

Pezeshkian: 'Either we will build security together, or we will endure insecurity together'



Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian addresses the 81st United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York City, US, on September 23, 2026.
REUTERS

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Wednesday that no country in the Middle East region will have security on its own, stressing that, "Either we will build security together, or we will

endure insecurity together". Addressing the 81st United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday in New York, the Iranian president said that Iran would preserve its strength and called on the world to pursue peace and justice rather than another war.

Referring to remarks by the US President Donald Trump during his speech at the General Assembly, who called Iran a terrorist state, Pezeshkian said Iran itself is a victim of terrorism. "I come from an Iran whose leader was assassinated without any legal reason or justification. I come from an Iran where a school was bombed. Look at the children of Minab, children who were bombed and killed. Israel and the United States martyred our children with their weapons. Our children had committed no crime," he said. The US and Israel launched wide-ranging strikes on Iran on 28 February, assassinating the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, several top commanders and thousands of Iranians. In response, Iran's Armed Forces launched attacks on US military bases in regional countries and Israel's positions in the occupied territories. Iran also closed the Strait of Hormuz, through which around 20% of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas travels.

Iran not afraid of war

Pezeshkian added that Iran has never started a war and has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the negotiating table. The war, he said, has been imposed on Iran, but the country had shown that it was not afraid of war when defending itself and would not shy away from negotiations when seeking peace. Pezeshkian underlined that Iran would stand to the last breath in defense of the country. He said the US and Israel attacked Iran with the latest military equipment, while Iranians had defended their country with strength. Referring to targeting of schools, hospitals, scientific centers, bridges and infrastructure by the US and Israel during the aggression against Iran, the Iranian president described the strikes as violations of international law. Pezeshkian said the theme of the UN gathering is rebuilding trust, arguing that trust could not be created through words alone and required an end to double standards.

'Nuclear bomb in Israel, inspectors in Iran'

"Atomic bombs and other weapons of mass destruction in this region are in the hands of the Israeli regime; but inspections are requested from Iran! Israel massacred 70,000 people in Gaza, but Iran was bombed at the negotiating table! Israel has nuclear weapons, is not a member of the NPT, has never allowed a single inspector into the occupied territories throughout its disgraceful existence, but receives billions of dollars in free weapons as a reward and enjoys immunity to bomb any capital it wishes!" Summarizing the tragic paradox of the current geopolitical landscape, Pezeshkian reiterated: "I repeat: the nuclear bomb is in Israel, but the inspectors are in Iran! Israel kills, but Iran is sanctioned!" Pezeshkian underlined that if international law is enforced only when it suits powerful states, more countries would conclude that they could secure their safety only by relying on their own power. "That will be the beginning of a more dangerous world for all of us," he said.

Araghchi: European appeasement of US bullying undermines int'l peace, security

International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said that European appeasement in the face of US bullying would in no way serve international peace and security.

Araghchi made the remarks in a meeting with the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where the two discussed the latest regional and international developments. Araghchi stressed the importance of a constructive role by the European Union in international developments and called on the bloc to avoid approaches based on double standards and appeasement in the face of US bullying. The Iranian foreign minister also pointed to what he described as Iran's practical commitment to diplomacy aimed at achieving peace and security across the region. He said repeated US breaches of commitments had been the sole factor disrupting diplomatic processes.



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) meets EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 22, 2026.
IRNA

The European Union, Araghchi said, had unfortunately in numerous cases chosen to appease US bullying instead of adhering to principles it claims to uphold, including the rule of law and respect for human rights. Such an approach, he said, "would in no way be in line with international peace and security." Their talks also covered developments related to the conflict in Ukraine, as well as the situation in West Asia amid continuing US aggressive actions and economic warfare against Iran. Iran's Araghchi also held a meeting with Dutch Foreign Minister Tom de Bruijn in New York.

During the meeting, he strongly criticized "the double standards of European countries" concerning regional developments, pointing specifically to their silence and appeasement regarding the "aggressive actions and crimes" committed by the US and Israel against Iran. "The foreign minister noted that European nations cannot, on the one hand, claim to uphold the rule of law and human rights while, on the other, remaining indifferent to – or even supporting – blatant military aggression by the US and Israel against Iran," it added. De Bruijn emphasized the importance of diplomacy and outlined his country's

perspectives on ongoing regional developments and interactions between Iran and Europe.

In a separate meeting with his French counterpart, Jean-Noel Barrot, Araghchi criticized France's "interventionist" positions towards Iran and urged the French Embassy to respect national laws and regulations. He also called France's stance on regional developments, particularly its position regarding the US and Israeli military aggression against Iran, "unacceptable". Referring to France's "double standards" on human rights, Araghchi said Paris could not claim concern for rights while remaining silent over "crimes against humanity" committed by the US and Israel against the Iranian people.

Baqaei: Iran conveyed conditions to US during Araghchi-Witkoff meeting

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Es-mail Baqaei said Tehran had engaged with the United States through a Qatari mediator in New York and conveyed conditions for the resumption of negotiations to end war between the two countries.

Iran's conditions include an end to fighting on all fronts, a halt to US acts of aggression, an end to the US naval blockade and economic war against Iran, and the release of Iranian assets, Baqaei told IRNA late on Tuesday.

He said Iran has also conveyed its conditions for diplomacy in recent weeks, including its position on issues such as the security of the Strait of Hormuz.

"Today, the presence of our delegation in New York provided an opportunity to clearly convey these points to the American side," he noted.

His remarks came after Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and US envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner communicated through mediators on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, the first such contacts since a Pakistani-mediated interim ceasefire agreement collapsed in July.

"Steve and Jared had a very productive meeting today with mediators of Iran, merely mediators. Let's see what happens with that," US President Donald Trump said after the meeting.



The meeting between Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner and Iranian officials lasted for three hours, Trump said, adding that another talk would be "scheduled in the very near future."

The development came as the US war on Iran has dragged on for nearly seven months.

Negotiations to end the US-Israeli aggression against Iran collapsed in July after Washington violated the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding mediated by Pakistan and Qatar.

The 14-point agreement put an end to the most intense fighting between the two countries. However, the US began attacking Iran in July after it violated the terms of the understanding under the pretext of Iranian strikes on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. The US also recently shifted toward a campaign of what it calls "economic asphyxiation" of Iran, imposing sanctions on various sectors in Iran.

Iranian military calls Trump's 'annihilation' threats sign of 'strategic desperation'

International Desk

Iran's military dismissed US president's threat to "annihilate" the country as a sign of the US "strategic desperation", warning that it's ready to respond with "crushing" attacks far more severe than earlier in the war. The General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces and the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, the Islamic Republic's highest operational command unit, in a

joint statement on Tuesday said that the country would deliver "even harsher, crushing, and unpredictable blows" to aggressors. The warning came after the US President Donald Trump used his address to the UN General Assembly's 81st annual meeting on Monday to claim he was poised to make a "big decision" on whether to make a deal or "quickly annihilate" Iran, besides repeating his allegations against the Islamic Republic of pursuing "a nu-

clear weapon." The Iranian military pledged that a response of such magnitude awaited aggressors as well as the rulers of the United States and the Israeli regime, citing the record of Iran's decisive and successful confrontation in the face of previous wars imposed on the nation, including the last two rounds of unprovoked American-Israeli aggression. According to the statement issued by the Iranian

military bodies, Trump's remarks failed to reflect battlefield realities and demonstrated "America's strategic deadlock" in its confrontation against Iran. Repetition of "baseless allegations and threats" should not be interpreted as a sign of the US's strength, the statement noted. It reminded that the mismatch between the threats and the actual erosion of US military capabilities reflected "strategic desperation" rather than power.



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