

Speaker says Strait of Hormuz will not reopen until conditions are met

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Sunday that the Strait of Hormuz will not reopen until seven Iranian conditions set out in a June interim agreement with the US are met.

Iran presented a proposal during the UN General Assembly under which the Strait of Hormuz waterway could be reopened and normal maritime passage restored within seven days if the conditions were met, with the US replying to this proposal last week via Qatari intermediaries.

"The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is completely clear and firm, and the Strait of Hormuz will not be opened until our seven conditions, based on the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, are met," Qalibaf, who is Iran's top negotiator, said during an address to the parliament.

"The Americans, who speak one way in the media, have recently been submitting proposals through mediators. But

they must understand that the era of dragging out the (diplomatic) process and dictating one-sided demands is over," he stated.

Outlining Iran's dual-track approach to the ongoing US-Israeli war of aggression, Qalibaf affirmed that the nation operates on a strategy of "authority and rationality," ensuring it is neither overly excited by diplomatic maneuvers nor intimidated by military threats.

"We fight, and we negotiate," he said. "We are present with full power in the military battlefield and will confront the enemy with new surprises. Simultaneously, we use the tool of diplomacy to consolidate our military superiority and impose the rights of the Iranian nation."

The strategically vital waterway was largely closed during the war on Iran, severely disrupting regional maritime traffic and placing further pressure on energy shipments.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei said on Sunday that Tehran had clarified its broad positions



An aerial view shows ships anchored off the coast of Khasab in Oman's Musandam Governorate, near the Strait of Hormuz, on October 2, 2026.

● AFP

via mediators to the US response but that additional points remained to be communicated to Washington.

"The Americans' propositions are more or less in line with their previous positions, specifically on the nuclear issue. We told them our focus in this stage is the issue of the Strait of Hormuz and the return to security in this waterway requires clear steps from the US," Baqaei said.

He also denied Tehran had offered UN nuclear watchdog inspections of its nuclear facilities in exchange for US sanctions relief, saying Iran had not entered into nuclear discussions with Washington.

The document being circulated outlines a seven-day period of trust-building



aimed at returning the two sides to an enhanced version of the memorandum of understanding agreed in June, including concrete steps on Iran's nuclear program, an official briefed on the talks

said last week, according to Reuters. The disagreement centers on the sequencing of the steps rather than the components of the plan, the official added.

Araghchi: There is no military solution to end aggression against Iran

International Desk

Iran's top diplomat insisted on Sunday that there would be no military solution to the United States' aggression against Iran, with talks on ending the conflict apparently at an impasse. "If our enemies again choose the path of military confrontation, our response will be stronger than before, and we will defend ourselves with even more force," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said at a gathering of foreign ambassadors and heads of foreign and international missions.

At the same time, the diplomatic door remains open, with Tehran prepared to negotiate an end to the war if the other side chooses diplomacy rather than military action, the foreign minister said.

New US sanctions would not produce results either, according to Araghchi, who rejected both military pressure and additional sanctions as solutions. "There is no military solution, nor any solution based on new sanctions," he continued, adding "only negotiations based on justice and fairness" could end the conflict.

Araghchi also said that the Iranian delegation's presence in New York during the United Nations General Assembly was "very strong and very effective," particularly because Tehran



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi speaks in a meeting with foreign ambassadors and heads of international missions in Tehran, Iran, on October 4, 2026.

● IRNA

presented its seven-day proposal for resolving the dispute with the US.

"If accepted, the Strait of Hormuz will be reopened within seven days," he explained, referring to the proposal as a diplomatic route toward ending the war.

Iran has since received Washington's official response to the seven-day proposal through diplomatic channels, although the details of the US position have not been made public. The foreign minister also said renewed contacts with Persian Gulf states were "effective, respectful and friendly," adding that a new path toward "trust, peace, stability and security" has begun.

The two sides agreed a memorandum of understanding in June that spelled out a framework for a permanent resolution, but the US violations of the terms of the agreement prompted a return to war.

Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz since the start of the war, striking vessels that attempt to transit without its authorization.

The US has imposed its own counterblockade of Iranian ports, and has also struck vessels it accuses of violating it.

On Sunday, the British maritime security agency UKMT0 said a tanker in the Hormuz "reported being struck by an unknown projectile, causing damage to the engine room", though the crew were reported safe and no environmental impact was recorded. Iranian and US officials last week held indirect talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Iran has demanded, among other things, a ceasefire across the Middle East, the unfreezing of its assets abroad, the lifting of sanctions on its oil sector and an end to the US naval blockade.

Trump, however, rejected the proposal, while leaving the door open both to further talks or renewed military operations.

Iran: US withdrawal from Iraq vital step toward consolidating Baghdad's independence

International Desk

Iran's Foreign Ministry called the US withdrawal from Iraq a vital step toward consolidating the Arab country's national sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

The ministry in a statement on Saturday congratulated the people and government of Iraq on the withdrawal of American forces and other foreign troops after more than two decades of disastrous military presence.

It said the 23-year tragedy of the US and allied military presence began with Washington's aggression against Iraq on March 20, 2003, launched under the false pretext of eliminating "weapons of mass destruction."

The statement recalled the irreparable consequences of that occupation for Iraq and the wider region, such as the killing of more than one million Iraqis, including tens of thousands of innocent women and children; material damage amounting to several hundred billion dollars to Iraq's civilian, security and governmental infrastructure; environmental destruction; and heinous war crimes, including the torture of Iraqi men and women at Abu Ghraib prison. It also said the occupation laid the groundwork for Takfiri terrorism and the rise of Daesh in Iraq and neighboring countries.



It noted that the military presence of the United States and its allies across the region has produced nothing but violence, insecurity, division and terrorism.

The statement came after a US-led coalition deployed in Iraq more than a decade ago under the pretext of fighting the Daesh terrorist group completed its withdrawal from Iraq on September 30, with the last troops leaving a base in Erbil under an agreement between Baghdad and Washington.

The US invaded Iraq in March 2003 to overthrow Saddam Hussein's regime. The collusion of the US and its allies withdrew their troops in December 2011, but returned in 2014 after Daesh seized large swathes of territory, committed massacres and forced thousands of women and children into slavery. The group was defeated in Iraq in 2017 and in Syria in 2019, but coalition forces stayed on to battle the group's remnants.

Saudi Arabia launches fresh airstrikes on Yemen

International Desk

Saudi Arabia reportedly launched airstrikes on Yemen on Sunday, wounding at least two people in the northern governorates of al-Jawf and Saada as the conflict between the two sites intensifies.

Yemen's resistance forces also confirmed attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities on Sunday.

Ansarullah's military spokesman Yahya Saree said the group launched a ballistic missile and drone attack on Saudi energy giant Aramco's sites in capital Riyadh and the oil-rich Khurais area in the kingdom's east.

"Both operations successfully achieved their objectives," the spokesman said in a statement posted on X. "The strikes were precise, causing large fires at the targeted sites."

Aramco remains the flagship company of the Saudi economy and one of the largest firms in the world by market capitalization.

Yemen's Saudi-backed forces also announced new operation on Sunday to retake all territory held by resistance forces, even as the resistance group made fresh gains on the ground.

The announcement sets an ambitious goal for the embattled government, which recently lost large swathes of the country's Red Sea coastline and areas around the Bab al-Mandab Strait – a chokepoint for international shipping – after a lightning offensive by the resistance forces.

"I announce today the start of military operations to retake the remaining territories of the republic and extend the authority of the state and its institutions across the entire national

territory," Rashad al-Alimi, the head of Yemen's presidential council, said in a statement.

Alimi called on all the armed forces "to begin carrying out their assigned missions, in accordance with the approved plans".

The statement came just hours after the Houthis cut a vital supply route linking the besieged city of Taiz with Aden, according to four security sources.

The Ansarullah's advance followed days of heavy fighting in and around the city. After several years of calm, Yemen was plunged back into war in July, pitting Ansarullah, who control most of north-west Yemen including Sana'a, against Yemen's Saudi-backed forces.

The Saudi-backed forces, based in the city of Aden, controls much of the country's south and east – a region that is larger but less populated.



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