

Iran raps Western human rights statements as 'hypocritical blame game'

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Ministry strongly condemned a joint statement issued by France and a number of Western countries regarding human rights in Iran, describing it as a clear instance of 'hypocritical blame game'. The ministry's statement came after 32 countries, including France, Britain and Canada, in a joint statement condemned the executions of rioters and the use of the death penalty by Iran as a "capital punishment to silence dissent". The Acting Director General of Human Rights Department at Iran's Foreign Ministry Hamid Ahmadi described the move as a repeated attempt to evade

accountability for their role in gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in various regions of the world, including in Africa and the West Asia, and especially in relation to Iranian citizens. Recalling France's dark colonial history in Africa and elsewhere — as well as its meddlesome actions in certain African nations that have directly or indirectly led to the killing and violation of the human rights of millions of innocent people — Ahmadi advised French officials to correct their racist behavior citizens of other countries and immigrants, and to stop their comprehensive, unconditional, and inhuman support for the genocidal and occupying Israeli regime,



Iran's Foreign Ministry building
● IRNA

instead of preaching to others. Ahmadi said that the anti-Iran statement is being issued at a time when Iranians have not

forgotten the "shameful silence of its authors" regarding recent illegal aggression by the United States and Israel against Iran,

during which thousands of people, including 168 people at a school in Iran's southern city of Minab, lost their lives. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also reacted to the statement by the Western countries, censuring them for preaching about human rights and international law while supporting Israeli and US war crimes. "Countries like France should stop lecturing the world about 'human rights' and international law. The hypocrisy is blatant and embarrassing," Araghchi said in a post on X on Thursday. "Your backing of Israel's genocide in Gaza — and aggression against Iran — has destroyed whatever moral high ground

you imagined you had. Israel launched a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, after the Hamas resistance group carried out a historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people. Israel's war on Gaza has killed more than 73,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 174,259 others. The Israeli regime and the United States also waged their first illegal war on Iran in June 2025. Their second deadly aggression began on February 28 and came to a halt in early April after 40 days. Thousands of Iranians have lost their lives in the aggression.

Iran rejects US claims of normal traffic in Strait of Hormuz, asserts full control

International Desk

The spokesperson for Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, Iran's central command, dismissed US claims of normal maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, saying no vessel can safely transit the strategic waterway without authorization and supervision by Iran.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ebrahim Zolfagari said in a statement on Thursday that US claims regarding the normal passage of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz are "false and baseless," describing them as a sign of the US military's desperation and helplessness. "The Strait of Hormuz remains, as in the past, under the full management and control of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said, adding that no commercial vessel or oil tanker could safely pass through the waterway without authorization and supervision from Iran's armed forces. Zolfagari's remarks came after US President Donald Trump said the US has "total control" over the waterway. "I THINK WE WILL KEEP IT," Trump wrote Wednesday on his Truth Social platform. Zolfagari said the US and



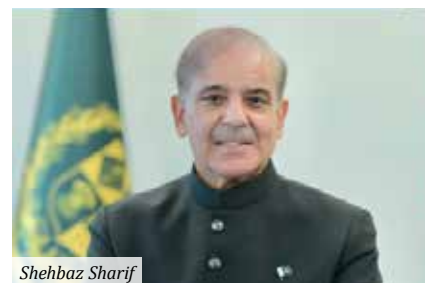
Vessels are seen in the Strait of Hormuz, off the port city of Bandar Abbas in southern Iran on August 10, 2026.
● AFP

its military have repeatedly experienced the "power and steadfastness" of the Iranian people and the country's armed forces. He further slammed Washington for continuously seeking to create instability and insecurity in the region, saying that unsupported US threats will only result in greater "desperation and helplessness" in the face of Iran's military preparedness. The US has been attacking Iran since earlier in July after Washington violated the terms of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, which was meant to permanently end the war that the US and Israeli regime unleashed against Iran in late February. The understanding had recognized Iran's rights and sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz, and said Iran was responsible for

removing restrictions that it has imposed over the Strait of Hormuz for vessels affiliated with aggressors and their supporters since the start of the aggression on February 28. However, the US attempted to undermine Iran's sovereignty by establishing an unsafe corridor near the Omani shores. The unlawful US measure prompted Iran's firm response to re-impose restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran says any movement in the strategic chokepoint must be conducted under Iranian arrangements, as per the understanding. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi recently said the reopening of the strategic waterway hinges on US actions. "Negotiations with Oman on the legal mechanism and management of the Strait of Hormuz regard-

ing the designation of the Strait of Hormuz transit route are under way and we are very close to an agreement, but the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz is subject to other conditions, including compensation for breaches of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding by the United States," Araghchi said. Reuters reported on Friday that shipping traffic at the Strait of Hormuz fell below the month average towards the end of the week due to volatile sentiment between the US and Iran. Commodity vessel transits at Hormuz picked up slightly on Thursday, but remained lower than the month's daily average of 12, based on Kpler data in August so far. A total of nine vessels transited the strait on Thursday, up from five the previous day, according to Kpler data. The nine vessels included five entries heading into the Persian Gulf and four exits into the Gulf of Oman, mostly via the Iranian shipping route.

Pezeshkian: Tehran determined to further strengthen Islamabad ties



Shehbaz Sharif



Masoud Pezeshkian

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasizes Iran's determination to further strengthen comprehensive relations with Pakistan and is ready to take more effective steps to strengthen the relations between and secure the common interests of the two nations, based on mutual trust and respect. Pezeshkian made the remarks in a congratulatory message to Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the 79th anniversary of the independence of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In his message, the Iranian president considered this occasion a valuable opportunity to commemorate the achievements of Pakistan's great nation, and a new turning point in efforts to deepen and expand longstanding and strategic relations between Tehran and Islamabad. "The common interests and fates of the two nations of Iran and Pakistan are more intertwined than ever before, and this reality doubles the necessity of closer synergy and cooperation," Pezeshkian stated. "Undoubtedly, the deep historical, cultural, civilizational, and people-to-people ties between the two nations are a valuable asset for charting brighter prospects in bilateral relations," he added. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi

also congratulated Pakistani Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on the 79th anniversary of Pakistan's independence, extending his warm congratulations to the Pakistani government and people.

In his message to Ishaq Dar, Araghchi described the occasion as a valuable opportunity to recall the strong historical, cultural, civilizational and people-to-people ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, calling them valuable foundations for strengthening friendship and deepening cooperation between the two nations.

Pakistan emerged as an independent state on August 14, 1947, following the end of British colonial rule and the partition of the Indian subcontinent.

In recent weeks, Iran and Pakistan have taken steps to expand economic cooperation, including a memorandum of understanding signed earlier this month to increase bilateral trade to \$10 billion and advance efforts toward a free trade agreement.

The agreement was signed in Islamabad during the 10th Iran-Pakistan Joint Trade Committee meeting by Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak and Pakistani Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan.

US, Israel guilty of 'gravest war crimes' since 1949

On the 77th anniversary of the adoption of the Four Geneva Conventions, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) issued a statement denouncing the United States and Israel for committing some of the most severe violations of international humanitarian law in modern history through their ongoing military aggression against the Islamic Republic. The statement, released on Thursday, recalls that on August 12, 1949, the four Geneva Conventions established binding principles for armed conflict, including the distinction between military and civilian targets, proportionality, military necessity, and the prohibition of unnecessary suffering, Press TV reported. Common Article 1 of the conventions obliges all states parties not only to re-

spect these rules "in all circumstances" but also to ensure their respect by others. These principles now form an integral part of customary international humanitarian law binding on every nation. Yet the world continues to witness unprecedented breaches. Israel, the ministry declared, remains the single greatest violator of international humanitarian law. Over the past eight decades it has perpetrated the most serious international crimes — war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity — in occupied Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and across West Asia. The statement identifies Israel's aggressive operations against Iran in 2025 and 2026, carried out with the full complicity and participation of the United States,

as among the gravest violations of humanitarian law since the conventions were adopted.

"The war crimes committed by the terrorist US army and the genocidal Zionist regime during their military aggression against Iran over the past year and a half have pushed the boundaries of savagery and barbarity," the ministry said.

It cited specific atrocities: the massacre of students and teachers in Minab with Tomahawk missiles; the attack on the Lamerd stadium with cluster munitions on February 28, 2026; and the bombing of residential homes in Qeshm with one-ton bombs on July 30, 2026. These, it stressed, represent only a fraction of the thousands of war crimes inflicted on the Iranian people.



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