

Pezeshkian hails Pope's stance on war against Iran

President reaffirms commitment to diplomacy to resolve disputes with US

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday commended Pope Leo for his recent stance on the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, while urging the international community to counter the "illegal demands and adventurous, dangerous policies" of the US government. In a message to the leader of the world's Catholics, Pezeshkian thanked the Pope for his "ethical, logical, and fair positions" on the war which the president branded as an assault on the rule of law at the global level, international law, human values, and the teachings of divine religions. Pezeshkian said that the "destructive approach" of the United States and Israel, along with their "illegitimate

attacks," were not directed solely against Iran.

"The costs of this dangerous approach will inevitably be borne by the entire international community," he pointed out.

Leo, the first American pontiff, had decried the deaths of "so many" civilians in the conflict and lamented the collapse of US-Iran peace talks. According to the Pope, the aggression created a "chaotic situation for the global economy," along with "a whole population in Iran, of innocent people, which is suffering because of this war."

His criticism met with a sharp reaction from the US President Donald Trump who criticized Leo, calling him "weak on crime".

The war broke out on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated

senior Iranian officials and commanders, including Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. More than 3,700 people were killed in the strikes on Iran.

The president noted that Iran had consistently proven its "commitment to diplomacy and peaceful solutions for resolving issues," including with the US government.

"Despite repeated US betrayals of the negotiating table, Iran has welcomed mediation and entered the Islamabad talks in good faith and professionally."

The president also warned that the use of US military bases in Persian Gulf Arab countries for the aggression forced Iran's Armed Forces, in self-defense, to target aggressor interests and assets in those countries.

"This is while, as history testifies, we have never threatened or encroached upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our neighbors, and we continue to seek the best possible relations with all our neighbors, as well as a life of peace, tranquility, and prosperity in the region," he stated.

The president reaffirmed Iran's commitment to dialogue and peaceful problem-solving, saying that resistance to illegal US demands was tantamount to defending international law and human values.

"The international community is expected to adopt a realistic and fair approach to counter the illegal demands and adventurous, dangerous policies of the United States," he added.



Masoud Pezeshkian
president.ir

Hormuz crisis rests with 'initiators of war' against Iran, region: UN envoy



The Gambia-flagged tanker vessel Bili anchors in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, in southern Iran, on May 2, 2026.
ISNA

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations said the responsibility for the current situation in the Strait of Hormuz and its global economic repercussions lies primarily with those who started the war against the Islamic Republic and their regional allies.

Amir Saeed Iravani made the remarks during a special session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) titled "Protecting energy flows and supply; Supporting global development through international cooperation" on Friday, Press TV reported.

"We declare very clearly that the current situation in the Strait of Hormuz

and its global economic consequences are solely the responsibility of the initiators of the war against Iran and their regional partners," he said.

Iravani went on to say that "growing instability in energy markets, supply chains and global trade flows represents a serious challenge to sustainable development, international cooperation and global economic stability."

He further noted that Iran has faced detrimental impacts stemming from two acts of aggression over the past year, both of which constituted blatant violations of the United Nations Charter and international law.

These attacks, Iravani said, have "resulted in the tragic loss of thousands of

innocent civilians, particularly women and children."

They have "also caused widespread destruction of civilian, economic, energy, and environmentally sensitive infrastructure; the consequences of which will not disappear with the end of military operations," he added.

The Iranian envoy to the UN further emphasized that "the most important question before this special meeting is not only how to respond to the current crisis, but also to honestly ask what are the real roots of these crises and growing instabilities."

Iravani proceeded to illuminate certain realities at the core of the current crisis, asserting that they did not "emerge in a vacuum."

He attributed the prevailing instability to the military escalation and unlawful acts of aggression instigated by the Israeli regime and the United States, adding that "these actions have intensified tensions in one of the world's most strategic energy and trade regions and undermined regional and global stability." Iravani further stated that direct assaults on Iran's oil, gas, and petrochemical infrastructure "have caused severe economic and environmental damage in the Persian Gulf region."

Additionally, these attacks have disrupted global energy and fertilizer supply chains, leading to serious implications for food security and agricultural production on a worldwide scale, he said.

Araghchi: Fallouts of war on US economy could be avoided

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Saturday predicted more economic problems for the ordinary people in the United States as a result of a recent aggression against Iran, saying that the pains facing Americans were "avoidable".

"Americans are told that they must absorb rocketing costs of war of choice on Iran," Araghchi wrote on his X account.

"Put aside gas price hike and stock market bubble. Real pain begins when US debt and mortgage rates start to jump. Auto loan delinquencies are already at 30+-year high," he added.

"This was all avoidable," the top diplomat said.

The US and Israel waged their latest bout of unlawful attacks on Iran between February 28 and April 7.

The aggression prompted decisive and uncompromising reprisal



AFP

featuring devastating blows to American and Israeli targets across the region. In addition to causing extensive material damage to the targeted sites, the Islamic Republic shut down the strategic Strait of Hormuz to enemies and their allies, therefore, sending shockwaves throughout global energy markets.

Including reconstruction and replacement costs, the war is so far estimated to have run Washington a cost likely ranging between \$40

and \$50 billion. Economists, meanwhile, project the overall cost of continued restrictions imposed on the Strait of Hormuz to end up astronomically higher.

On Friday, Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, Iran's Parliament speaker, warned that the United States' efforts at sustaining military escalation near the strait could trigger a fresh global financial crisis at a time when Washington's national debt already stands at a whopping \$39 trillion.

Tehran tells German chancellor era of unilateral 'musts' over

International Desk

Iran's ambassador to Germany on Saturday hit back at the German chancellor who has recently stated Iran must return to the negotiating table and open the Strait of Hormuz, saying that the era of unilateral and authoritarian "musts" has ended.

Following a phone conversation with US President Donald Trump on Friday, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz in a post on X said that "Iran must now return to the negotiating table," "the Strait of Hormuz must be opened," and "Tehran must not possess nuclear weapons."

Ambassador Majid Nili responded to the Merz's post, saying that, "The era of commanding and unilateral 'musts' is over."

"If the aim is pressure and excessive

demands, the failed experience of American and Israeli warmongers is there for all to see," he added.

Rejecting the allegations regarding Iran's nuclear program, Nili stated, "You know very well that Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons. Do not point the finger at the wrong address."

Addressing German officials directly, he said, "If your concern truly is peace, then as a first step and as a human responsibility, you must condemn the crime of US aggressors targeting elementary school students in Minab."

As many as 168 people, most of them young schoolchildren, were killed in a US airstrike that targeted a school in the city of Minab in the southern province of Hormozgan on the first day of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

The aggression began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders, including Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

In response to the US-Israeli aggression, Iranian Armed Forces launched daily missile and drone operations targeting locations in the Israeli-occupied territories as well as US military bases and assets across the region.

Iran has consistently maintained that its nuclear program is entirely peaceful, and that Western claims of an Iranian pursuit of nuclear weapons lack any credible evidence.

Iranian officials have repeatedly stated that pressure, threats, and unilateral rhetoric cannot form the basis for constructive and lasting engagement.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

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