

# Iran welcomes Iraq-proposed dialogue between Tehran, GCC states

## Iraqi PM backs diplomacy to end regional conflicts

### International Desk

Iran's top diplomat said Iran welcomes an Iraqi proposal for dialogue between Tehran and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states in line with establishing a new regional security framework for the Persian Gulf that excludes external powers.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made the remarks during a press conference with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein in Iraq's capital Baghdad where he also held talks with the country's president and prime minister.

His remarks came as a recent aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran has damaged relations between Tehran and the Persian Gulf Arab states after Iran forced to launch attacks on the US military bases in those countries in response to the aggression.

"We talked about the security of the region, the security structure of the region and its future," Araghchi said.

"The recent war has had many lessons for all the countries of the region, and I believe that with the new approach that has been cre-



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) and Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein hold a joint press conference following a meeting in Baghdad on June 28, 2026.  
AFP

ated, the security of the important Persian Gulf region must be reconsidered by all the countries of the region and that we should reach a new framework which includes all the countries of the region without the presence and interference of any country from outside."

"In this regard, we welcome the proposal of Mr. Fuad Hussein to establish dialogues between the countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Iran, and Iraq - which he referred to as '6+2,'" the Iranian foreign minister said.

Following the aggression against Iran in February, Iran's Armed Forces target-

ed the US military bases in regional countries and restricted transit through the Strait of Hormuz, responsible for a fifth of global oil demand.

However, Tehran and Washington signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on June 18 following a series of mediated negotiations, which calls for an immediate and permanent cessation of military operations and continued diplomatic engagement between the two sides.

### Challenge to Hormuz routes ups tensions

Araghchi warned that any attempt to bypass the Strait

of Hormuz routes agreed with the United States would "increase tensions" in the region.

"Any attempt to adopt new or separate arrangements compared to what is underway by the Islamic Republic of Iran, will only lead to more complicated situations and delays in the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and will increase the tensions," the Iranian foreign minister said.

"I urge all parties... to adhere to the memorandum of understanding and not to allow this MoU to deviate from its course."

Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi in a separate meeting with Iranian top diplomat said Baghdad strongly supports dialogue and diplomacy to end the ongoing tensions and establish stability in the region.

Araghchi once again affirmed Iran's steadfast support for Iraq and emphasized the importance of continued coordination to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields.

The Iranian foreign minister also held a meeting with Iraqi President Nizar Amedi.

## Leader orders legal pursuit of US-Israeli war crimes against Iran



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei  
IRNA

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei called on Iran's Judiciary to pursue and restore the nation's rights that have been violated as a result of the US-Israeli wars of aggression since last year. In a Sunday message issued on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti and his companions, designated as the Judiciary Week, Ayatollah Khamenei said one of the most important legal and judicial issues facing the entire Iranian nation at the present time is pursuing and restoring those rights violated by "international criminals and arrogant and aggressive powers," Press TV reported.

The Leader said that safeguarding the rights of the Iranian people extends beyond individual legal matters and includes defending the country's collective rights against crimes committed by foreign aggressors.

He said the Judiciary in the Islamic Republic has the responsibility to protect people's rights, revive public rights and legitimate freedoms, combat corruption, enforce justice, uphold divine laws, and oversee the implementation of the law.

Success in carrying out those duties, he said, would strengthen public trust in the judicial system.

Turning to the country's most pressing legal challenge, Ayatollah Khamenei said pursuing the rights violated by international criminals and global aggressors, particularly since last year, is among the Judiciary's foremost responsibilities.

He said the blood of those killed in the two wars of aggression

against Iran - waged by the United States and Israel in June 2025 and February 2026 - together with the physical, psychological, material, and spiritual damage inflicted on Iran and its people inside and outside the country, forms the basis for hundreds or even thousands of significant legal cases.

The Leader also invoked the killing of children and unprecedented war crimes in Minab and Lamerd, attacks on medical and public service centers, and the deaths of victims ranging from newborn infants to the elderly.

Above all, he referred to the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, whom he described as "the unparalleled personality, the unique jewel of the era, the great mujahid Leader," saying each case must be pursued seriously before domestic and international courts.

"What is certain is that the criminals must be brought to justice and made to face the consequences of their criminal acts," he said.

The Leader further argued that statements by certain American and Israeli leaders acknowledging, and even openly taking pride in, such acts constitute admissions of crimes that strengthen the legal basis for restoring the Iranian nation's violated rights.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said that implementing the martyred Leader's directive during his final meeting with judicial officials last year to investigate crimes committed during the 2025 war should now be extended to the latest imposed war and pursued continuously until judgments are issued and enforced by competent authorities.

## IRGC targets US bases in Kuwait, Bahrain after renewed American strikes

### International Desk

Iran's Armed Forces launched new missile and drone attacks on US military bases in Kuwait and Bahrain in response to renewed American aggression against Iranian territory.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in a statement said its Navy and Aerospace Force jointly carried out the operation between "2:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. on Sunday (local time)," targeting eight "key US military installations," including the "Ali Al Salem Airbase in Kuwait" and the "US Fifth Fleet headquarters at Salman Port in Bahrain."

According to the statement, the operation followed attacks carried out by the US against five Iranian coastal outposts earlier in the day.

"The aggressor enemy, whose very nature is characterized by breaking

commitments and violating agreements, attacked five coastal outposts of the Islamic Republic in the early hours of today under the pretext of responding to the IRGC Navy's confronting a trespassing vessel [in the Strait of Hormuz]," the statement read. The IRGC said maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz falls under Iran's responsibility pursuant to a Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding that was recently signed between Iran and the United States.

It added, "Henceforth, vessels found to be in violation will be dealt with more firmly than before." The statement also warned that, "Any future aggression by the enemy, regardless of the pretext and even if, as last night and tonight, it targets objectives deemed to be of minor importance, will be met with a crushing



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response." The renewed exchange followed an incident on Friday in which the IRGC fired warning shots at a vessel that had ignored warnings against using an unauthorized route through the Strait of Hormuz.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) subsequently reported strikes against military targets in Iran. American forces have repeatedly violated a ceasefire reached between the two countries in order to give a chance to diploma-

cy to end the unprovoked US-Israeli military aggression against Iran. Iran's Foreign Ministry in a statement on Sunday strongly condemned the US new strikes, saying that the attacks are a clear violation of Article 2, Paragraph 4 of the United Nations Charter, as well as a flagrant breach of Article 1 of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between Iran and the US.

"These attacks show that the US regime does not place the slightest value or credibility on its commitments, and that breaking promises is part of this regime's nature," it added.

The statement further stressed Iran's determination to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity against US military aggression, in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

## Iran demands clear timetable for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon

### International Desk

Iran called for the establishment of a clear timetable for Israel's withdrawal from occupied areas of Lebanon after Lebanon and Israel signed a US-mediated agreement to end the regime's attacks on the Arab country.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei made the remarks on Sunday in response to questions about the agreement between Israel and Leba-

non, as well as the implementation of the first provision of the Iran-US Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on ending the war in Lebanon.

Baqaei reiterated Iran's longstanding position on Lebanon's sovereignty, saying Tehran considers the protection of Lebanon's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, along with safeguarding the dignity and security of all Lebanese citizens, to be a fundamental prerequisite for any sustain-

able agreement aimed at ending the war and Israel's military presence in the country.

The Iranian spokesman stated that the full implementation of the first provision of the memorandum - which calls for ending Israeli attacks against Lebanon and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Lebanese territories - is essential for reaching a final and lasting agreement capable of restoring stability to the region.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

### CARTOON

