

Iran will not allow war to end on 'aggressor's conditions'



International Desk

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said on Monday that Iran did not initiate the war but "We will not allow the war to end on the aggressor's terms" as tensions running high between Tehran and Washington following imposition of new

sanctions by the United States against Iran. "Iranian officials have spoken very clearly about the seriousness and determination in defending Iran's territory. We will not show no leniency toward the aggressors; because the Islamic Republic of Iran did not initiate the war and has

defended its rights, territorial integrity and national sovereignty. Naturally, the aggressor must be held accountable. We certainly did not initiate the war, but we will not allow the end of the war to be based on the conditions set by the aggressor", Baqaei said during his weekly presser. He made the comments in response to a question about recent remarks by President Masoud Pezeshkian, who had said it would be better to end the war now while Iran is "in a position of strength and dignity". However, the president warned on Friday that Tehran would respond forcefully to any renewed attack.

The spokesman cited Pezeshkian as repeatedly making clear that Iranians would not surrender to force or domination, and stressed that Iran would not accept the aggressor's excessive demands.

Economic pressure

On Wednesday, US President Donald Trump announced new economic measures against Iran and warned that countries that maintain economic engagement with Tehran would face consequences.

Trump said on his Truth Social platform that he was announcing "the most crushing economic operation ever taken against any country!"

He added that any country that allows its financial institutions, businesses, airports, or government entities to provide any type of lifeline to Iran will itself face tremendous economic consequences.

Baqaei said US measures variously described as "crippling sanctions," "maximum pressure," and "economic warfare" pursued the same objective of trying to force Iran to surrender its rights.

He, however, said these efforts

had failed and attributed current menacing US rhetoric to "desperation" and Washington's miscalculation concerning the effects of military aggression.

Aiding aggressors

He also said countries should have no concerns about Iran unless they make their bases, facilities, or equipment available to parties carrying out acts of aggression against the country. Baqaei was responding to questions about reports in Western media outlets that US bases on European territory could be targeted if European states resumed their participation in acts of aggression against Iran. "We also heard that a number of KC-135 tanker aircraft have left Bulgaria," the official stated, reacting to a report that the aircraft had left the European country amid local protests and strong warnings by the Islamic Republic against third countries

abetting aggression against the Iranian nation.

"We have no problem with the people of Bulgaria," the spokesman said. However, participation in atrocities targeting the Islamic Republic "constitutes an act of aggression," he stated. "We hope that other countries that have, in one way or another, made their bases and facilities available to the United States and the Zionist regime to commit an act of aggression against a United Nations member state will also take the necessary action," Baqaei said.

"There is no reason for any country to have concerns about Iran, unless it has made its bases, facilities, and equipment available to the aggressors for the purpose of carrying out [such] an unlawful and illegal act," he said, asserting the Islamic Republic's right to retaliate against the origin of an attack on its soil.

Pakistani army chief in Tehran to 'promote regional stability'

International Desk

Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir, chief of the country's armed forces, arrived in Tehran on Monday, his fourth visit to the Iranian capital in less than six months, as Islamabad seeks to promote regional stability and a peaceful resolution to conflicts in the Middle East.

The Pakistan army's public relations office said the visit was part of Pakistan's efforts "to promote peace and stability in the region and peacefully resolve disputes".

"Field Marshal Asim Munir during his visit to Iran will meet key Iranian leaders to advance ongoing efforts to achieve a peaceful, sustainable and comprehensive solution to the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East," the statement said.

Munir's repeated visits to Tehran come as diplomatic efforts involving Iran and the United States continue amid tensions in the region. Pakistan has sought to play a role in facilitating diplomatic contacts between the two sides. Iran's official IRNA news agency said: "The sequence of Asim Munir's four visits to Tehran clearly shows that the diplomatic path between Iran and the United States, despite repeated ups and downs, still passes through Pakistan."

US President Donald Trump spoke with Munir last week ahead of Munir's trip to Tehran, according to three Pakistani sources, with one saying the main US request was to use Pakistan's influence to bring Iran back to negotiations.



Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir (L) holds talks with Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni (R) upon his arrival in Tehran on August 24, 2026.
● IRNA

Trump last week warned of economic consequences against any country that provided "any type of lifeline to Iran". Iran has in turn vowed to shut down all oil exports from the Persian Gulf.

Last week's call, which has not been previously reported, was initiated by Trump, according to two Pakistani sources.

Munir arrived in Tehran accompanied by Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Pakistan's military confirmed, saying it was "part of Pakistan's efforts to promote regional peace and stability."

Pakistan, which has played a key mediating role between the US and Iran this year, has remained a trading partner of Iran throughout the recent fighting. Pakistan's earlier mediation efforts between the US and Iran resulted in an interim peace agreement signed in June. But the Islamabad Memorandum quickly faltered, amid new fighting between Iran and the US that has threatened to spiral into a wider regional conflict in recent weeks.

Meanwhile, Oman's foreign minister will travel to Iran on Tuesday, Iran's foreign ministry said, as Tehran and

Muscat seek a way to regulate the passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

Badr al-Busaidi will hold the "ongoing political consultations between the two sides, as two littoral states of the Strait of Hormuz, to help strengthen peace and security in the region," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said in a statement on Monday.

"The visit is aimed at strengthening Iran-Oman bilateral cooperation and Al-Busaidi will meet with Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi to discuss bilateral and regional issues," Baqaei added.

Iran has exerted control over Hormuz, a key waterway for oil and gas shipping, since the outbreak of the war in the Middle East on February 28.

Iran and Oman have been in talks to establish a new route through the strait, the only entrance to the Persian Gulf and which separates their two countries, but a deal has not yet been finalized.

Tehran, however, says even if the talks bear fruit, that would not on its own open the waterway unless the US meets Iran's broader demands including the lifting of its blockade on Iranian ports.

Iran warns it will seize violating vessels in Strait of Hormuz



The Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA), Iran's regulatory body for the Strait of Hormuz, announced that vessels violating Iranian protocols for the strategic waterway will face restrictions on future passages, including fines, detention, or confiscation.

In a statement posted on its official X account on Sunday, the authority warned cargo owners shipping to and from the Persian Gulf to review the Non-Compliant Vessels (NCV) list prior to chartering in order to avoid potential issues.

Effective immediately, the authority said, any vessel cooperating with listed vessels, including through ship-to-ship (STS) transfers or transshipment, will also be added to the list, Press TV reported.

To request removal from the list, vessels must submit a formal application with justifications to info@pgsa.ir, it said.

The announcement comes amid heightened tensions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for global energy shipments, through which about one-fifth of the world's oil supply passes.

Iran has warned that it will not tolerate any disruption to its sovereignty over the strategic passage, saying traffic in the waterway will not return to normal unless the United States ends the war and blockade against the country.

In mid-June, Washington and Tehran signed a Pakistan-mediated memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at halting hostilities and paving the way for a final diplomatic agreement to end the war.

However, the memorandum proved fragile, with Washington violating its core terms from the beginning and disagreements quickly emerging over its implementation, particularly regarding the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

The US also launched a series of airstrikes on Iran's southern shores, prompting the country to resume its retaliatory operations against US interests in the region.

The MoU expired on August 17 without renewal or negotiations toward a permanent deal.

Iraq proposes joint security council with Iran, Saudi Arabia

International Desk

Iraq has proposed establishing a unified security coordination council with Iran and Saudi Arabia to rebuild trust between the regional rivals.

National Security Adviser Qasim al-Araji told state TV on Sunday that the initiative aims to address what he called a "crisis of confidence" between Tehran and Riyadh.

The move follows a July 27 Saudi claim that it destroyed drones launched from Iraq targeting oil facilities, which Riyadh blamed on Iraqi resistance groups. Iraq's prime minister ordered an investigation.

There was no immediate comment



from Saudi Arabia or Iran regarding the security proposal.

The proposal comes after Saudi Arabia signed a security pact with Turkey and Pakistan on August 7 amid growing security concerns in the region following the US-Israeli aggression against Iran

in February.

In a joint statement, the signatories said the pact stipulates that an armed attack against any one of the three countries will be regarded as an attack on all.

It aims to strengthen collective security and promote peace, security and stability in the region and beyond, the statement added.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei at the time dismissed concerns over the defense agreement, emphasizing that Tehran has "deeply rooted bonds" with the three countries. He also said on Monday that Iran has not received any official invitation to join the agreement.

