

Pezeshkian: It is up to US to choose if it wants to end war



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during an interview with Fox News' "Special Report with Bret Baier" show, which was aired on September 24, 2026.

International Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said it was up to the United States to choose when the Iran war will end, blaming Washington for the nearly seven-month war in the Middle

East and accusing it of blocking diplomacy.

He made the remarks in an interview aired on Thursday on Fox News' "Special Report with Bret Baier" show.

"We do not seek to kill Americans, as shown by actions, de-

monstrable actions. America has sought to kill Iranians," Pezeshkian said. "What we know is that if we're attacked, we must defend ourselves."

"We never started a war, but if they wish to keep fighting with us, we will respond strongly and

resolutely," Pezeshkian added. Addressing US military strikes and increasing secondary sanctions, Pezeshkian said Iran would continue resisting Washington's campaign.

"This is something that has been the doing of the United States," he said. "We will keep resisting. We will find ways, and the life of our country will continue. We will remain."

The Iranian president said that he believes that humans should not cause the death of another human. But with the instigations conducted by Israel, they have imposed this war on us.

"But we do not wish to continue. It's America that must choose whether it wants to end this or not," president Pezeshkian said.

He was referring to the US-Israeli aggression against Iran, which began on February 28 and has continued till now.

Pezeshkian also pointed to the failed Pakistani-mediated memorandum of understanding signed by him and US President Donald Trump in June intended to halt hostilities and establish a framework for a broader US-Iran agreement.

"We have no problems. We did reach an agreement with your president," Pezeshkian said of Trump, who signed the agreement.

"That agreement was signed, and, based on that, we are willing and still wish to move forward."

Pezeshkian then criticized Washington for the subsequent breakdown in diplomacy but insisted Tehran remains prepared to reach an agreement.

"The problem is that America, instead of conducting dialogue, they descend into the arena by bombing us first, by blocking every pathway. We are ready," he said.

"This is not the way to conduct yourself on the world stage."

The Iranian president who has traveled to New York to attend the 81st United Nations General Assembly, also held separate meetings with several foreign officials on the sidelines of the UN gathering.

During his meeting with Netherlands' Prime Minister Rob Jetten, the president outlined the latest developments and consequences of the attacks by the United States and the Israeli

regime against Iran and reaffirmed Iran's position on dialogue and diplomacy.

"We have always been, and remain, open to dialogue. However, if there is any advice to be given, it should be conveyed to the American side, because on various occasions, after negotiations have taken place, the process of dialogue has been disrupted by the United States, and ultimately we have witnessed the outbreak of war. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also defended itself against these actions."

Pezeshkian also held a meeting with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting, Sharif voiced concern over the continuation of conflicts and rising tensions in the region, stressing the need to reduce tensions and strengthen diplomatic channels to achieve lasting peace and stability.

He also highlighted the importance of the Islamabad memorandum of understanding, expressing Pakistan's readiness to continue playing a "constructive and sincere role" in supporting regional peace and stability.

Iran offers US new seven-day proposal to end war

International Desk

Iran has submitted a proposal to the United States to end their war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz within seven days, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told media outlets in New York.

"If certain conditions are met, the strait will be open within seven days and talks will start," Abbas Araghchi, who is in the US for the UN General Assembly, told media outlets including the New York Times and The Guardian.

Japanese news agency Kyodo was the first to report the proposal, citing a senior Iranian official on Tuesday.

Araghchi said Tehran was "not in a hurry" to secure an agreement based on its new proposal. "I think it would be much better if it is done before the midterm election, but it depends on the US administration to decide. We don't care about the timing." "But the plan is very clear," he added. "The moment they accept this plan, from the next day, this timetable can start, and after seven days, the strait will be open."

According to Araghchi, as quoted by the New York Times, the latest plan calls for a cessation of all hostilities in the Middle East for seven days, including in Lebanon.

It also calls for the release of frozen Iranian assets estimated to be worth at least \$12 billion, as well as the lifting of sanctions on Iranian oil and an end to the US naval blockade of Iran.

On the seventh day of the truce, Iran would reopen Hormuz.

Araghchi said he was waiting for a US response to the plan and maintained that China supported the proposal.

The proposal seeks to implement the conditions in the Memorandum of Understanding agreed by Washington and Tehran in June.



The US and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding in June that aimed to end the war, reopen the strait and launch talks on Iran's nuclear program.

But the deal broke down shortly afterwards when the US violated its terms under the pretext of Iran's attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz.

The restrictions on maritime traffic in Hormuz have become a key issue in the conflict due to the impact on oil and gas exports and the global economy.

The proposal comes as the war, started by US and Israeli strikes, is almost into its seventh month.

On Tuesday, 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 the Pakistani-mediated interim ceasefire agreement collapsed in July.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said Tehran had engaged with the US through a Qatari mediator in New York and conveyed conditions for the resumption of talks to end war between the two countries.



Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrives during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York, US, on September 22, 2026

AFP

"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.

Chinese President Xi Jinping in a meeting with Trump at the White House on Thursday hoped the US and Iran will return to the track of resolving issues through dialogue and negotiation as soon as possible.

In his talks with Donald Trump at the White House, Xi said China has always believed that the sovereignty and security of all countries should be respected, and has consistently played a constructive role in easing tensions and de-escalating situation.

Xi also said China supports the United States and Iran in returning to the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding.

Walkout of 77 delegations at UNGA rejects Israel's attempts to justify war: Deputy FM

International Desk

Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi described the walkout of 77 delegations during Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's UN speech as a powerful rejection of Israel's attempts to justify war and aggression.

In a post on his X account on Friday, Gharibabadi said, "The criminal Netanyahu came to the General Assembly to turn the podium of this international body into a loudspeaker for justifying war and aggression; but the exit of 77 delegations from the hall spoke louder than any speech."

"The world will not be fooled by narrative-building. History will judge the crimes, occupation, and aggression, not the publicity stunts in New York," Gharibabadi added. The third counsellor at the permanent mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, Nasser Asadi, also reacted to remarks by Netanyahu during his UN speech.

"Mr. President, this organization was founded to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Yet today, the chief architect of that very scourge, the notorious Prime Minister of the Israeli re-



gime, addressed this Assembly, an utmost disgrace to this body. This is the ultimate insult to all noble values such as justice, equality, and dignity and worth of the human person enshrined in this Organization's Charter," Asadi said.

"This is the greatest affront to the principles of humanity and the human conscience. This is a profound betrayal of the purpose and principles of this Organization. The UN was founded to preserve peace and uphold justice, not to serve as a platform for war criminals."

"How can a person who is currently facing proceedings before two international courts for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide be allowed to be present in this Assembly? Does he belong at this podium to justify his crimes, or in the dock of a court of law to answer for genocide?" he said.



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