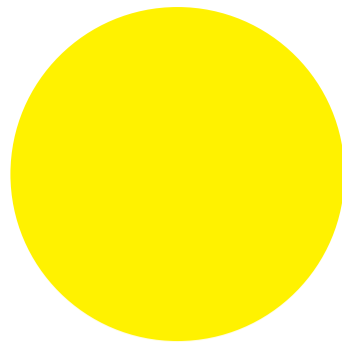


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Parallel Hormuz corridors threaten Iran's strategic position

By Delaram Ahmadi
Staff writer

INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE

Following the signing of the memorandum of understanding between Iran and the United States, one of whose provisions

called for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the two countries have once again become embroiled in limited confrontations over arrangements governing transit through the vital waterway. Iran insists that under the MOU, only arrangements endorsed by Tehran should be implemented, while reports indicate that a parallel shipping route has been established off the coast of Oman. Speaking to Iran Daily, Afifeh Abedi, an international affairs expert, said the United States is attempting to weaken Iran's strategic position in the Strait of Hormuz by bypassing the provisions of the Islamabad Memorandum and pressuring Oman to establish parallel routes.



Afifeh Abedi

IRAN DAILY: What legal, security and geopolitical consequences would parallel arrangements for managing or securing the Strait of Hormuz have for Iran?

ABEDI: From a legal standpoint, any attempt to establish parallel arrangements constitutes a unilateral measure lacking legal legitimacy, as it disregards the sovereign rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a coastal state. Moreover, such a move represents a clear violation of the Iran-US MOU, as Article 5 of the document explicitly defines the management of the Strait of Hormuz within the framework of coordination with Iran. Consequently, any action taken outside that framework would amount to a blatant breach of international commitments and would therefore lack legal validity.

Accordingly, any shipping route that has not been approved by Iran would lack guarantees for safe passage and would not benefit from insurance coverage or the necessary safety assurances. As a result, responsibility for any incident or potential damage would rest with entities operating outside the officially recognized arrangements.

From a security perspective, establishing parallel structures in a waterway that falls within the security jurisdiction of the Iranian coastal state gives Tehran the right to respond decisively, in accordance with both international and domestic law, to any unauthorized passage through its territorial waters.

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Memorial volume unveiling

Former FM Kharrazi sought to recast Iran's image abroad

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A group of former and incumbent Iranian officials unveils a book about former foreign minister Kamal Kharrazi, who was assassinated in an airstrike on his home in Tehran in April during the US-Israeli war on Iran, during a ceremony in the Iran Cultural and Press Institute in Tehran on June 28, 2026.

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