

# We will never bow down to any power: *Pezeshkian*

'Iran to negotiate with dignity'

## International Desk

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian vowed he will never yield to any power or sacrifice the nation's dignity for comfort but said the country should be run with prudence.

The president made the remarks during a meeting with the personnel of the public relations of the executive organizations as Tehran and Washington still prefer diplomacy to end the tensions in the region which have been caused by a recent aggression by the US and Israel against Iran.

Pointing to the opponents of negotiations with the US, Pezeshkian said, "We will negotiate with dignity and will never back

down. It is not right to chant that we will not negotiate. We have logic and we are capable of defending the country's rights with strength."

The president noted that the enemy, having failed to bring Iran to its knees in three days, is now attempting to create division between the Iranian people and their officials.

He further noted that the enemies unjustly killed Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and killed Iranian commanders, ministers, and scientists, and martyred the innocent students without any legal or human rights logic.

Pezeshkian added that those who claimed to uphold human rights and international law saw



those crimes but stood by and only watched.

"They do the same to everyone. Look at Gaza and Palestine —



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a meeting with the personnel of the public relations of the country's executive organizations in Tehran on May 18, 2026.

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what atrocities they commit," he recalled.

"And the American media justify it, claiming they are defending themselves," he said, noting that they call genocide self-defense. "They have power and force, and they do these things."

On February 28, the United States and Israel initiated an unprovoked war against Iran with the assassination of the Ayatollah Khamenei and several high-ranking military commanders.

The US also killed more than 160 people, mostly students, in an air strike on a school in the southern city of Minab on the first day of the aggression.

In response to the US-Israeli aggression, the Iranian Armed Forces carried out 100 waves of counterattacks over 40 days, targeting US and Israeli military assets, which resulted in significant damage.

After 40 days of conflict, Iran and the US agreed a Pakistani-mediated ceasefire and held one round of negotiations in Pakistan that failed to produce agreement.

However, the two sides have been exchanging proposals to resolve disagreements and end the war in the region.

## FM spox: US offered 'revised' terms after rejecting Tehran proposal

Iran, Oman working on new Hormuz transit mechanism

### International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Monday that the United States has sent a set of "revised" points and considerations to Iran through mediator Pakistan despite publicly rejecting Tehran's 14-point peace proposal.

"After Iran sent its 14-point plan, the US side conveyed its considerations. We also presented our considerations in return. Although the American side publicly announced that this plan was rejected, we received from the Pakistani mediator a set of revised points and considerations from their point of view," Esmail Baqaei said during his weekly press conference.

Baqaei emphasized that Iran will certainly not negotiate or compromise on its rights, saying that the country's right to uranium enrichment has been recognized under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and does not need to be recognized by other parties.

Fars News Agency reported on Sunday that Tehran and Washington have exchanged new proposals for resumption of talks stalled over several key issues.

The news agency said that Washington had presented a five-point list which included a demand for Iran to keep only one nuclear site in operation and transfer its stockpile of highly enriched uranium to the United States.

The US also refused to release "even 25 percent" of Iran's frozen assets abroad or pay any reparations for the



damage inflicted on Iran during the aggression which broke out on February 28 against Iran, according to Fars. The report added that the US had conditioned the cessation of hostilities on all fronts on the start of negotiations. In its proposal, Iran has called for an end of the war on all fronts including Israel's campaign in Lebanon, as well as a halt to the US naval blockade on Iranian ports in place since April 13. It also called for lifting all the sanctions and the release of Iranian assets frozen abroad under longstanding US sanctions.

Fars said the Iranian proposal had emphasized that Tehran would continue to manage the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy conduit which it has largely kept closed since the start of the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

The developments came as the US President Donald Trump on Sunday once again threatened consequences for Iran if it does not act quickly.

"For Iran, the Clock is Ticking, and they better get moving, FAST, or there won't be anything left of them. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!," he wrote in a Truth Social post.

### Iran-Oman cooperation on Strait of Hormuz

Regarding the Strait of Hormuz, Baqaei said Iran is engaged in continuous consultations with Oman to design a new mechanism governing transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

He said the Strait of Hormuz is a "vital" maritime passage whose importance extends far beyond Iran, Oman, and the regional countries to the entire world.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always made tremendous efforts to safeguard safe and secure transit through this route and continues to insist that passage through the Strait of Hormuz must take place in the best possible manner with complete safety," he added.

He emphasized that both Iran and Oman consider themselves duty-bound to take necessary measures to ensure secure transit through the Strait of Hormuz, as it is located within the territorial waters of the two coastal states.

Baqaei's comments come amid heightened tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical maritime corridor through which a significant share of the world's energy trade passes.

Iran shut down the strait to its enemies and their allies after the unprovoked US-Israeli aggression. Iranian authorities began enforcing much stricter controls last month following US President Donald Trump's announcement of a blockade targeting Iranian vessels and ports.

## Iran's new authority for Hormuz launches official X account



Iran has launched a new mechanism for governing maritime traffic through the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The Iranian authority controlling the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf has launched an official account on the X social media platform amid efforts to facilitate transit via the key international waterway, Press TV reported.

The Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) said in its first post on the account on Monday that the page will be used to provide "real-time updates on the #Hormuz\_Strait operations and latest developments."

"The official X account of the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (#PGSA) is now live," said the post. It came nearly two weeks after Press TV first reported that Iran had launched a new maritime mechanism for vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

The mechanism allows all ships seeking to transit the Strait to receive an email from the PGSA that informs them about the passage rules and regulations.

The PGSA was formed after Iran took full control of the Strait of Hormuz in response to a US-Israeli aggression on the country that began in late February.

Authorities said after the aggression was halted as part of a ceasefire on April 8 that transit via Hormuz will continue to be governed by Iran under new protocols announced by the country's parliament and other relevant authorities.

According to a draft bill introduced in the Iranian parliament last month, restrictions will be imposed on ships owned by or linked to the US and other adversaries, while ships owned by or linked to the Israeli regime will face an outright ban from transit through the Strait.

The bill also stipulates that ships allowed to pass through the Strait need to comply with a toll payment system, with proceeds dedicated to compensating Iran for damage incurred before and after the aggression and to ensuring passage security and environmental protection.

## Iran eyes two-stage ...

Based on unofficial reports regarding the exchange of messages between Iran and the United States and their content aimed at reaching a political agreement, two points can be inferred. First, Tehran has not introduced a strategic shift in its negotiations or proposals. Second, Iran continues to present its proposals within a fixed framework, making adjustments to the content each time without altering the overall structure.

Iran is pursuing a two-stage negotiation model with the United States. Within this framework, both sides would, in the first phase, reach agreement on general principles. The focus would be on ending the war, changing the governance of the Strait of Hormuz,

reopening the strait, and ending the US naval blockade of Iran.

These general principles would also define clear boundaries for Iran's nuclear and non-nuclear limitations in exchange for Washington's commitments to lift sanctions and restrictions. In the second phase, Iran and the United States would move on to negotiations over the details.

**Amid repeated US threats to return to military escalation if negotiations fail, reports have emerged about Iran's focus on undersea cables in the Strait of Hormuz as a new lever of power. How effective could this tool be in strengthening Iran's deterrence?**

Iran's conduct in the region has already demonstrated that, when it comes to

defending its existence in a wartime environment, the Islamic Republic does not recognize any red lines for itself. Furthermore, many agreements and arrangements that function under normal conditions no longer hold in wartime, prompting a reassessment of frameworks based on new realities. During the 40-day war, one of Iran's strategies was to maximize the cost of war for opposing parties, both directly and indirectly, using every available tool to achieve this objective. The same approach is likely to be carried forward.

Undersea cables in the Strait of Hormuz, much like the strait itself, could become instruments through which the Islamic Republic exerts pressure on opposing parties.

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