

Iran supports any Palestinian decision in talks to end Gaza war: *Pezeshkian*

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic will support "any measure, initiative and decision" taken by Palestinian leaders during negotiations to end Israel's onslaught on the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian president made the remarks in a phone conversation with the new leader of Hamas resistance group Khalil al-Hayya.

During the conversation, Pezeshkian praised Al-Hayya's role and leadership in fostering coordination among Palestinian political groups, reiterating that Iran would support "any measure, initiative and decision" adopted by Palestinian leaders during the negotiations.

Referring to the recent aggression by Israel and the United States against Iran and situation in the region, Pezeshkian said that despite those chal-

lenges, the Palestinian issue continues to hold a central position in Iran's foreign policy and has remained in focus for the country's officials, policymakers and the Leader. He said that the Palestinian issue continues to be regarded as the foremost issue of the Islamic world.

Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's continued support for the Palestinian people, saying Tehran will spare no effort to help the Palestinians.

He also called for greater unity, cohesion and convergence among Islamic countries to defend the interests of the Islamic Ummah.

Al-Hayya, for his part, referred to the course of the political negotiations, saying that Hamas is pursuing the talks with the participation and coordination of other Palestinian factions.

He said that just as the movement had stood firm on the battlefield, it would not allow Isra-



Khalil al-Hayya

el to achieve through diplomacy what it had failed to accomplish on the battlefield.

Hamas said on Friday that it has agreed to a deal aimed at fully ending Israel's war on Gaza, including making provisions to disarm and surrender its weapons in stages. Under the agreement, Israel must withdraw its

forces over a period of time.

The agreement was announced late on Thursday by US President Donald Trump, after the US-led Board of Peace and International Stabilization Force for Gaza announced that mediators from Egypt, Qatar, Turkey and the US had finalized a roadmap for this next phase of the



Masoud Pezeshkian

ceasefire.

However, the Palestinian resistance group underlined that the implementation of the second phase of the Gaza peace deal is dependent on Israel's full implementation of its first phase, including the withdrawal of its troops from Gaza.

Israel launched a genocidal war

on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023 after Hamas fighters launched attacks on the regime's positions in the occupied territories.

Since then, Israel has killed at least 73,341 Palestinians, injured 174,086 and destroyed around 90 percent of the territory's civilian infrastructure.

Pakistan reaffirms support for Kashmir's self-determination

International Desk

Pakistan reaffirmed its unwavering support for the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, complaining that binding resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council on the disputed territory have not been implemented so far.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran Imran Ahmed Siddiqui made the remarks during a ceremony held in Pakistan's Embassy in Tehran to mark the the seventh anniversary of India's revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"For 79 years, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have awaited the fulfillment of a pledge made before the world. The United Nations Security Council, through a series of binding resolutions, declared that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir shall be made in accordance with the will of the people, expressed freely through a UN-supervised plebiscite. That promise remains unfulfilled", Siddiqui said. Pakistan said no legislative measure, however skillfully crafted, can confer legitimacy to what it described as an occupation sustained through force and intimidation, the Pakistani ambassador said.

He added that the right to self-de-



termination is one of the fundamental principles of international law, pointing to its enshrinement in Article 1 of the UN Charter and its reaffirmation in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. "Self-determination is a foundational principle of international law, enshrined in Article 1 of the UN Charter and reaffirmed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It is the legal expression of political dignity, denial of which creates a structural instability".

Siddiqui also said Islamabad continues to stand firmly behind the people of Kashmir's right to self-determination, describing its political, moral and diplomatic support as rooted in the conviction that no lasting peace can come about at the expense of justice.

Pakistan and India have disputed Kashmir since they gained independence from British rule in 1947. Both countries claim the region in full but administer separate parts of



Pakistan's Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui speaks during a ceremony held in Pakistan's Embassy in Tehran to mark the seventh anniversary of India's revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2026.

● IRAN DAILY

it, and they have fought two of their three wars over the Himalayan territory.

The United Nations Security Council adopted resolutions calling for the final status of Jammu and Kashmir to be decided through a plebiscite after certain conditions were met, but the vote has never been held, and the two sides disagree over how the resolutions should be implemented.

In August 2019, the Indian government revoked the special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir and reorganized the former state into two federally administered territories, a move Pakistan condemned as illegal. India says Kashmir is an integral part of the country and that the 2019 changes were an internal matter. Pakistan maintains that the region is disputed territory and that its future should be determined in accordance with UN resolutions.

Baqaei: Iran, Oman agree on shipping route coordinates in Hormuz

International Desk

Iran and Oman have reached an understanding on the geographical coordinates of a proposed shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said on Wednesday, adding that a joint statement outlining the main points of agreement is in the final stages of drafting.

"The geographical coordinates of the route envisaged by the two sides have been agreed upon, and provided that certain third parties do not obstruct the process, the joint statement by the two countries, including the main considerations and points of agreement, is in the final stage of review and drafting," Baqaei told reporters on Wednesday.

Responding to questions about reports in regional and Western media regarding the Iran-Oman negotiations, Baqaei said the two countries, as the littoral states of the Strait of Hormuz, have been engaged in talks over the past two months aimed at establishing a safe transit route for commercial shipping through the waterway.

He said the technical, legal, security and environmental aspects of the proposal have been examined by the relevant authorities in Iran.

Iranian officials maintain that the talks are a bilateral process between Tehran and Muscat and do not involve the Unit-



● REUTERS

ed States, despite comments by some US officials suggesting Washington has a role in the developments related to the strategic waterway.

US President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent recently commented on the talks, trying to imply that Washington plays a role.

Trump said late on Tuesday that a deal with Iran could come within hours, claiming that the talks with Iran are continuing after calling off a planned "massive attack" on Iran.

Washington is having "very good discussions" with Iran that are "moving along very nicely", the US president claimed.

The Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important energy transit routes, has been at the center of contention between Iran and the US ever since the latter waged a war of aggression with Israel against the Islamic Republic.

In response, Iran closed off the strait and began talks with Oman to form a joint mechanism for shipping arrangements.

Yemen targets another Saudi oil tanker in Red Sea

International Desk

Yemen's Armed Forces said on Wednesday that they attacked a Saudi oil tanker off Yanbu, in the Red Sea, as they pressed on with their declared maritime blockade of the kingdom.

This was the eighth Saudi oil tanker targeted since the start of the blockade on July 22, a Yemeni military spokesman said.

The group "successfully targeted the Saudi oil tanker 'Wafa' in the northern Red Sea, off the coast of Yanbu, with a number of ballistic missiles," Yahya Saree said in a video statement.

Yahya Saree
● AFP

Yemen's Armed Forces declared they will escalate attacks in the northern Red Sea because Saudi Arabia is diverting its oil tankers there from the

south in response to their blockade. The blockade has threatened top oil exporter Saudi Arabia's ability to get its supplies to the world following Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, cutting off the kingdom's only other maritime route.

Saree said that the group's blockade had pushed Saudi Arabia to divert "its oil tankers towards the northern Red Sea".

So the group will now "escalate in targeting Saudi oil tankers in the northern Red Sea to close all access points and prevent their passage".

Yemen says the blockade is in response to a "continued Saudi siege" on Yemen.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

