

Araghchi: Iran's diplomacy met wit military action, not dialogue

International Desk

Iran's foreign minister said on Friday that Iran came under attack while it had chosen diplomacy to resolve disputes with the United States, noting that, "Response to diplomacy came not through negotiations but through military action."

Addressing a meeting of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, Abbas Araghchi said Iran had once again become the target of overt military aggression by the United States and Israel. He said attacks that began in June 2025 were followed by a renewed wave of aggression between February and April 2026.

Referring to the assassination of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, a deadly attack on a school in the southern city of Minab as well as a deadly strike on a stadium in Lamerd, Araghchi said attacks on schools, hospitals, civilian infrastructure and peaceful nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency supervision, if left unanswered by the international community, would "leave no country immune from similar acts."

"Most concerning of all" was that the at-

tacks occurred while Iran had opted for diplomacy and dialogue and negotiations aimed at settling differences were underway, Araghchi said.

He stressed that the response to diplomacy came not through negotiations but through military action, adding that such conduct weakens trust in diplomacy, calls into question the credibility of peaceful mechanisms for resolving disputes and carries a dangerous message for the future of international relations.

Those attacks triggered Operation True Promise 4, during which Iranian Armed Forces struck US and Israeli military assets across the region. The defensive operation began immediately after the February 28 attacks and was followed by Iran's imposition of restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz.

Attempts to moralize crime

"Perhaps the most painful development after the commission of such crimes is the attempt to normalize them. Contemporary experience has shown that crime, if met with silence, ambiguity or indifference by the international community, will not only fail to stop but will become a model for repetition," Araghchi said.

Addressing the meeting, the Iranian top diplomat called on the SCO to take a firm stand against unilateralism and defend the principles of international law, saying the bloc should become a leading voice for multilateralism and respect for state sovereignty.

"The world is facing unprecedented challenges, including the expansion of unchecked unilateralism, the erosion of the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, the unlawful use of force, the imposition of unilateral and excessive sanctions, and the instrumentalization of economic and financial mechanisms to exert political pressure," he said.

Under such circumstances, the responsibility of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as one of the world's most important transregional institutions encompassing a significant share of the global population, economy, energy resources and strategic capabilities, has become more important than ever, he added.

US violating its commitments

Araghchi also said that the attacks against Iran represented not merely a threat to one country's national security but a challenge to the legal principles underpinning



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan on July 24, 2026.
● IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

the international order.

He said Iran exercised its inherent right to self-defense under Article 51 of the UN Charter while maintaining that the country has never initiated a war and remains committed to dialogue, diplomacy, good-neighborliness and regional cooperation.

Just few weeks after inking the Islamabad Memorandum to end the war on June 17, the US "has once again demonstrated that it does not abide by its commitments," noted the minister.

"The blatant violation of the provisions of this memorandum, attacks on transportation infrastructure, drinking water facilities, fishing boats, local commercial vessels, meteorological centers and other civilian infrastructure constitute clear

violations of international law and international humanitarian law and a vivid example of the continued policy of resorting to force and disregard for international obligations," he added.

Reiterating Iran's determination to defend its sovereignty, Araghchi emphasized that "any participation, cooperation or assistance in committing aggression against Iran will entail international responsibility for the parties concerned."

During the SCO meeting, 25 documents were signed by the foreign ministers of the member states.

The Iranian foreign minister also held separate talks with his counterparts from China, Russia, Pakistan, Belarus, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan on bilateral ties and developments in the Middle East region.

Armed Forces pummel US bases in Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait

'Stay out of a radius of 500 meters from American bases'

International Desk

Iran's military said on Friday it carried out drone strikes against several American military facilities and bases in Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait in retaliation for the latest US attacks against the Islamic Republic.

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), meanwhile, said that they targeted a data center in Bahrain belonging to Amazon, according to state media.

"This morning, the fuel tanks, large equipment warehouses and silos, and the barracks of the US terrorist forces at the Isa Air Base in Bahrain were targeted by Arash kamikaze drones," the Army said in a statement.

An explosion and the sounding of warning sirens were heard in Bahrain on Friday, though it was not immediately clear if the two events were linked.

There was no confirmation from the US of any targeting of its facilities or personnel.

The Iranian Army also said drone attacks against Jordan, targeting "aircraft hangars, aviation maintenance hangars and a barracks" at al-Azraq



● TASNIM

base.

In a separate statement, the Iranian Army said it had launched drones at US equipment warehouses in Camp Udairi and the site of American military personnel in Camp Doha and Camp Arifjan in Kuwait.

The IRGC also said they had targeted the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, destroying an ammunition depot and inflicted casualties among US personnel.

The force also said attacks on equipment storage silos at Camp Udairi in Kuwait and a US Fifth Fleet watchtower in Bahrain.

The IRGC also warned citizens in countries where hosting US bases to stay away from American forces.

"We warn the general public in countries where American soldiers are stationed to immediately stay out of a radius of 500 meters from the places where American soldiers are hiding, in order to be safe," the IRGC said in a statement carried by state TV.

The attacks by Iran's Armed Forces were in response to the US military actions against Iran, which claimed the lives of at least four Iranians.

The governor's office of Khuzestan Province reported that four citizens were martyred and five others injured in a fresh US missile attack targeting areas on the outskirts of the city of Ahvaz early Friday.

According to Iran's Health Ministry, at least 55 Iranians have been killed and 629 others have been wounded in the new US aggression against Iran.

The US military said on Friday morning its forces launched another night of strikes against Iranian military targets.

US Central Command said that the strikes began at 6:45 pm Eastern Time (22:45 GMT) on Thursday, marking the 13th consecutive night of operations aimed at holding Tehran "accountable."

Iran demands GCC clarify stance after US 'serving side by side' claim

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman called on the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to clarify its position on US allegations about its member states' participation in the aggression against Iran.

Esmail Baqaei made the remarks after commander of US Central Command Admiral Brad Cooper called Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Bahrain, as well as Jordan as "the most prominent countries that have been most helpful and served side by side" in the aggression, Press TV reported.

Publishing footage showing Cooper's remarks, Baqaei said, "If this claim by the American official is not true, the mentioned governments should officially and transparently reject it."

The spokesman stressed the Islamic Republic's "inherent and legitimate" right of self-defense as well as its right to attack hostile targets in countries used as launch pads for anti-Iran offensives.

"In such circumstances, when the Islamic Republic of Iran, within the framework of its inherent and legitimate right of self-defense, targets bases as well as military and logistic assets of the US on the territory of these countries, raising the question, 'Why has Iran done this?' is irrelevant," he said. Baqaei emphasized that the main source of insecurity and conflict in the region is the US-Israeli aggression against Iran.

"Any participation in this aggression, in-



● Esmail Baqaei
● IRNA

cluding by providing a platform for military operations, is considered a manifestation of an aggressive act and a violation of the principle of good-neighborliness and Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter, based on the UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 on the definition of aggression." The spokesman stressed that, "The Islamic Republic of Iran's self-defense is carried out in order to restore security and stability for the entire region."

The US military has conducted new waves of deadly strikes on Iran and reinstated a blockade of Iranian ports in flagrant violation of a war-termination deal.

In response, Iran's Armed Forces have launched heavy reprisal attacks against strategic American targets across the region, declaring the Strait of Hormuz closed "until further notice" and at least until "the end of US interference in the region."

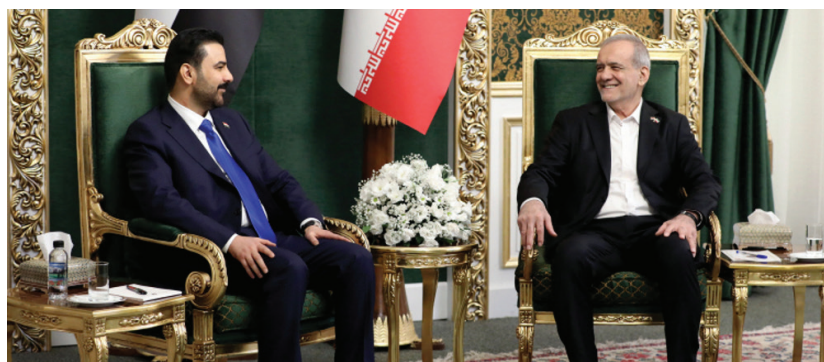
Tehran, Baghdad reject US ceasefire proposal conveyed by Iraqi PM

International Desk

Iranian and Iraqi officials rejected a media report claiming the Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi had delivered a US ceasefire proposal to Tehran, dismissing the report as "completely misleading" and "entirely unfounded."

An Iranian official dismissed as "completely misleading" the New York Times report about a 10-day US ceasefire proposal presented by Iraq's prime minister, stressing that the Islamic Republic has always been committed to diplomacy.

The New York Times claimed in a report on Thursday that Tehran rejected a ceasefire proposal from US President Donald Trump that was allegedly presented by al-Zaidi during his trip to Iran. On Friday, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted an informed Iranian official as saying that the NYT report is "completely diversionary and



● Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi in Tehran, Iran, on July 23, 2026.
● president.ir

misleading."

"The problem of escalating conflict in the region stems solely from America's breach of its agreements and the violation of the commitments outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding dated

June 18," the official said.

"Unlike the United States, which has used diplomacy as a tool for psychological-media games, and whose internal disputes among different factions within the US ruling establishment and the

influence of the Zionist regime in its policymaking have created a kind of chaos in its decisions, Iran has always attached genuine importance to diplomacy."

Al-Zaidi's visit came one week after he met Trump at the White House.

During his trip to Tehran, al-Zaidi met President Masoud Pezeshkian, Iran's top negotiator in the talks with US and Speaker of the Iranian Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, and the country's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi as well as Judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei.

Araghchi also said Iran has no shortage of intermediaries to exchange messages with the US, stressing that the main obstacle to any progress is the United States' "irrational, excessive, and hegemonic" approach.

Araghchi dismissed speculation that Baghdad was carrying a US message to Iran.

"It is natural for the Iraqi prime minister to share his assessments and views from his trip with us," Araghchi said.

"At present, we have no problem with mediators for exchanging messages with the United States. There are enough parties capable of playing that role, and there is no real obstacle to message exchanges."

Iraq also on Friday reacted to the New York Times report, calling it "completely baseless."

In a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), the Iraqi prime minister's media office said the "claims" in the New York Times report were "completely baseless and had no connection to reality."

It urged media outlets "to verify information, rely on official sources and refrain from circulating unsubstantiated reports or claims attributed to anonymous sources."