

Iran, Russia agree regional conflicts have no military solution: *FM*



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov arrive to hold a press conference after a meeting in Tehran, Iran, on October 19, 2026.
● AFP

International Desk

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Monday that Iran, Russia and many other countries share the view that regional disputes cannot be resolved by military means and must instead be addressed through diplomacy and political solutions. Speaking at a joint news conference with visiting Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Tehran, Araghchi said they discussed a broad range of

regional and international issues, including the Persian Gulf, West Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, Iran-US negotiations and developments in Ukraine. The Iranian foreign minister described his talks with Lavrov as "important, intensive and productive". He added that relations between Iran and Russia were strategic and had evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership, adding that ties had entered a new phase following the

signing and implementation of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement by the two countries' presidents. The agreement had given bilateral relations broader and deeper dimensions and elevated their importance, Araghchi stressed. Araghchi and Lavrov also examined practical ways to expand economic, trade, political and cultural cooperation. Iran's top diplomat said economic ties were progressing

very favorably and that there were no major obstacles to further expansion of cooperation between Tehran and Moscow. Turning to regional conflicts, Araghchi said Tehran and Moscow had discussed Palestine, Lebanon and Yemen, stressing that the genocide of Palestinians and the Israeli regime's dangerous expansionism in the region must come to an end. Iran's top diplomat also said the ministers had addressed insecurity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, attributing the situation directly to US and Israeli military aggression against Iran. Araghchi said the aggression began on February 28 and has continued in various forms. He said the imposed war waged by the United States and Israel, along with the economic blockade, are the main drivers of insecurity in the region. Araghchi also underscored

shared positions of Iran and Moscow on international affairs, saying Tehran and Moscow fundamentally opposed the United States' "aggressive unilateralism". Iran and Russia would continue working together through international institutions and forums to strengthen multilateralism and safeguard the principles of international law, he said. Russian foreign minister arrived in Tehran on Monday in his first visit since the outbreak of the US's war on Iran as Moscow seeks to play a mediating role. His visit comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin told Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in early October that Moscow was prepared to contribute to mediation efforts. During the press conference, Araghchi also voiced serious concern over recent security developments in the Caspian Sea, including attacks on Iranian and Russian vessels. He said the incidents could have serious consequences for regional peace and security and inflict irreversible damage on the Caspian Sea's environment.

Leader congratulates Iran's U23 freestyle wrestling team on world title



Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei
● IRNA

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei congratulated Iran's under-23 freestyle wrestling team on winning the title at the 2026 U23 World Championships in Las Vegas, United States.

In a message on Monday, Ayatollah Khamenei congratulated the team's managers, coaches and wrestlers on their achievement, as well as the Iranian nation, particularly the country's young athletes. The Leader said the Iranian under-23 freestyle wrestling team's world championship victory had filled the hearts of the Iranian people with joy and pride.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that, like the recent world title won by Iran's under-23 Greco-Roman wrestling team, this achievement, accompanied by nine medals, was the result of careful planning, effective management and the tireless efforts of dedicated managers, committed coaches and the country's strong and determined young athletes. Iran crowned a dominant campaign on Sunday by winning the freestyle team title at the 2026 U23 World Championships in Las Vegas, finishing ahead of Russia with four gold medals and nine podium finishes.

The Iranian team amassed 180 points to edge Russia, which scored 171, while the hosts, the United States, finished third with 104 points. Iran's triumph completed a double at the championships, following its earlier victory in the Greco-Roman team standings.

Araghchi to Macron: Too late to shift blame for France unrest

International Desk

Iran's foreign minister reacted to recent remarks by French president who had blamed the US war on Iran for the ongoing violent protests in France, saying that Emmanuel Macron cannot shift the blame to the aggression that he supported. In a post on X, Araghchi said it was too late to shift blame and urged Macron to listen to the French people's calls for fundamental change and guarantees of freedom of assembly. Araghchi said Macron had "made his bed" by assuring US President Donald Trump that he welcomed atrocities against Iranians. The Iranian foreign minister also shared a screenshot of a message Macron had sent Trump, which the US president had published in January, citing the exchange as evidence of Macron's support for Washington's policy toward Tehran. In the

message, Macron wrote: "We are totally in line on Syria. We can do great things on Iran." France has been gripped by a nationwide student protest movement that began on September 17 at the Antoine de Saint-Exupéry High School in Créteil over deteriorating school conditions and has since expanded into broader demands over education, inequality, and the government's response. Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said on Sunday that more than 2,000 protesters had been arrested, while over 600 police officers, gendarmes, and firefighters were reported injured. In an address to the nation on Sunday, Macron connected ongoing riots in France to increased living costs and fuel prices resulting from the US-Israeli war on Iran. "France did not participate" in the war, the French leader said, adding that the country is now "suffering" its consequences.

Macron's double standard

In a Sunday post on X, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei also warned the French president that those behind "sinister alliances" will eventually face the consequences of their own actions amid widespread unrest in France. Baqaei criticized Macron for applying a double standard toward protests, contrasting his January support for "peaceful assembly without fear of punishment" in Iran with his response to ongoing unrest in France. "Back in January, you prescribed 'peaceful assembly without fear of punishment' for those attacking our law enforcement centers and public institutions at the behest of foreign malign actors," Baqaei wrote, addressing Macron. However, he added, Macron had quickly declared that the destruction of and attacks on state institutions in France would not be tolerated and that those responsible would face swift punishment.



Protestors stand in front of a fire in Faubourg du Temple street in central Paris as clashes erupted following a demonstration against high cost of living in France on October 18, 2026.
● AFP



Call for curfews

The French prime minister on Monday called for localized curfews as protesters blocked the entrance to the Louvre in Paris and authorities scrambled to stem public discontent that over the weekend saw mass cost-of-living demonstrations spill over into some of the worst street violence in recent years. Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu huddled with ministers in a crisis meeting after the interior minister said the police "had lost control" during the weekend's unrest. With the Yellow Vests movement, which

organized the weekend's rallies, calling for a new round of protests next Saturday, Lecornu called for regional authorities to impose "partial" and "localized" curfews to protect businesses after hundreds of shops were damaged and looted. Other European countries, where anger over rising prices has also led to protests, were keeping a nervous eye on the developments, with smaller clashes breaking out in Milan and Belgium over the weekend and protests simmering in Spain and Portugal.

Top general warns US, Israel against 'further miscalculation'

International Desk

The Chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces and Commander of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters warned the United States and Israel against any further miscalculation as the US and Israeli officials have threatened of fresh attacks on Iran. In a message issued on Sunday, Major General Ali Abdollahi said Iran is counting the moments until their next foolish decision and that any further miscalculation will be met with a response far more severe, distinct, and devastating than in the past. Abdollahi addressed Washington and Tel Aviv, noting that they have repeatedly tested the resolve and determination of the leadership, the nation, the officials, and the powerful Armed Forces of Islamic Iran.



Ali Abdollahi
● IRNA

"Testing what has already been tested is a mistake," he stressed. "We are counting the moments until your foolish decisions." "If you were capable of acting upon the slogans you proclaim, you would have done so by now. In previous conflicts, you entered the fray with the stated goal of toppling the Islamic Republic, partitioning Iran, and destroying the country; yet today, it is you who are facing collapse and downfall, while a powerful Iran remains standing firm," the top commander said. Abdollahi added that US president Donald

Trump has grown old and lacks the strength even to stand up. "Both American society and the inhabitants of the occupied territories are well aware that you suffer from serious, fundamental weaknesses. You must realize that any further miscalculation will be met with a response far more severe and distinct than anything seen in the past," he said. Reiterating the point, Major General Abdollahi said the adversaries have repeatedly tested the resolve of Iran's leadership, people, officials, and Armed Forces, and that repeating a test whose outcome is already known is a mistake. "We are counting the moments until your foolish decisions." He concluded with a clear signal of readiness: "The next roar will be much closer, far more devastating, and impossible to intercept."



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