

Leader meets top security chief; urges realization of Iran's conditions to end war



International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei stressed the importance of ensuring that the conditions laid down by Iranian officials in negotiations with the United States are met, with the aim of bringing the war to an end and putting an end to the state of

"neither war nor peace."

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Major General Mohsen Rezaei, the Leader's office said. The Leader described the enemy's desperation as one of the achievements of national resistance, emphasizing the need

for proactive and timely communication to sustain the public's continued participation in defending the country and the political system.

He also stressed the importance of pursuing the rights and interests of the Iranian people and the resistance front by securing the fulfillment of the conditions set forth by the country's officials, with the aim of bringing the war to an end and resolving the state of "neither war nor peace."

According to the Leader's office, they also discussed "strengthening bilateral relations with neighboring countries" and "safeguarding national and regional security through the management of the Strait of Hormuz."

Islamabad MoU

Tehran and Washington signed

a Pakistan-mediated 14-point memorandum of understanding in June to end an aggression by the US and Israel against Iran, which had begun on February 28.

They have also set a 60-day period to discuss further issues including sanctions imposed on Iran as well as the country's nuclear program in order to reach a comprehensive agreement between the two countries. Under the understanding, Iran agreed to allow fee-free maritime transit through the Strait of Hormuz which was closed by the Iranian Armed Forces following the aggression.

In compliance with the MoU, the Islamic Republic devised a special maritime route for vessels to cross the chokepoint, warning vessels against using illegal routes.

The US has, however, been trying to escort transit through the strait along an illegal passageway, prompting the Islamic Republic to confront every instance of Washington-instigated transit through the chokepoint and shut the corridor until Washington ended its interference in regional maritime movement.

Iran has repeatedly said that it will open the strait when the US fulfils its commitments under the Islamabad agreement.

Iran has also proposed a seven-day initiative to reopen the strait and continue negotiations with the US. But the White House has rejected the proposal.

Tehran quadrilateral meeting

The meeting between Rezaei and Ayatollah Khamenei was

announced a day after Rezaei held talks with senior officials from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan – countries which recently signed a mutual defense pact.

Rezaei said the discussions in the capital Tehran were "very good", according to state television.

"I feel that a new atmosphere is emerging in the region... I sensed a very positive atmosphere in the discussions among the gentlemen," said the head of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

He said they agreed that security in the region "should be achieved by the countries themselves, and that we must prevent any kind of foreign intervention", saying emphasis was put on the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, southern Syria, Gaza and the West Bank.

Oman calls for security framework, non-aggression pact among Persian Gulf states

'Excluding Iran would undermine any regional security arrangement'

International Desk

Oman's Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi called for the formation of a non-aggression security pact involving six Persian Gulf Arab states plus Iran and Iraq, stressing that the United States would no longer be the region's primary security provider. Speaking at Girton College at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom on Monday, Albusaidi stressed that Washington has promoted for almost half a century the false image of Tehran as a threat to the Persian Gulf states, holding back West Asia's ability to solve its own problems. The Omani foreign minister, speaking to break the deadlock over the region's future, stressed that the US would no longer be the region's primary security provider.

"Issues such as the Strait of Hormuz have become impossible to resolve because external powers continue to define the terms of engagement, while regional powers are unable to take collective responsibility for making their own security arrangements and reach a consensus on them," Albusaidi noted. Iran has so far refused to ease its restrictions on transit through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, saying the key international energy waterway will be fully reopened once the US permanently ends its aggression and lifts its maritime blockade and sanctions against Iran.

Iranian authorities have also indicated that the country would not back down from its conditions and would



respond decisively to any new act of aggression against its territory.

"What holds us back is that issues which ought to be handled at a regional level by the states of the [Persian] Gulf themselves, are made more complex, more intractable and sometimes simply impossible to resolve because the region's security arrangements are insufficiently developed," Albusaidi further stressed.

Reliance of external powers

"And they are insufficiently developed because they have relied for too long on the involvement of external powers," he added.

Oman's top diplomat noted that Iran "had been systematically excluded from playing any meaningful role in the security arrangements of the region. Albusaidi also stressed that such exclusion had led to "profoundly negative consequences, not just for Iran, but for the region as a whole", including the imposition of priorities on the region by external powers

such as "the entirely false perception that there is a fundamental regional antagonism between Iran and the Arab states of the [Persian] Gulf."

According to the Omani foreign minister, the most "damaging" of the priorities imposed on the Persian Gulf region from the outside has been the requirement that the Islamic Republic be excluded.

"Not just excluded. Worse. Positioned as the threat against which regional security had to be organized," Albusaidi stressed. He said excluding Iran would undermine any regional security arrangement, describing a framework without Tehran as "inherently unstable" and "structurally unsound". "It's not a matter of whether you're friendly or hostile to Iran," Albusaidi said.

"A non-aggression pact between all eight states should be the goal," he added, referring to the six Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) members, Iraq and Iran.

Ansarullah: Egypt's military support for Saudi tantamount to declaration of war

International Desk

A member of Yemen's Ansarullah movement said on Tuesday that the Egyptian parliament's decision to authorize military support for Saudi Arabia was a declaration of war.

Egypt's parliament on Monday authorized President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to "undertake necessary" measures to support Saudi Arabia in defending itself, should Riyadh request assistance.

The move raises the possibility of Egypt becoming more directly involved in a conflict which has consumed the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea in recent weeks. It follows Ansarullah's attacks on Riyadh's international airport and facilities belonging to Saudi Arabia's state oil company, Aramco, disrupting flights and oil exports.

El-Sisi had said on Wednesday that any Egyptian military action would be limited to protecting Saudi territory and borders, rather than launching attacks on Yemen. The comments by Ansarullah's member was part of a long statement reacting to a Monday visit to Tehran by the Saudi defense minister, alongside Pakistan's army chief and Turkey's intelligence chief, in a bid to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East war. "It is truly remarkable that while these people go to discuss what they call 'peace in the region', Egypt and its parliament declare support for the so-called defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and in doing so, declare war against the Republic of Yemen," said Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a member



of the Ansarullah's political bureau, in a Telegram post.

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey recently signed a defense pact in Mecca that says an attack on one country is to be considered an attack on all three.

But since the Ansarullah ramped up attacks on Saudi Arabia earlier this month, the two other countries have not announced any strikes on the group.

Al-Houthi said the pact was "a clear and blatant act of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran", adding that the group was "not afraid of any alliance that may be formed".

In July, Yemen's conflict flared up again as a fragile 2022 truce fell apart after the Ansarullah allowed an Iranian plane to land in Yemen's capital Sana'a, in defiance of Saudi control over Yemeni airspace, setting off a spate of attacks.

The Ansarullah then declared a maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia and began hitting its ships, territory and oil facilities.

Quartet meeting in ...

I am not suggesting that every other Israeli government would necessarily behave differently from Netanyahu's.

However, his track record shows that he differs from his rivals and has consistently beat the drums of war, as he has viewed and continues to view the continuation of conflict as essential to his political survival. The second factor is the outcome of the US elections on November 3. It is true that neither the Congress, the House of Representatives nor the Senate, can have a decisive influence on Trump's conduct, given the extremely broad powers vested in the US president. Nevertheless, the election results will show

him that, after January, he will be dealing with a Congress in which the Democrats hold the majority. They will be able to exert greater pressure on him.

Meanwhile, the American public is facing serious difficulties because of rising fuel prices. The public is struggling to understand why the US government should start a war in the first place.

Despite all these circumstances, however, the possibility of war after November 3 remains high.

At the same time, any effort that can help ease tensions should be welcomed. The four-way meeting cannot work miracles, but it is

a positive step toward promoting peace, stability and security, and it should therefore be welcomed.

Any dialogue, negotiation or meeting that can contribute to peace and security and reduce the likelihood of war deserves support. Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia do not have a decisive influence over the decisions of the United States. Nevertheless, all the available indications and evidence suggest that when regional countries stand together and cooperate, the Israelis will find it more difficult to exploit the situation to pursue warmongering policies and push for the continuation of the war.

