

Araghchi calls for global shift from military intervention

Wars never create security, lasting peace

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the US and Israeli military aggression against Iran as "illegal, unjust and aggressive" and called for a global shift away from military intervention toward respect for national sovereignty.

Speaking by videoconference at the 2026 Global Town Hall hosted by Indonesia's Foreign Policy Community on Saturday, Araghchi said the war on Iran that began in late February was part of a broader pattern of "unpunished aggressions", including targeted assassinations of Iranian officials, threats against political figures and violations of national sovereignty.

"If these are not met with an effective response from the international community, they will gradually erase the prohibited boundaries of international law," Araghchi said.

He argued that decades of foreign intervention, military pressure and wars in the Middle East had demonstrated that military intervention did not create security and that coercion did not lead to peace.

The top diplomat said military force had increasingly ceased to be a last resort and had instead become a permanent mechanism for reshaping the political and security landscape of the region.

"Under such circumstances, aggression becomes institutionalized, and destruction turns from a consequence of war into an instrument for advancing political goals," he said.

The foreign minister also criticized what he described as the selective application of international law, saying human rights could not be treated as an inherent right for some nations and a conditional privilege for others.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses via videoconference the 2026 Global Town Hall hosted by Indonesia's Foreign Policy Community on September 19, 2026.

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He called for a change in the international system "from militarism to sustainable development, from interventionism toward respect for national sovereignty, from collective punishment toward the protection of civilians, from selective accountability toward universal justice and from endless wars toward lasting peace".

Araghchi said the international community faced a "historic and civilizational choice" between continuing along the path of militarism and confrontation or showing the political will and courage to change course.



"This fundamental turnaround ... is what today's world needs, and its time

is neither tomorrow nor in an uncertain future. Its time is now," he said.

Images appear to show heavy damage at US base in Kuwait after Iranian retaliation

International Desk

Newly released images appear to show extensive damage to several structures, including a bunker and runway, at a US military base in Kuwait following Iranian strikes. The images, published by MeidasTouch, suggest that several buildings were destroyed, with debris scattered across the site.

A bunker designed to protect military personnel also appears to have been struck apparently by a drone, while the base's runway appears to have been severely damaged.

Tasnim News Agency said it investigation concluded that the site was likely Camp Arifjan.

The findings are consistent with a separate report by ABC News this week, which included images and videos showing extensive damage to buildings and at least one aircraft at three US bases in Kuwait, including Camp Arifjan, and Prince



The photo shows the aftermath of Iranian strikes on US military assets in Kuwait during a war that began by the United States and Israel on Iran in late February.

● MeidasTouch

Air Base in late March.

A senior US military official described the damage as severe, saying rebuilding the affected bases would take decades. The official also criticized the Pentagon for a lack of transparency over continuing drone and ballistic missile attacks on US bases.

A Pentagon inspector general's report released on Monday said "hundreds of buildings and structures" had been damaged. It estimated the cost of the war at \$33 billion, while the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office put the figure at \$38 billion. US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth acknowledged that some Iranian weapons had penetrated US defense systems.

Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia.

Some US equipment and personnel were reportedly withdrawn from the Saudi base following the threat. CBS News also reported extensive damage to US bases earlier this week.

The Pentagon has not publicly released a detailed assessment of damage to US facilities in Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman and Jordan. Satellite imagery has repeatedly shown evidence of

Iranian attacks on US positions across the region. The Pentagon says 18 US service members have been killed and 824 wounded since the US-Israeli war on Iran began on February 28.

ABC News reported that images received from US personnel showed damaged buildings and an aircraft at three bases in Kuwait and one in Saudi Arabia.

One image reportedly showed an E-3 Sentry surveillance aircraft, valued at about \$270mn, damaged at Prince Sultan

South Korean groups protest US pressure to deploy troops to Hormuz



International Desk

South Korean civil society groups gathered near the US Embassy in Seoul on Saturday to protest US President Donald Trump's pressure on South Korea to deploy troops to the Strait of Hormuz. The demonstrators, chanting slogans opposing any military deployment, a day after President Lee Jae Myung reiterated that Seoul would not send troops to participate in the US war on Iran, BBC reported.

"There will be no involvement or intervention in the war. We will not deploy troops or military assets in that manner," Lee told reporters at a press conference at the presidential Blue House on Friday.

Trump has openly criticized South Ko-

rea's refusal to participate in the war against Iran and scaled back major joint military exercises between the two countries' armies this summer.

Reports earlier this month said South Korea was considering deploying military assets to the Strait of Hormuz, which has remained under Iranian control since the early stages of the US-Israeli war against Iran in late February. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei warned on September 7 that any military presence by other countries in the Persian Gulf or the Strait of Hormuz would amount to direct support for the aggressor and carry serious consequences.

Iran restricted transit through the Strait of Hormuz in response to the US-Israeli aggression that began on February 28.

Iran weighs holding parliamentary, presidential elections together in 2028

National Desk

Iran is working to hold parliamentary and presidential elections simultaneously in April or May 2028, the Interior Ministry spokesman Ali Zeynivand said on Saturday, in a move that would bring forward the parliamentary vote and align the two electoral cycles. "A working group was formed to merge the two elections. It comprises the Interior Ministry, the Parliament's Research Center, the Guardian Council and the Expediency Council," Zeynivand was quoted as saying by ISNA.

"After reviewing the issue, we found that it is possible to merge



the elections without changing the constitution," he added.

"Nobody opposes this issue either. We are finalizing the matter so that, after obtaining more precise views from the relevant bodies, we can submit it to Parliament in the form of a bill," Zeynivand pointed

out.

Under Iran's current electoral timetable, the next parliamentary election is scheduled for February or March 2028, while the presidential election is due to be held in May or June of the same year. Zeynivand expressed hope that both elections could instead take place in April or May 2028.

Iran's local council elections, which had been scheduled for spring this year, were postponed because of wartime conditions. Iranian officials said the elections would be held two months after the end of an ongoing war that began with joint US-Israeli strikes on late February.



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