

# Top negotiator: No deal with US until Iranian rights secured



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf  
IRNA

## International Desk

Iran's chief negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Sunday that Iran would not agree to any deal with the United States to end the war unless it fully secures Iranian rights.

During a virtual session of the parliament, the top lawmaker said "words and promises" of the United States cannot be trusted.

"We will not approve any agreement until we are sure that we have upheld the rights of the Iranian nation."

His remarks came as reports emerged that US President Donald Trump had sent a tougher peace proposal back to Iran to end the ongoing tensions in the region, that began after the US-Israeli aggression against the Islamic Republic on February 28.

Iran was already in negotiations with the US about the fate of its nuclear program

when the US and Israel launched air and missile strikes.

And, while Tehran has long insisted that its nuclear program is for purely civilian ends, the US and its Western allies have long claimed that it aims to develop a weapon.

The New York Times and Axios reported on Saturday that Trump had sent back a "tougher" new framework to be considered by Iran, though details remain unclear.

Trump has said his priorities include stopping Iran from any nuclear weapon development and re-opening the Hormuz shipping lane, over which Iran has sought to impose control since the war began.

According to Tasnim news agency, "exchanges between Iran and the United States regarding the text of a possible memorandum of understanding are ongoing, with both parties regularly proposing amendments."

"No agreement has yet been finalized, and it is possible that any agreement will be rejected," it said.

Talks between Iran and the US, mediated by Pakistan and facilitated by Qatar, are continuing based on Iran's 14-point proposal. The discussions aim to produce a memorandum to end the war, lift a US blockade on Iranian ports, and secure the release of frozen Iranian assets.

The wide-ranging strikes on Iran sparked conflict across the Middle East. Iran responded by attacking Israel and US military bases in the Persian Gulf, and effectively closing the Strait of Hormuz, through which around 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas travels.

Shortly after a ceasefire was agreed in early April, the US established a blockade of Iranian ports which Trump says will remain "in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed."

## Israel seizes castle in Lebanon as it expands ground offensive

France calls for UNSC emergency meeting over Israel's 'occupation of Lebanese territory'

### International Desk

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to push deeper into Lebanon after his military took over the medieval castle of Beaufort on Sunday as the regime escalates its aggression against the Arab country.

"Now my directive is to deepen and expand our hold in places that were under Hezbollah's control. The capture of Beaufort is a dramatic stage and a dramatic shift in the policy we are leading," Netanyahu said in a video statement released hours after the military took Beaufort.

Lebanon's resistance movement, Hezbollah, also said on Sunday it targeted Israeli army positions and infrastructure in Shlomi and Nahariya in northern occupied territories, while air raid sirens blared in the Acre area.

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah began in March after the Lebanese resistance group launched military operations against the Israeli regime in response to its aggression against Iran. A truce to halt the fighting began on April 17, but has never been observed.

### Call for UNSC emergency meeting

As fighting escalated in Lebanon, France said on Sunday it requested an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, alarmed



by Israel's "ever-deeper occupation of Lebanese territory".

Israeli forces used the Beaufort castle, also known as Qalaat al-Chakif, as a base during their previous two-decade occupation of southern Lebanon that ended in 2000.

The push to Beaufort came as the Israeli military issued a sweeping evacuation order to areas south of the Zaharani River, north of the Litani and around 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the border.

UNESCO, the UN cultural agency, said on Friday that it was "deeply alarmed" by Israeli strikes near Beaufort Castle, which has a provisional protected status. Such sites should receive the "highest level of legal protection against attack and use for military purposes," the body said.

The crossing of the Litani River and capture of Beaufort Ridge are a major escalation in the current conflict. The river has become a de facto boundary in Lebanon since Israel's invasion, with large areas to the south under Israeli military control



An Israeli flag flies over the medieval Beaufort Castle following the capture of the historic site by the regime's forces in southern Lebanon on May 31, 2026.  
AFP

and residents ordered to leave. Israeli forces had already begun striking and destroying bridges over the Litani that connect the south to the rest of the country. Israel's military claims they were being used by Hezbollah to smuggle weapons and move fighters.

### Israel pursuing 'scorched-earth policy'

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam accused Israel on Saturday of pursuing a "scorched-earth policy and collective punishment" in the south, urging a halt to the fighting. French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Sunday that "nothing can justify the continuation of Israeli military operations in Lebanon and its ever-deeper occupation of Lebanese territory".

The Israeli army said Sunday that one of its soldiers had been killed a day earlier by a Hezbollah explosive drone, bringing to 25 the number of Israeli military deaths in Lebanon since early March.

The Lebanese Health Ministry says Israeli attacks have killed more than 3,371 people since early March.

## Denmark's 'baseless' terror allegations aimed at isolating Iran: Embassy

The Iranian Embassy in Copenhagen rejected Denmark's terror accusations against the Islamic Republic, saying they are aimed at isolating the country.

The embassy released a statement on Saturday, one day after the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) claimed that Iran was playing a larger role when it came to the threat of terrorism against the Scandinavian state, Press TV reported.

The Iranian diplomatic mission said that PET's allegations are largely based on general assessments, rather than on documented and undeniable evidence.

"The baseless accusations against Iran are part of a broader process of political and international isolation



Iran's Embassy in Denmark

of Iran, and not the result of proving a real and documented threat against Denmark or any other Western country," it added.

It also said Tehran has consistently and officially rejected any involvement in the alleged terror activities on Danish soil and believes that PET reports have, over the past years, presented a repetitive and inaccurate picture of the purported Iranian threat.

It further emphasized that there was no evidence proving Tehran's role in the 2018 case of the attempted assassination of a leader of the anti-Iran ASMLA terrorist group in Denmark and the 2024 case of the attack on the Israeli embassy in Copenhagen.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is unfairly portrayed as a source of threat, while it is itself the target of hostile actions and political pressure," the embassy said.

## IRGC downs intruding US MQ-1 Predator drone over Persian Gulf

### International Desk

Iran's air defense forces successfully shot down an intruding American MQ-1 Predator drone over Iranian airspace in the Persian Gulf.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced in a statement that the multi-mission and long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft was intercepted and destroyed as it entered the Iranian skies in the early hours of Sunday.

The unmanned aerial vehicle was immediately tracked by IRGC air defense systems and targeted by advanced surface-to-air missiles before it could carry out any act of aggression.

The IRGC also emphasized that Iranian



airspace over the country's territorial waters is under full control of its air defense units, warning that any intrusion will be met with a decisive response. It came a day after Iran's Army air defense units managed to intercept and successfully destroy an enemy Orbiter drone in the skies over Qeshm Island. The recent intrusions by American and

Israeli drones came as Iran and the US have been observing a ceasefire since April 8 to give a chance to diplomacy to end the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

A senior Iranian Army commander strongly warned the country's adversaries against attempting fresh aggression against Iran, asserting that such miscalculation will receive a response more forceful than previous retaliation. Deputy Army Commander for Coordination, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari made the remarks on Saturday. "The enemy should know that any aggression against the country's territory will be met with a response even more forceful than before," he stated.



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