

Strait of Hormuz to remain shut until US meets Islamabad MoU conditions: *Qalibaf*

International Desk

The Strait of Hormuz will remain shut until the US meets the conditions of an interim deal signed with Iran in June, the top Iranian negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Tuesday. These conditions include the US lifting its blockade of Iranian ports, lifting oil sanctions, releasing Tehran's frozen assets, and ending threats and military operations on all fronts, Qalibaf told parliament. The memorandum of understanding, clinched on June 17, quickly unraveled over a dispute about control of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway through which a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flowed before the war. Under the MoU, Iran and the US had committed to negotiating a final deal — covering broader issues such as the fate of Iran's nuclear program and sanctions

— in a maximum of 60 days, extendable by mutual consent. 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 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



An Iranian woman walks along the seashore as vessels are seen in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, in southern Iran on August 10, 2026.

● AFP

Strait of Hormuz. Tehran says any movement in the strategic chokepoint must be conducted under Iranian arrangements, as per the understanding. Qalibaf also warned that Iran is prepared to "inflict an even heavier defeat on the enemy" in case of fresh violations. He identified the understanding as "a document of the United States defeat in the legal and political spheres." The enemy accepted the understanding "out of desperation to end the war," he added, noting how Iran's decisive and successful retaliation against the aggression forced Washington to announce a unilateral cease-fire on April 7 and then agree



to the understanding. Qalibaf described subsequent

violations by the US of the understanding as its efforts at

"compensating for its heavy political defeat."

Tehran condemns Erbil drone attack as false-flag operation

International Desk

Iranian officials condemned a drone attack targeting the office of Iraqi Kurdistan Region prime minister, urging Kurdish authorities to remain vigilant against false-flag operations. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a post on X on Monday described the incident as reckless and urged Kurdish officials to remain vigilant against false-flag plots designed to sow discord between neighbors. The warning came after two explosive-laden drones hit the personal office of Masrour Barzani and the residence of the head of the Kurdistan Region's Security and Intelligence Agency in the Pirmam district of Erbil. No casualties were reported. The Kurdistan Counter-Terrorism Service claimed the drones had been launched from Iranian territory, an assertion that Iranian officials have firmly rejected.



Abbas Araghchi
● AFP

"Nothing justifies the reckless attack on PM Barzani's office. Kurdish friends should be vigilant against false-flag ploys to sow discord between neighbors." "We protected our Kurdish friends against Saddam and DAESH, and we're thankful for the security they've provided on our border," he stated. Earlier, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei also addressed the matter, calling the attack a "highly suspicious development." Baqaei said Iran condemns the reported strike on Barzani's office in Erbil and believes it could be a false-flag operation intended to incriminate

the Islamic Republic.

In a telephone conversation with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein, Araghchi expressed surprise at the attack and stated that he had no information indicating the drones originated from Iranian territory. The office of Iraq's Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi said he had "directed the formation of an investigative committee tasked with identifying the sources and launching points of the attack that targeted the office of" Barzani. Iran's Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf will travel to Iraq on Wednesday for talks with officials in Baghdad. Ghalibaf will head "a high-level parliamentary delegation to discuss regional developments, strengthen strategic cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad and explore joint solutions to contribute to stability and security in the Middle East," Fars news agency said.

Iran holds ceremony to honor martyred Leader 40 days after his burial

National Desk

Thousands of Iranians from all walks of life gathered at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla to pay their respects for the martyred Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on the 40th day after his burial. A significant number of government and military officials as well as Ayatollah Khamenei's three sons took part in the ceremony. Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei and the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Quds Force Esmail Qaani were among the officials who attended the ceremony. Waiving Iran's flags and flags decorated with the images of the martyrs of the recent US-Israeli aggression, participants chanted slogans to honor the memory of the martyred leader and emphasize the continuation of the path of the martyrs and resistance against the enemies. They also called for revenge for the "blood of the martyrs". Similar ceremonies will also take



place at the holy city of Qom on August 19, and at the shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) 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 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.



A woman holds a picture of martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and his granddaughter Zahra Mohammadi Golpayegani in a ceremony held in Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla to mark 40 days after their burial in Tehran on August 18, 2026.

● ISNA

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. Qalibaf vowed that the Islamic Republic will not let the blood of the martyred Leader and other martyrs of unprovoked American-Israeli aggression against the nation "go unavenged."

Qatar says Hormuz agreement crucial for US-Iran talks to resume

Qatar, a key mediator in the stalled US-Iran talks, said Tuesday that an agreement between Iran and Oman over the Strait of Hormuz would make it easier to resume negotiations to end the US-Israeli aggression against Iran. After war broke out between the United States and Iran in late February, Tehran effectively shut the strait, which normally carries one fifth of the world's LNG and oil during peacetime, AFP reported. Iran and Oman, both coastal states bordering the strait, have for weeks been discussing the future of navigation through the waterway, with Tehran saying the geographical coordinates of the route envisaged by both countries "have been agreed upon".



Majed Al Ansari
● moja.gov.qa

"We are also awaiting an agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and Iran regarding the Strait, which would enable us to return to the framework of negotiations," Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed

Al Ansari told reporters.

"The agreement over the Strait of Hormuz would make it much easier for us to resume the talks between the United States and Iran," he added. A memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides in June effectively collapsed over management of the strait. On Monday, Iran said that talks were "continuing in a serious manner" and views were being exchanged on the text of a "joint statement". US President Donald Trump threatened to bomb Oman if it "gets in the way" of a deal with Iran on Hormuz, and called for Tehran to surrender in a war that has become a growing political burden at home.



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