

Iran reasserts its right to control shipping in Strait of Hormuz

Deputy FM warns vessels against using parallel routes



Vessels at the Strait of Hormuz are seen from Musandam, Oman, on June 22, 2026.
● REUTERS

must be based on coordination with Iranian authorities and in line with Article 5 of a recent memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and the United States.

"Safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz cannot be guaranteed under ambiguous arrangements, parallel routes or decision-making that does not take Iran's role as a coastal state into account," Gharibabadi said.

He warned that failure to coordinate with Tehran would result in the suspension of any designated parallel route.

Under the 14-point interim deal that halted the war triggered by US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28, Tehran committed to making "best efforts" for safe passage of commercial vessels at no charge for 60 days.

Article 5 also provides for Iran to conduct dialogue with Oman "to define the future administration and maritime services in the Strait of Hormuz" and "in line with applicable international law and the sovereign rights of coastal states."

Temporary shipping lanes

Gharibabadi's remarks came after Oman announced on Wednesday it had established two temporary shipping lanes through the strait in coordination with the International Maritime Organization. Iranian officials rejected the Omani initiative, asserting that the only authorized passage route is the one designated by Tehran.

Underlining the risks facing shipping, Iran's newly established Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) also said on Thursday that any transit outside approved routes by Iran's maritime authorities would be considered unauthorized, with responsibility for any consequences placed on the vessel owner, operator and captain.

The warnings came as Taiwan's Evergreen Marine said earlier on Friday its Singapore-flagged ship Ever Lovely had been hit close to Oman on Thursday by an "unknown object" while on a route recommended by the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO). Nobody was hurt in the incident and the ship later resumed its journey out of the strait.

The incident comes after multiple oil tankers and commercial vessels reportedly changed course at the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz due to security concerns, with at least three ships, including two large tankers, altering course and aborting their transit, according to Bloomberg.

Tehran took effective control of the waterway after US-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 triggered the war, disrupting oil flows and rattling global energy markets and the wider economy.

Around a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas supplies typically passes through the strait.

International Desk

Iran reasserted its right to control shipping in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday and warned that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz cannot be guaran-

teed for vessels using parallel routes or arrangements devised without Tehran's involvement.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said in a post on X that any credible framework for maritime transit

Iran mocks US for 'solving' domestic hunger problem, lecturing others on issue

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei mocked the United States for "solving" its domestic hunger problem by simply stopping reports while lecturing other countries on the issue.

Baqaei made the remarks in a post on X on Friday after US President Donald Trump claimed that Iran has "a hunger problem" and his deputy JD Vance alleged that the country's unfrozen assets could help "feed" its people, Press TV reported.

Baqaei cited a report by the World Hunger Education Service that found more than 47 million people in the United States, including 1 in 5 children, cannot consistently access or afford enough nutritious food to live healthy lives.

He further referred to another report by the NGO Feeding America that said 47 million Americans struggle daily with hunger.

"The 'solution' from US authorities? In September 2024, the USDA (US Department of Agriculture) quietly terminated its 30-year-old annual report on



Esmail Baqaei
● IRNA

household food insecurity — effectively ending the official tracking and acknowledgment of hunger in America," the spokesman said.

"So, after 'solving' domestic hunger by simply stopping the reports, Washington now feels qualified to lecture the world about hunger elsewhere."

Baqaei added, "Charity begins at home — and it is desperately needed there."

The latest Household Food Security report released by the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service for 2024 revealed that 47.9 million people lived in food-insecure households last year.

One in seven households (13.7 percent) in America experienced food insecurity, or lack of access to an affordable, nutritious diet, in 2024, accord-

ing to the report. About 14.1 million American children lived in households that experienced food insecurity in 2024, a slight increase from the 13.8 million children reported in 2023.

The findings highlighted a deepening crisis in the US amid cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which enables low-income households to afford more healthy foods and boosts families' food purchases.

Because the USDA's 2025 survey data which would have been released in 2026 was canceled, no official government data on hunger for 2026 is available.

However, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has stepped in to fill the gap. In a report released in May 2026, the New York Fed presented new findings on food insecurity based on its Survey of Consumer Expectations.

The New York Fed survey found a "remarkable increase in food insecurity," particularly among lower-income, lower-educated households, and households with young children.

Italy denies any military role in US-Israeli aggression against Iran

International Desk

Italy's top diplomat rejected remarks by NATO chief about Washington's use of his country's military bases during the recent war on Iran, stressing that no Italian military bases had been used for attacks on Iran and that no such use would be permitted in the future.

Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani made the remarks during a phone call with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi on Thursday.

Speaking to Fox News television on Wednesday, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte cited Italy as an example of European support for the US and said 500 US planes had taken off from US bases in Italy "to support Epic Fury", Washington's name for the war it launched alongside Israel on Iran on February 28.

Tajani emphasized that US aircraft involved in bombing operations against Iran did not take off from Italian territory and that the Italian government had never authorized any military action against Iran.

Araghchi welcomed the phone call and the clarification from his Italian counterpart, but stressed that the matter required an explicit and official denial from the Italian government.

"The Italian government must officially deny that its territory



Antonio Tajani



Abbas Araghchi

was used against Iran," Araghchi stressed, underscoring the importance of removing any ambiguity surrounding Italy's position. The comments by the NATO chief also caused a political row in the European country, where Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government has repeatedly said it did not authorize the use of Italian territory for direct military action against Iran.

In a statement, Defense Minister Guido Crosetto said Italy had acted in full compliance with its constitution, international treaties and agreements governing allied bases on its soil.

"As already clarified in parliament, the government authorized exclusively technical and logistical, non-kinetic activities," the minister said, adding that Italy had refused requests that fell outside those lim-

its. Crosetto expressed surprise that Rutte, who "has nothing to do with Operation Epic Fury", had given an account that conveyed a "totally misleading message" by confusing authorized support flights with combat-related operations.

Opposition leaders in Italy seized on Rutte's comments, demanding fresh explanations from the government.

Five Star Movement leader and former prime minister Giuseppe Conte said Meloni should clarify the matter in parliament, while Nicola Fratoianni of the Green and Left Alliance said either the government had misled lawmakers or Rutte "has suffered a heatstroke".

Italy hosts about 120 US military facilities including the Sigonella naval air station in Sicily and the Aviano air base in northern Italy.

Iran condemns GCC-US joint statement as 'meddlesome, provocative'

'US military presence in regional countries burden on their people'

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned a joint statement by the United States and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as "meddlesome, irresponsible, and provocative," warning regional states against continuing their hostile alignment with Washington.

In a statement released on Friday, Tehran reacted sharply to the joint communique issued on June 25, dismissing Washington's claims of an "enduring US commitment" to the security of Persian Gulf states as nothing more than "rhetoric and an inversion of reality."

The ministry emphasized that the US military footprint in the region remains a burden on local populations and a primary driver of insecurity.

The ministry pointed to the recent US-Israeli aggression against Iran from February 28 to April 8, during which the US

used military bases hosted by Persian Gulf Arab countries to launch attacks against the Islamic Republic.

The war, which began with US-Israeli airstrikes assassinating senior Iranian officials, saw Persian Gulf littoral states permit the aggressors to use their soil and airspace. Iran subsequently retaliated with 100 waves of missile and drone strikes against American and Israeli targets, and has since demanded compensation from five Arab nations for enabling the illegal attacks.

In its latest statement, the foreign ministry asserted that Washington's use of Arab countries' soil to attack Iran has made it clear that the US has no regard for the security of regional states or their relationships with one another.

The statement urged the Arab council members "to prevent any use of their territory and facilities by third parties to plan, organize, support, and execute ille-

gal actions, including military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran." The inclusion of the cliché phrase "threats originating from Iran" is merely a tool of a long-standing "Iranophobia" campaign designed by the US and Israel, said the statement, denouncing this language as a clear sign of the US ruling class's ongoing attempts to "impose its illusions and greed on regional countries."

It noted that the US has been pursuing a "divide and rule" policy that has trapped Persian Gulf states in a dangerous and endless arms race, turning the region into a massive weapons depot.

Israel only proxy in region

Addressing the classification of Palestinian and Lebanese resistance groups, the ministry expressed deep regret over the GCC's alignment with Washington and Tel Aviv in labeling these groups as "Iranian proxies."

It countered that "the only proxy entity in the region is the Zionist regime," asserting that the struggle against occupation and apartheid is fully legitimate under international law.

The statement also addressed the strategic Strait of Hormuz, placing direct responsibility for recent maritime insecurity on the US, Israel, and those regional states that aided their military campaign. Diplomats from the Persian Gulf's Arab states said on Thursday that dealing with what they called Iran's proxies and missiles was key to lasting peace, and that any trade and investment with Tehran would be reversible and contingent on it respecting its deal with the US.

"The ministers further emphasized that lasting regional peace and security requires addressing the full spectrum of Iran's threats, including its ballistic missiles, drones, and support of proxies in the region," they said in a joint statement



● IRNA

following a meeting co-chaired by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

"Any trade and investment with Iran is conditional and reversible, contingent on Iran's compliance with the MoU and the final agreement, cessation of its destabilizing behavior, and creation of the conditions necessary for economic engagement," they added.