

Tehran to accept no less than 'fair, comprehensive' deal: Araghchi

China denounces 'illegitimate' US-Israeli war on Iran

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Wednesday that Tehran would use all its strength in negotiations to protect its legitimate rights and interests, stressing that Iran will not be satisfied with anything less than a "fair and comprehensive agreement."

The Iranian foreign minister made the remarks in a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing.

It was the first visit by the Iranian foreign minister to China since the start of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran on February 28.

Araghchi's remarks came as hopes are rising for the resumption of peace talks between Tehran and Washington to end the US-Israeli aggression after the first round of the talks mediated by Pakistan failed to produce agreement due to the US's excessive demands.

US President Donald Trump

said Tuesday he was pausing the US effort to guide stranded vessels out of the Strait of Hormuz to allow time for a deal to end the Iran war.

He said the US blockade of Iranian ports, however, would remain in place as Tehran kept up its own closure of the vital trade route in response to the US-Israeli campaign, rattling markets and spiking fuel prices.

Trump said the move was based "on the request of Pakistan and other Countries and the fact that, "Great Progress has been made toward a Complete and Final Agreement with Representatives of Iran."

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was optimistic Trump's "courageous leadership and timely announcement" could foster a deal.

"We are very hopeful that the current momentum will lead to a lasting agreement that secures durable peace and stability for the region and beyond," he said in a post on X.

Washington is now confident that it is close to reaching a deal with Tehran to reopen the crucial waterway and halt the conflict, US news outlet Axios reported Wednesday, citing two US officials.

It reported both sides are close to agreeing on a "one-page memorandum of understanding to end the war," and start a 30-day period of talks that could take place in Geneva or Islamabad.

Call for complete ceasefire

During the meeting in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called the US-Israeli war on Tehran "illegitimate" and urged a complete ceasefire.

"We believe that a comprehensive ceasefire is urgently needed, that a resumption of hostilities is not acceptable, and that it is particularly important to remain committed to dialogue and negotiations," Wang told Araghchi.



Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi before a meeting in Beijing, China, on May 6, 2026.

● XINHUA

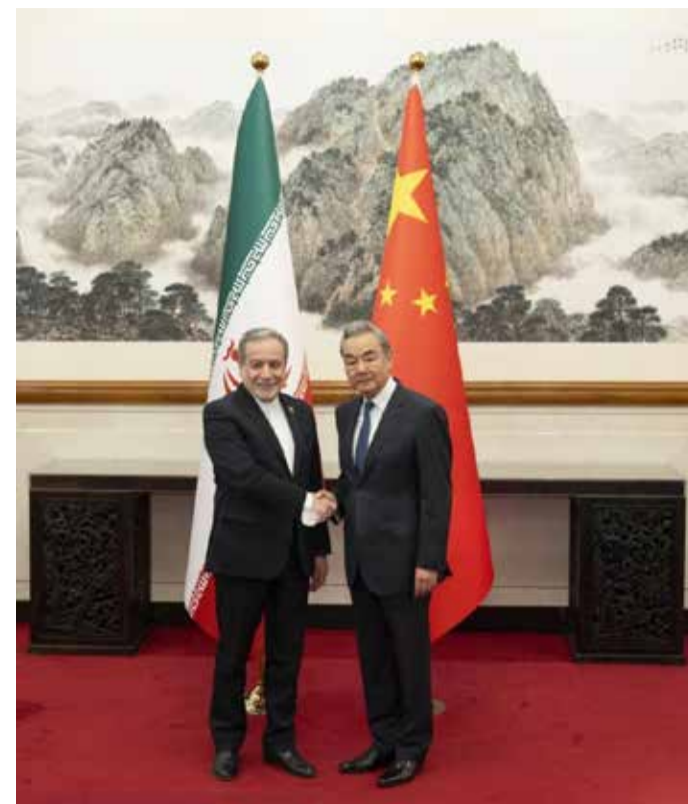
He criticized the military aggressions of the US and Israel against Iran, adding, "The region is passing through a decisive turning point and direct meetings between the parties are essential."

Araghchi thanked China for its firm stand, describing Beijing as a sincere friend to Tehran.

China's foreign minister also said Beijing would play a "greater role" in ending hostilities.

China is a key customer for Iranian oil, defying sanctions imposed by the United States, and is directly affected by the blockage of the Strait of Hormuz bordered by Iran.

Beijing has quietly engaged in efforts to resolve the weeklong crisis and its diplomacy is cred-



ited with playing an important role in the fragile ceasefire agreed between Washington and Tehran.

China "will work harder to ease tensions and end the fighting, continue to support the launch of peace talks, and play a greater role in restoring peace and

tranquility to the Middle East," Wang said.

"On the nuclear issue, China welcomes Iran's commitment not to develop nuclear weapons, while considering that Iran has the legitimate right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy," Wang said.

Pezeshkian says Iran never to cave in to US bullying, coercion

International Desk

Iranian President said on Tuesday that Iran rejects the language of threats, and will never submit to US "bullying" as tensions are still high between Tehran and Washington following an aggression against Iran on February 28.

However, the Iranian president said that Iran is prepared to engage any dialogue within the framework of international law.

Pezeshkian made the remarks in a phone call with Iraqi prime minister-designate Ali Faleh al-Zaidi on Tuesday, during which they discussed the challenges faced by regional countries following the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready for any dialogue within the framework of international law, but based on its faith, belief, and conviction, it has not submitted and will never submit to coercion in any way. If they speak to us logically, dialogue is possible, but the language of threats and bullying will not lead anywhere," Pezeshkian said during the phone call.

The US and Israel started a fresh round of aerial aggression on Iran on February 28, some eight months after they carried out unprovoked attacks on the country.

Iran began to swiftly retaliate against the strikes by launching barrages of missile and drone attacks on the Israeli-occupied territories as well as



Masoud Pezeshkian



Ali Faleh al-Zaidi

on US bases and interests in regional countries.

On April 8, a Pakistan-brokered temporary ceasefire between Iran and the US took effect. However, subsequent peace negotiations in Islamabad ultimately failed amid Washington's maximalist demands and insistence on unreasonable positions.

Despite the ongoing ceasefire announced, US President Donald Trump continues to threaten Iran with military aggression, while refusing to lift a so-called naval blockade on Iranian ports in the Persian Gulf.

Iran has maintained that the blockade amounts to piracy and warned that if the security of its ports in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is threatened, no other port will be safe.

Pezeshkian stressed that the Islamic Republic is keen to maintain its relations with the Persian Gulf Arab states

based on good neighborliness.

"We do not want any conflict with our brothers in the region, but the reality is that our country's schools, hospitals, and infrastructure were bombed from American bases located on the territory of some countries in the region and with the use of their space and facilities," he said.

"We call for unity and cohesion among the Muslim Ummah based on religious teachings, and we believe that if the right, fair, and just path is followed, there will be no reason left for disagreement," the president added.

For his part, al-Zaidi vowed to enhance relations with Iran in the economic, political, security and regional convergence fields.

He also expressed Baghdad's readiness to host negotiations between Iran and the United States with the aim of ending the war.

Iran dismisses claims of missile strikes on UAE

Tehran urges Abu Dhabi to refrain from aligning with aggressors

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement rejected accusations leveled by the United Arab Emirates against Tehran, calling on the Persian Gulf Arab country to discontinue its alignment and cooperation with the parties that are hostile towards Iran.

The statement came after the UAE accused Iran of attacking the country with a barrage of missiles and drones, setting an oil refinery ablaze in the eastern emirate of Fujairah and wounding three Indian nationals.

The UAE's Ministry of Defense said its air defenses "engaged" 12 ballistic missiles, three cruise missiles and four drones launched from Iran on Monday.

But Iran's state broadcaster IRIB quoted a well-informed military source as saying that Iran had "no pre-planned program to attack the mentioned oil facilities."

Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters stressed that no such operations had been conducted, adding that any action would have been "clearly and officially announced."

Moreover, Iran's Foreign Ministry denounced Emirati rulers for accusing Iran of targeting the Arab country, underlining that the Islamic Republic's retaliatory measures are solely aimed at hostile targets inside the Emirates.

It condemned the accusations as baseless, in alignment with the United States, and in violation of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter.

In the face of the accusations, the message went on, "The Islamic Republic has exercised maximum



● IRNA

restraint, adopting a responsible approach and out of respect for the collective good of the region and the Muslim community."

However, the ministry concluded, the Islamic Republic "will not hesitate to take any necessary and appropriate measures to defend its national interests and security."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry also noted that Abu Dhabi's allowing its soil to be amply used for attacks targeting Iran throughout the latest round of the United States' and the Israeli regime's unprovoked aggression against the country.

It cautioned the Emirates against continuing its "destructive actions in collusion with the hostile parties."

The UAE and a whole host of other regional states, including Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Jordan, have allowed their respective territories to serve as launch pads for attacks on the Iranian soil throughout the aggression that lasted from February 28 until April 8.

IRCS lodges 35 war crimes complaints against US, Israel

The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) says Tehran has sent 35 documents proving war crimes committed by the US and Israel during the recent aggression against the country to international organizations.

Speaking at a news conference on Wednesday, Pirhossein Kolivand noted that the Red Crescent Society has informed international forums about the dimensions of US-Israeli war crimes in Iran.

"One of our achievements in this regard was that we asked the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to accept the documents provided by the

Red Crescent of the Islamic Republic of Iran as official evidence," he said.

He noted that the society has so far "registered 35 documents on violations" of international humanitarian law committed by the US and Israel in Iran war, Press TV reported.

"If you look at the interviews of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, you see that after the twentieth letter they explicitly do not recognize Israel as a country," Kolivand said.

He noted that representatives of several international organizations arrived in Iran, adding that a high-ranking UN

representative said that he "will be the voice of the Iranian people."

He added that a delegation from Iran's Red Crescent Society will travel to Geneva in mid-June to tell the governments about the clear and transparent crimes of the Zionist-American regime.

The official noted that Iran's efforts to pursue legal action against the aggressors comes as the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who was martyred in the first day of the US-Israeli aggression, had instructed the country's officials to pursue the rights of the nation through legal channels.



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Cartoonist

CARTOON

