

President says time to end war while 'in position of strength'

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Friday that it would be better to end the war now while Iran is "in a position of strength and dignity", while warning that Tehran would respond forcefully to any renewed attack.

Speaking at the 31st General Assembly of the Islamic Association of the Iranian Medical Society, Pezeshkian described the recent agreement reached between Iran and the United States to end the aggression as a "major achievement" approved unanimously by Iran's Supreme National Security Council. Pezeshkian described the agreement as "honorable and valuable," rejecting criticism that Tehran had made concessions. "They cannot find even a single clause in this agreement that indicates surrender; all the commitments are related to the other side," he said. "War should end at some point.

It is better to end the war today, while we are in a position of strength and dignity," he added. "The whole world acknowledges our victory and emphasizes that America has attacked our schools, hospitals and infrastructure in violation of all regulations and is hated around the world."

No surrender

Pezeshkian stressed that Iran should not reject peace. However, he said that this does not mean Tehran would surrender if they launch another aggression against the country. "We will not bow to bullying and there is no doubt about it. We will stand against them until our last breath and give them a crushing response". He added that military commanders and Armed Forces remain fully prepared to defend the country, while stressing the importance of maintaining domestic unity. Iran and the US signed a



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at the 31st General Assembly of the Islamic Association of the Iranian Medical Society in Tehran on August 21, 2026. president.ir

14-point Memorandum of Understanding in Islamabad on June 17 under Pakistani and Qatari mediation, providing for an end to the US-Israeli aggression against Iran and a 60-day period of negotiations toward a final agreement. However, the US began to violate the agreement by attacking Iran in July on the pretext of Tehran's attacks on vessels in the Persian Gulf, prompting Iran's response to the attacks by targeting US military bases in the region. 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 for vessels affiliated with aggres-



sors 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 US measure prompted Iran's firm response to re-impose restrictions on the

waterway. Tehran says any movement in the strategic chokepoint must be conducted under Iranian arrangements, as per the understanding.

Iran: New US sanctions amount to 'economic terrorism'

China says US 'sanctions, pressure' on Iran not a solution

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned a new round of US economic sanctions against the country, stating that the measures amount to "economic terrorism" and "crimes against humanity."

In a statement issued on Thursday, the ministry said the new sanctions, announced by the US government on the anniversary of the 1953 coup in Iran, demonstrate the continuation of decades of hostility toward the Iranian people.

"The new US sanctions are not only another indication of the continuation of 73 years of hostility by US policymakers toward the Iranian people, but also demonstrate the anti-human, lawless and hegemonic nature of the US government," the statement said.

On Wednesday, US President Donald Trump announced what he called the "most crushing economic operation" against Iran, claiming that Tehran would face "economic warfare and isolation on an unprecedented scale". He also threatened sanctions against any country that does business with Iran.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who had previously teased new economic sanctions against Iran, said he would share more details about these measures next week.

"It is a one-two punch. We have the [naval] blockade, and we are going to have the toughest sanctions in history," the



secretary told CNBC on Thursday. The threat comes as the war on Iran, launched alongside the Israeli regime on February 28, has failed to reach any of its objectives. The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the sanctions target the fundamental rights of Iranian citizens and slammed Washington for violating international norms. "Without a doubt, the US economic sanctions against Iran, which target the fundamental human rights of every Iranian citizen, constitute 'economic terrorism' and 'crimes against humanity,'" it said, adding that those responsible should face prosecution and punishment. It also called on countries committed to the principles of the UN Charter, including respect for national sovereignty, not to remain indifferent to continued US violations of fundamental international norms. Meanwhile, Mohammed Baqer Qalibaf, the speaker of Iran's Parliament, pushed back Friday against "unjust" US

economic sanctions.

"We must plan for the unjust sanctions so that we can overcome them," Qalibaf told a group of economic representatives in Baghdad, according to a message shared on Telegram.

Sanctions won't resolve tensions

China said on Friday that US "sanctions and pressure" would not resolve tensions in the Middle East, after Washington urged governments including Beijing to join efforts to isolate the Iranian economy.

"China calls on all relevant parties to take responsible measures and resolve the problem through political and diplomatic means," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian told reporters on Friday.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has defended Trump's push for economic pressure on Tehran.

When asked whether the United States would pressure China to join the campaign, Bessent told CNBC that "many conversations are best to have in private", but called on Beijing "to get with the program".

Spokesman Lin reiterated the need for all parties to take "responsible measures" in resolving the war, when he was asked about Bessent's comments.

"China opposes illegal unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law and are not authorized by the UN Security Council," Lin said. China is Iran's largest trading partner

Military chief warns of 'crushing' response to new threats

National Desk

Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Major General Ali Abdollahi said Iran's Armed Forces will give "crushing, regrettable and devastating" response to any "miscalculation" or conventional and emerging threats.

In a message marking Iran's Defense Industry Day, Abdollahi said the country's Armed Forces were maintaining readiness across land, sea, air, air defense, space and cyber domains.

"I emphasize that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with comprehensive, intelligent and up-to-date readiness in all areas — ground, naval, air, air defense, space and cyber — will confront any miscalculation and conventional or modern threats by the enemies with revolutionary, forceful, regret-inducing and devastating responses," he warned.

He described developments at Iran's Defense Ministry in recent years as going beyond the production of military equipment, calling them a "deterrent defense industrial revolution" encompassing technology management, the defense economy, knowledge-based industries and advanced production.

Abdollahi said the changes were in-

tended to strengthen Iran's ability to confront increasingly complex forms of warfare.

Abdollahi's warning comes following wars of aggression launched by the US and the Israeli regime against Iran in 2025 and 2026. Iran responded to the unprovoked attacks by launching precision strikes against US and Israeli military assets across the region, inflicting heavy damage on adversaries. Tensions have risen as the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, signed on June 17, expired after two months following Washington's breach of its commitments.

Iran's acting Defense Minister Seyyed Majid Ebn al-Reza also said the country's Armed Forces have never started a war, but will not allow military aggression against Iran's independence or security.

Speaking before Friday prayers at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla, Ebn al-Reza said Iran entered the "Ramadan War" significantly stronger than it had entered the earlier 12-day conflict.

He described the latest war as a "harsh test" for Iran, saying the country suffered deaths and heavy losses but that it also demonstrated the strength of "national self-confidence".

Speaker hails 'unbreakable' unity with Iraq

International Desk

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf described the unity between Iran and Iraq as "unbreakable," saying the two countries will continue to stand against the United States.

Speaking on Friday after paying tribute to Martyr Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis at the Wadi Al-Salam Cemetery in Najaf, Qalibaf said the United States and the Israeli regime should understand that unity within the Muslim world, particularly between Iran and Iraq, is "unbreakable."

This relationship, he added, is cemented by shared religious and cultural foundations. He pointed to periods when Iranian and Iraqi forces stood together in response to shared threats, Press TV reported.

Qalibaf recalled the fight against the Daesh terrorist group, saying Iranian and Iraqi forces stood alongside one another when they needed each other.

He also pointed to the recent aggression against Iran, saying the Iraqi people rose up during the "Ramadan War," referring to the war launched by the US and the Israeli regime against Iran in late February, during the month of Ramadan.

Furthermore, he cited the US assassination of anti-terror commanders Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in January 2020 as a symbol of the close ties between the two nations. "The symbol of this struggle is the blood of the martyr Abu Mahdi and the dear martyr Haj Qassem, which was mixed in this land," he said. Qalibaf said the cooperation between the two coun-

tries would continue.

On Thursday, speaking with a host of Iranian and Iraqi businesspeople in Baghdad, Qalibaf said Iran does not seek war, but diplomacy can only be effective when backed by readiness for war, as the US resorts to economic threats against Iran following defeat in the military war.

"We are neither warmongers nor seeking war," he said. "But as Muslims, we believe in a principle in the Islamic Ummah: We will not allow people to trample on our dignity and honor. On this path, we will sacrifice our wealth and lives, stand firm, and defend our dignity and honor."

Qalibaf traveled to Iraq on Wednesday for a three-day visit, during which he held talks with several Iraqi officials including prime minister, president and parliament speaker.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

CARTOON

