

Diplomacy continues in wartime, with language suited to new realities: *Deputy FM*



Kazem Gharibabadi
● IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said diplomacy does not come to a halt even during war, but stressed that the foreign ministry's messages, positions and language must be tailored to wartime conditions. Responding to criticism over the foreign ministry's handling of diplomacy during the latest conflict, Gharibabadi said diplomatic efforts continue during war, although the tone adopted by diplomats cannot mirror that used in peacetime. Gharibabadi made the remarks

during an interview with IRNA. A new round of negotiations between Iran and the United States resulted in the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, after which the United States resumed its aggression against Iran. The developments drew criticism of Iran's diplomatic apparatus, while others accused the Foreign Ministry of failing to throw its weight behind diplomacy as a tool to bring the conflict to an end. Addressing critics who argue that the diplomatic front should not employ the same rhetoric as the military front,

Gharibabadi said keeping diplomatic channels open during wartime was a valid position because most wars have ultimately been settled through diplomacy and negotiations. At the same time, he rejected suggestions that Iranian diplomats should speak in the same manner during war as they do in peacetime. "How can some people expect our language in wartime to be the same as in peacetime? That is simply not possible," he said. Gharibabadi argued that adopting a softer tone toward a "treacherous enemy" that is

killing innocent Iranians, targeting the country's infrastructure and striking civilian sites would be counterproductive. He said it would not be appropriate for Iranian diplomats to respond to such actions by calmly saying, "We are ready for dialogue and negotiations," adding that such an approach would only encourage the adversary to expand its attacks. Repeating his argument that wartime rhetoric cannot resemble peacetime language, Gharibabadi said speaking in a softer tone would lead the enemy to conclude that Iran had become vulnerable or weak.

Speaker raps failed US strategy of 'bullying, broken promises'

International Desk

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf dismissed Washington's recent maneuvers as empty "theatre diplomacy," declaring that the United States' strategy of threats, broken promises and fabricated narratives has failed and that Tehran will not engage in further theatrics.

In a post on X on Thursday evening, Qalibaf pointed to the rapid shift from threats of a "massive attack" to sudden calls for negotiation, describing it as a recurring pattern of insincere diplomacy. "Massive attack coming... wait, never mind, they want to negotiate. That's theater diplomacy on loop," he wrote. Qalibaf stressed that reliance on bullying, unfulfilled commitments and fake news as tools



Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf
● ICANA

of pressure constitutes a failed approach. He called on the other side to acknowledge established facts and honor previous ceasefire commitments rather than continue the cycle of empty threats and sudden reversals. "Using bullying + broken promises + fake news as leverage is a failed strategy. Acknowledge the facts and fulfill your commitments. We don't need more theater," the

speaker stated.

The remarks come as Iranian officials continue to underline the Islamic Republic's principled stance in the face of external pressure, insisting that genuine diplomacy requires honesty and adherence to prior agreements rather than staged displays of force followed by abrupt retreats. The US and the Israeli regime jointly launched an unprovoked aggres-

sion against Iran on February 28 by targeting Iran's top officials and also an elementary school in Minab, south of the country, killing 168 children, teachers, and parents.

In response, Iranian armed forces launched powerful reprisal attacks against US and Israeli assets in the region, dealing heavy blows to the invading coalition. The war came to a halt after 40 days with a ceasefire, which was then formalized in mid-June by signing the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding by the presidents of Iran and the US. However, just weeks following signing the document, the US started violating the terms of the understanding, igniting another round of war during which the US targeted civilian infrastructure across southern Iranian provinces.

Iran says US nuclear policies threaten humanity

Iran warned of the catastrophic consequences of the United States' continued expansion and modernization of its nuclear arsenal, saying Washington's nuclear policies threaten all humanity decades after it became the only country to use atomic weapons in warfare. Iran's permanent mission in Vienna issued a statement to mark the anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, describing the attacks as a lasting reminder of the devastating human consequences of nuclear weapons, Press TV reported. "Preventing future tragedies such as the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki requires genuine commitment to nuclear disarmament and the establishment of a world free from weapons of mass destruction," the mission said. It emphasized that the mass deaths, widespread destruction and deadly radiation caused by the US bombings, whose effects were felt even by generations born afterward, underscore the urgent need to eliminate all nuclear weapons.

"As a State party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Iran supports the total elimination of all nuclear weapons, reaffirms its unwavering commitment to a world free of them, and at the same time, defends its legitimate right to the peaceful use of nuclear science and energy." The Iranian mission noted that the United States remains the only country to have used nuclear weapons in warfare, while continuing to expand and modernize its nuclear arsenal. The statement came as Hiroshima on Thursday marked the 81st anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the Japa-

nese city.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui denounced major powers for justifying nuclear weapons through the concept of so-called deterrence, warning that such policies could fuel cycles of violence.

"Downplaying the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and accepting the use of force to pursue one's own prosperity risk cycles of violent retaliation that could ultimately result in another Hiroshima or Nagasaki," Matsui stated. Matsui stressed that the continued belief in nuclear deterrence "simply pushes a world without nuclear weapons further into the distance." United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also called for renewed efforts to eliminate nuclear threats, describing Hiroshima as "an inspiring example of resilience, renewal and hope." "The horror of nuclear weapons is just one lesson of Hiroshima. Another is the need to build a world in which the threat or use of these weapons becomes unthinkable," Guterres said in a written statement.

The anniversary came amid growing debate in Japan over its longstanding non-nuclear policy, as Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government considers changes to the country's security and defense framework later this year. Takaichi's government is considering a review of Japan's three non-nuclear principles, which prohibit possessing nuclear weapons, producing them and allowing their introduction into Japanese territory. Takaichi has specifically advocated reviewing the third principle, which potentially allows the US to deploy nuclear weapons across Japan.

Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan sign 'defense deal'

International Desk

Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan signed a joint defense agreement on Friday amid tensions in the region caused by the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in February.

In a joint statement published by the official Saudi press agency and Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, the three countries announced the signing of the "Mecca Joint Defense Agreement". They declared a "shared commitment to further strengthening their collective security and to promoting peace, security and stability in the region and beyond".

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry said the pact meant an attack on any member would be regarded as an attack on all, adding it was "intended to strengthen collective deterrence". Since the onset of the regional war, Saudi Arabia has grown closer to Turkey, Egypt and Pakistan, which have been pushing for mediation and a resolution to the conflict.

A source close to the Saudi military and government told AFP before the signing that although the agreement



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan (L), Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (C), and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pose after signing a joint defense agreement in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on August 7, 2026.
● SAUDI PRESS AGENCY

had been under discussion for a long time, "the latest developments in the region expedite it". Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signed the agreement in Mecca. Saudi Arabia and Pakistan had already announced a mutual defense

pact in 2025, a move that drew attention because Pakistan is the Muslim world's only nuclear-armed state. Pakistan has also sought to mediate efforts to end the US-Iran war, while Turkey has played a diplomatic role in negotiations aimed at ending the war in Gaza.

The deal also comes as a truce between Riyadh and Yemen has broken down, with Yemeni Armed Forces launching attacks on Saudi soil and declaring a maritime blockade against Saudi Arabia in response to Saudis' siege on their neighboring country.

Hizam al-Assad, a member of the political bureau of Yemen's Ansarullah movement, reacted to the pact in a post on X, saying that, "There is no security for the invading Saudi forces, nor for their mercenaries, nor for their camps on our land".

"Our armed forces are compelled to reclaim our rights, lift the siege on our country, and confront every individual who obstructs our people's path towards attaining their rights, freedom, and independence, regardless of their nationality," he said in a separate post.



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