he further said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically and unequivocally rejects this resolution in its entirety, together with the unfounded, misleading, and politically motivated allegations contained therein," Iravani wrote.

The letter slammed the resolution for willfully disregarding the "undeniable root causes" of the current situation in the region. Iravani asserted that the document omits a central fact, namely that the United States and Israel have perpetrated acts of aggression against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity in violation of international law and the UN Charter.

The US-Israeli aggression against Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders, including Leader of the Islamic Republic



Amir Saeid Iravani  
IRNA

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The Iranian Armed Forces responded by launching daily missile and drone operations targeting locations in the Israeli-occupied territories as well as US military bases and assets across the region.

According to Iravani, the Arab League resolution seeks to "distort both the factual record and the applicable legal framework" by falsely attributing responsibility to Iran, which is a victim of an unlawful war of aggression.

The ambassador further reiterated the country's legal position regarding its right to self-defense under international law, including measures taken in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Iravani also recalled Iran's prior communications to the secretary-general and the Security Council concerning the internationally wrongful acts and complicity of several Arab states, including Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan, for their role in "aiding and abetting the aggressor."

## Military source: Five killed in US attack on civilian boats

### International Desk

An Iranian military source rejected the US claim of targeting Iran's speedboats in the Persian Gulf, saying that the attack targeted two civilian cargo boats heading from the Omani coast to the Iranian shoreline.

Citing a military source on Tuesday, Tasnim News Agency said that the US military attack on boats claimed the lives of at least five people.

"Instead of targeting IRGC speedboats, the United States, in a blatant crime, opened fire on two small boats carrying civilians' goods."

Detailing the developments on the ground following issuance of the false account by Washington, the source said, "Given that none of the IRGC's combat vessels had been hit, local sources were consulted to verify the nature of the incident."

"The investigation revealed that US forces had [actually] attacked and fired on two small cargo boats transporting goods belonging to civilians. The boats were traveling from [the town of] Khasab, along the coast of Oman, towards Iranian shores. The attack resulted in the deaths of five civilian passengers." The source asserted that the Amer-

icans had to certainly be held accountable for the crime.

It attributed perpetration of the crime to the enemy's acting in a "hasty and clumsy" manner due to the "inexplicable fear and nightmare" it has been experiencing since the Islamic Republic issued credible warnings against hostile and trespassing vessels in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Tensions have been rife in the Persian Gulf and around the strategic chokehold since February 28, when the United States and the Israeli regime began their latest bout of unprovoked aggression against Iran.



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## CARTOON

