

Iran says 60-day peace period no longer relevant due to US violations

International Desk

Iran said on Monday that the 60-day deadline envisaged in the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding is no longer relevant due to the violation of the memorandum by the United States just a few weeks after it was signed.

"There is no provision in the Memorandum of Understanding referring to a '60-day deadline', and that Iran never formulates its policies under pressure, ultimatums or time limits. We make decisions based on our national interests and assessments," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said during his weekly press conference.

Baqaei said the memorandum had envisaged a 60-day period for talks on two issues – "the lifting of sanctions" and "the nuclear issue", adding that the period could have been extended if no agreement was reached. "Due to the gross and widespread violation of the memorandum by the United States

just a few weeks after it was signed, no talks were initiated," he said.

"As a result, the issue of a 60-day period is basically no longer relevant," Baqaei added.

Islamabad MoU

Iran and the US signed the 14-point memorandum of understanding in June to end the cycle arising from the latest bout of unprovoked American-Israeli aggression against Iran, which had begun on February 28.

They set a 60-day period to discuss further issues including sanctions imposed on Iran as well as the country's nuclear program in order to reach a comprehensive agreement between the two countries.

However, the United States' violation of the agreement from its very first days has effectively rendered the deal invalid.

The two sides have stopped negotiations with the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi saying on Saturday that Tehran is still undecided about re-



Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei speaks during his weekly press conference in Tehran on August 17, 2026.

● IRNA

suming talks with the US amid disagreements about ceasefire violations and the future of the Strait of Hormuz.

Araghchi said on August 10 that Iran will not engage in new negotiations with the US as long as it keeps violating the MoU. The 60-day period expired on Monday with no word of an extension.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on Saturday described the understanding as a "document of honor and victory" aimed at consolidating Iran's success on the diplomatic front, saying the US and Israel failed to achieve any of their objectives in the war. Iran's top parliamentarian said Iran "truly" won the war "militarily and politically".

Iran's Foreign Ministry Director



General for Legal Affairs Abbas Baqerpour said a breach of the memorandum did not mean the agreement had ended or was dead, leaving open the pos-

sibility of its revival if the United States takes the necessary steps.

"The violation of the memorandum, as an agreement, does

not mean that the memorandum has ended or is dead. This memorandum can be revived, but this depends on the United States," Baqerpour said.

Strait of Hormuz will reopen when US honors Islamabad memo: **IRGC**

International Desk

The Strait of Hormuz will reopen only after the United States fulfils its commitments under the Islamabad memorandum, Yadollah Javani, the political deputy of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, said, adding that the war should end in line with the agreement.

"The war should end based on the Islamabad memorandum, and the Strait of Hormuz will be opened when the Americans fulfil their commitments under this memorandum," Javani said in a televised interview on Monday.

Javani said the Strait of Hormuz and the arrangements governing it "will never return to before the war".

He also said the US, Israel and their allies had for months been trying to wrest control of the strategic waterway from Iran but had failed. "The United States, Israel and their allies have been trying for months to take control of the Strait of Hormuz away from Iran, but they have not succeeded," he said.

The US began attacking Iran 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



Ships are anchored in the Strait of Hormuz on August 10, 2026 off the coast of Bandar Abbas, Iran.

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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. Yadollah Javani also said that Iran's defensive posture is poised to shift to an offensive one under a new "maximum deterrence" policy.

Ready for offensive operations

He warned that while Iran's military actions have remained strictly defen-

sive since the outbreak of hostilities, the Armed Forces are fully prepared to adopt an offensive posture if necessary, cautioning adversaries to expect "strategic surprises".

"The enemy should know that it cannot catch us off guard," General Javani stated. "Instead, it is the enemy that must anticipate strategic surprises."

He pointed directly to the recent appointment decrees of top IRGC commanders, specifically highlighting the mandate given to the new Commander-in-Chief, Major General Ahmad Vahidi. General Javani noted that the new command decrees are not merely administrative changes but a clear signal to adversaries that Iran's military doctrine is evolving to meet and exceed the challenges of modern warfare.

According to General Javani, General Vahidi's decree emphasizes "maximum deterrence" and introduces a new operational approach: from now on, any defensive action taken by the Armed Forces will inherently take on an offensive shape to proactively neutralize threats.

Deputy FM voices outrage after Israeli minister promotes 'nightly assassination quota' for Gaza

A senior Iranian diplomat voiced outrage after an extremist Israeli minister advised that the Tel Aviv regime should claim the lives of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on the basis of a "nightly assassination quota." "These admissions must be documented and preserved for the day these criminals are going to be tried," Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi wrote in a post on X on Monday.

The comments came after the minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, advocated killing "30 to 40" people in Gaza per night. "I think targeted assassinations should be carried out in Gaza, taking down 30 to 40 every night," he had also said in comments that surfaced on Sunday. "Not just those who pose an immediate threat — there are



Kazem Gharibabadi

● IRNA

people there who are not worthy of life. They shouldn't live. They're not even people."

Gharibabadi also lambasted the Israeli official for advocating expulsion of Palestinians from Gaza and establishment of illegal settlements in the coastal sliver, referring to the minister claiming that "I

see all of Gaza as ours."

The Israeli minister has earned considerable notoriety for making similar incendiary remarks on numerous occasions in the past.

Many of the statements have been presented to the International Criminal Court (ICC) as evidence of genocidal intent.

Prior to leaving office amid widely reported Israeli pressure, former ICC prosecutor general Karim Khan was reportedly preparing draft arrest warrants for Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, another controversial Israeli official, for their involvement in building illegal settlements.

Earlier this year, Israeli paper Ha'aretz reported that the Office of the Prosecutor had secretly requested arrest warrants for Ben-Gvir and others.

Memorial to be held today for martyred Leader 40 days after burial

National Desk

The Iranian capital of Tehran, as well as the holy cities of Qom and Mashhad, are set to observe mourning ceremonies today in commemoration of the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, on the 40th day after his funeral and burial.

Memorial ceremonies are going to be held between 17 p.m. local time (1330 GMT) and 19 p.m. on August 18 at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla. A significant number of individuals are expected to gather and pay their respects and offer prayers for the martyred Leader.

Ceremonies will also take place at the holy shrine of Hazrat Fatima Masoumeh in Qom on August 19, and at the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad the following day.

The body of the martyred Leader was laid to rest next to the holy shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad on July 10, after days of massive farewell and funeral ceremonies in Tehran, Qom, as well as the Iraqi holy shrine cities of Najaf and Karbala.

The body was received by a massive crowd from across Iran and dozens of countries when it arrived in Mashhad. Millions of mourners brought several



The photo released by the Leader's official website on July 10, 2026, shows the resting place of the martyred Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and his family members at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad, Iran.

● khamenei.ir

days of nationwide mourning to their climax in Mashhad, as the final farewell ceremony for the martyred Leader concluded at the holy mausoleum of Imam Reza.

Ayatollah Khamenei was assassinated in a joint US-Israeli strike on Tehran on February 28, 2026, at the outset of a 40-day unprovoked war of aggression against Iran.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

