

Pezeshkian says unity key to resisting 'US bullying'



International Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday national unity and cohesion are the key to standing up to "US bullying", arguing that Iran would never bow to Washington as long as the country maintains solidarity and cooperation.

"If there are empathy and synergy in the country and we can preserve unity and cohesion, we will never bow our heads before America," Pezeshkian said at a meeting with a group of retirees, IRNA reported.



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a meeting with a group of retirees in Tehran, Iran, on September 14, 2026.

● president.ir

Referring to the crimes committed by the United States and Israel against the Iranian people during their acts of aggression, Pezeshkian said those claiming to defend human rights and humanity are using their tools and technology to kill children and innocent people.

"The reality is that they are bullying and, by creating problems and restrictions, they are seeking social collapse [in Iran]," he said, adding that, the US has blocked the ways and is seeking to create divisions in the country.

The US has imposed two blockades on Iranian ports after Tehran closed the Strait of Hormuz in response to the US-Israeli aggression against Iran in February. The second blockade which is ongoing, has hampered Iran's

imports.

"Although the United States has blocked maritime routes, our level of engagement with other friendly and neighboring countries has increased through land routes", Pezeshkian said.

The Iranian president blasted the US and Israel for using their technological capabilities to carry out targeted killings, saying they had created a "terrorist state" and killed anyone they wanted.

He also referred to the situation in Gaza, saying innocent people there were being labelled terrorists despite lacking even basic access to water and food.

"In Gaza, they call the innocent people of that region terrorists, while they do not even have water and food to consume," he said.

Tehran raps Vienna's barring of nuclear chief from IAEA meet as 'serious violation'

International Desk

Iran on Monday protested a decision by the Australian government to prevent head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami from attending the International Atomic Energy Agency's General Conference under US pressure, calling it a "serious violation" of a member state's rights.

Addressing the event, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna Reza Najafi rejected any characterization of the move as a minor administrative matter or human error, IRNA reported.

"This is [rather] a serious violation of our country's rights as a member of this agency," he said.

Najafi said preventing the move violated the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in Article IV, Paragraph C of the IAEA Statute. He said the principle guarantees equal rights for all members and their enjoyment of the benefits of membership.

The envoy added that the ban also undermined Iran's right to participate in the General Conference through a representative of its own choosing and weakened the privileges required for representatives to perform their duties under the IAEA Statute and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the IAEA.

Equal representation and participation



Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Eslami is pictured in a plane as he departed Tehran for Vienna to take part in the International Atomic Energy Agency's General Conference on September 12, 2026.

● IRNA

are treaty-based membership rights that "cannot and must not be undermined," he said.

Najafi further described the act as a violation of Austria's obligations as host country under the IAEA Headquarters Agreement between Austria and the Agency.

He said the agreement requires Austria to take all necessary measures to facilitate the entry of representatives of member states into Austrian territory and issue their visas as promptly as possible. The obligation, he stressed, is binding and unconditional for representatives holding valid credentials.

Najafi warned that preventing the head of a delegation from attending the agency's highest policy-making body undermined the conference itself, stressing that anything short of corrective action would set a dangerous precedent for all IAEA members. US Energy Secretary Chris Wright confirmed to reporters that Washington had applied pressure to stop Moham-

mad Eslami from entering Austria, saying "he's a sanctioned individual and we don't want sanctioned individuals evading their sanctions".

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei described the Australia's move as "absolutely unjustified".

"They should have issued visas for the Iranian delegation in accordance with their obligations. We expressed our protest explicitly to the Austrian government and their chargé d'affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs".

The violation followed adoption of an anti-Iran resolution by the IAEA's Board of Governors, which has faulted the Islamic Republic's refusal to provide access to the nuclear sites attacked during American-Israeli aggression.

Tehran has asserted that continued American aggression against the country has made effective IAEA inspections of the nuclear sites impossible, adding, however, that it has demonstrated a continued commitment to constructive manner and good-faith engagement with the agency.

Yemen's Ansarullah targets Saudi military bases in retaliation for airstrikes

International Desk

Yemen's Ansarullah resistance group launched a fresh barrage of missile and drone attacks on Saudi military targets on Monday.

The group, fighting the Saudi-backed government, last week seized control of Yemen's Red Sea coast and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, which has become vital as the wider US-Iran war chokes the Strait of Hormuz.

The Ansarullah said they fired dozens of drones and missiles at the kingdom, prompting the Saudi Civil Defense to issue brief alerts in the neighboring cities of Khams Mushait and Abha.

A Khams Mushait resident told AFP he heard "intense blasts" which left fires burning for a "long time".

"Honestly, we couldn't sleep at all."

The Bab al-Mandab waterway has become essential for Saudi oil exports, with Iran continuing to block the Hormuz strait as part of the Middle East war, but the Ansarullah has declared a maritime blockade on Riyadh.

Iran on Monday denied any involvement in the country's revived civil war.

"Iran does not interfere in Yemeni affairs," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei told reporters on Monday, saying the Ansarullah fighters are "entirely independent actors who make their decisions based on their own in-

terests".

Yemen's prolonged civil war had been dormant for four years before bursting back into life in July over an Iranian flight to the capital Sana'a, as it became the latest conflict drawn into the wider regional war.

The Ansarullah's military spokesman Yahya Saree said Monday that the group's latest strikes targeted "fighter jet hangars, radars, runways, ammunition depots" at King Khalid Air Base in Khams Mushait, in retaliation for airstrikes by Riyadh.

He accused Saudi Arabia of carrying out "more than 300 airstrikes in the past five days" across Yemen.

Yemeni Saudi-backed forces on Sunday said they had recaptured positions in the southwestern province of Taiz from Ansarullah's fighters and carried out airstrikes, telling the official Saba news agency they killed at least ten gunmen.

Last week, American media reported that US President Donald Trump had rejected a personal request from Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, to intervene in the war.

The Saudi crown prince received the commander of the US Central Command, Admiral Brad Cooper, in Jeddah on Monday to discuss "the latest developments in the region", according to Saudi news agency SPA.

Iran confirms Oman meeting on Strait of Hormuz called off at Saudi request

International Desk

Iran said a meeting of foreign ministers of regional countries scheduled in Oman on Monday to discuss arrangements for safe commercial navigation through the Strait of Hormuz was canceled at Saudi Arabia's request.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said during his weekly presser that the planned meeting in Oman was an "opportunity" created by Tehran and Muscat and that regional countries were expected to recognize and make use of it, IRNA reported.

Iran and Oman announced the postponement on Sunday night.

Director General of the Persian Gulf Department at Iran's Foreign Ministry Mohammad Alibek said that, "At the request of certain regional countries and based on a joint decision by Oman and Iran, the

meeting of foreign ministers from Persian Gulf littoral states, originally scheduled for Monday, has been postponed to a later date," Alibek stated.

Alibek underlined that Tehran will work closely with Muscat to set a mutually convenient time for the gathering.

Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi also announced the postponement, noting that the decision was taken "in the interests of consensus."

Baqaei added that Iran and Oman have finalized an agreement concerning maritime routes.

"The understanding between Iran and Oman, as two littoral states, has been finalized. In consultation with Oman, we will decide on the next step, including how to announce or register the understanding," he said. He noted that the Iran-Oman understanding regarding the security of maritime routes was the result of weeks

of negotiations between the two countries. The Strait of Hormuz is a major global energy chokepoint, with roughly one-fifth of global oil demand passing through the waterway. Iran has maintained heightened restrictions on navigation since the start of the US-Israeli military aggression against the country on Feb. 28, citing security concerns and the need to safeguard its sovereignty.

Iran and Oman have been engaged in negotiations for nearly three months over arrangements for safe navigation through the strategic waterway. On August 25, the two countries announced discussions on a phased framework that would initially establish a temporary joint maritime corridor, alongside a joint mine-clearance project.

The framework is aimed at restoring safe navigation while preserving the sovereignty and sovereign rights of coastal states.



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