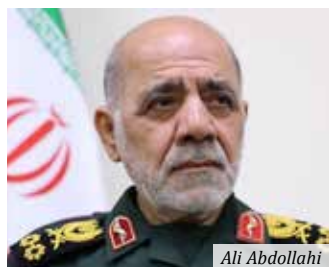


# Leader orders Armed Forces to deliver 'geographically unrestricted response' to enemy threats



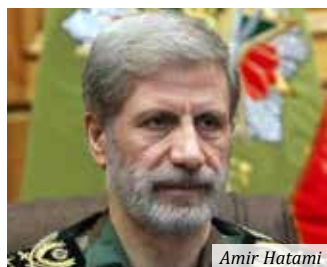
Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei



Ali Abdollahi



Ahmad Vahidi



Amir Hatami

## International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Commander-in-Chief of Iran's Armed Forces Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei ordered senior military commanders to ensure that any level or type of enemy threat is met with an "immediate, impactful, and geographically unrestricted response."

During a meeting with senior commanders of the Armed Forces, Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that "intelligent combat readiness for a

powerful confrontation with enemies is a fundamental prerequisite for achieving maximum deterrence."

He stated that should Iran's enemies resume military or terrorist attacks, "it will be the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation that will determine when and under what conditions those attacks will end."

The commander-in-chief also underscored the need to "strengthen military intelligence architecture," deepen indigenous defense capabilities

in both "doctrine" and "tactics," and "enhance modernized defense and security capacities through the utilization of emerging technologies."

In another directive, the Leader ordered the "comprehensive updating of the military target database" to ensure that "all physical and non-physical assets of the US-Zionist enemy are brought within the reach of the Armed Forces."

He described nationwide support for the Armed Forces as "one of the pillars of deterrence against anti-Iranian foreign

powers and their domestic mercenaries."

Referring to the eight-month presence of people in public squares across Iran, the Leader said it was "a continuation of the Eight-Year Sacred Defense," which, alongside the steadfastness of military, police and Basij forces, "has protected, and will continue to protect, the territorial integrity of Iran and the Islamic system."

During the meeting, Major General Ali Abdollahi, Chief of the Joint Staff of Iran's Armed Forces, Major General

Amir Hatami, commander of the Army, and Major General Ahmad Vahidi, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), presented reports on the high readiness of the country's defenders along the Persian Gulf coast, in the operational areas of the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman, and along the northwestern and southeastern borders.

They also briefed the Leader on the multi-fold increase in the production of various types of key munitions and reconnaissance, support, and combat weapons.

The meeting came amid threats by the US and Israel of further military action against Iran.

Iran's Army also warned that any new US attack would only spread their war wider.

"If the US president once again embarks on more regional adventurism under pressure

from, and in an attempt to appease, the Zionists, the flames of war will undoubtedly engulf a much wider geographical area," Iranian Army spokesman Mohammad Akraminia said in a post on X.

The war between Iran and the US began in late February with US-Israeli strikes on Iran that killed the country's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, senior military commanders and thousands of civilians.

Iran in response targeted US assets across the Middle East as well as Israel.

Most recently hostilities have focused on the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial Persian Gulf shipping route for energy exports that Iran has blockaded since the start of the war.

The US has in retaliation been blockading Iranian ports in an attempt to squeeze the nation's economy.

## Araghchi describes US efforts for dialogue as 'positive step'

'Iran carefully reviewed Vance's letter'

Iranian delegation in Doha for consultation with Qatari officials

### International Desk

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Saturday that Tehran had carefully reviewed a message sent by US Vice President JD Vance and discussed it at high-level meetings, describing Washington's efforts to open a broader channel for dialogue as a "positive step".

Araghchi made the remarks in an interview with Al Jazeera after a Qatari newspaper reported the arrival of an Iranian delegation in Doha for consultations aimed at ending the US war on Iran, which began in February.

During the interview, the Iranian foreign minister confirmed the visit by the Iranian delegation to Doha.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that Vance had sent a letter to Iran's security chief at the direction of President Donald Trump in a bid to revive negotiations and avert further US strikes.

"If the purpose of Washington's message through Vance is to create differences and divisions, it would be another mistake added to America's past errors," Araghchi told Al Jazeera. The Qatari newspaper Al-Araby Al-Jadeed reported on Saturday that an Iranian delegation, including a deputy to Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, is in Qatar for talks following a reported breakthrough in indirect negotiations between Tehran and Washington.

Citing an Iranian source, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed said the delegation was in the Qatari capital, Doha, "to facilitate engagement with the Qatari mediator."

The visit followed "intensive discussions held by a Qatari negotiating delegation in Tehran, which resulted in a breakthrough in indirect negotiations between Tehran and Washington," the newspaper reported, citing the source.

The discussions also paved the way for the Iranian negotiating team to

Abbas Araghchi  
AFP

accompany the Qatari delegation on its return trip to Doha.

Sources close to Qatar-and Pakistan-led mediation efforts also told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that an American delegation was expected to join the diplomatic process in Doha.

The potential arrangement would also involve China and Russia as guarantors, according to the newspaper. The sources claimed that the US delegation could hold direct talks with Iranian negotiators.

### No meeting with US officials

However, the Iranian foreign minister said there is currently no plans for a meeting with US officials, dismissing reports of a possible encounter as media speculation.

Tehran sees no need for a meeting with the American side under the current circumstances, he said, adding that Iran's conditions were clear and mediators were continuing consultations over them.

Araghchi said a decision on whether future negotiations would be held directly or indirectly would be made only after Washington agreed to Tehran's conditions.

Araghchi added that Tehran's proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz was the only plan currently on the table.

He also said the mediators had also put forward proposals on the nuclear

issue that Iran was reviewing as part of the second phase of negotiations.

### Pakistan 'cautiously optimistic'

Spokesman for Pakistan's military also said on Friday that Pakistan's Army is "cautiously optimistic" about mediation efforts as regional countries seek to revive a ceasefire in the eight-month-old war.

Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry suggested that there were positive signs in attempts to de-escalate the conflict.

Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's chief mediator, has been to Tehran twice this month, most recently on Monday, alongside Saudi and Turkish officials.

"Why would the Field Marshal be going twice if it is not for some positivity? So yes, of course," Chaudhry said when asked whether the trips were a positive sign.

"The word that we would use is always cautiously optimistic," added Chaudhry, director general of Inter-Services Public Relations.

US President Donald Trump meanwhile said Friday that Iran wants to keep holding negotiations, claiming that the US "has time" to do so.

"There are talks, they want to talk, they keep talking," he told reporters in the Oval Office when asked about the negotiations. "We have time, frankly."

## Iranian officials denounce Germany for complaining of costs of war

Rezaei: 'War and terror come at a price. Now it's your turn to pay'

### International Desk

Iranian officials reacted to the recent remarks by German chancellor over the cost of the US war on Iran on the Europe's economy, denouncing the European country's support for the aggression.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a post on X warned that there will be no more red lines if Iran comes under another round of US-Israeli aggression, saying the country's powerful Armed Forces will inflict a devastating blow on anyone who dares to attack the Iranian nation.

Araghchi was responding to remarks by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz about the possibility of renewed US attacks on Iran and the economic costs of the conflict for Europe.

"When Israel-US bombings of Iran began last year, Mr. Merz hailed them. 'Doing Europe's dirty work,'" Araghchi wrote, invoking the German chancellor's remarks during the first round of US-Israeli war of aggression on Iran last year.

He added that more than 100 billion euros in economic costs is "nothing compared to the Earth-shattering blow Iran's Powerful Armed Forces will deal against those who dare harm our people."

"Red lines are a thing of the past," the Iranian foreign minister further warned.

Araghchi was referring to Merz's remarks on Friday, when the German chancellor, speaking at the end of his visit to South Korea, said the war could not be resolved through military means and urged all parties to pursue a diplomatic solution.

Speaking to reporters, Merz said Germany was coordinating and stepping up diplomatic efforts to bring the war to an end. "Businesses and consumers in Europe have paid more than 100 billion euros extra because energy has become more expensive as a result of this conflict," he said. "We therefore also have an economic interest in bringing this conflict to an end as quickly as possible."

Merz also appealed for dialogue, saying, "This conflict cannot be resolved militarily."

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Major General Mohsen Rezaei also reacted to Merz's remarks, saying that the European governments are reaping the consequences of their earlier support for the Israel's terrorist actions.

In a post on his X account on Friday, Rezaei wrote: "Just yesterday, Europe took pride in the dirty work of the Zionist regime. Today, it's whining about billions the war with Iran is costing it. When you cheered on war crimes, did you think the fallout wouldn't hit you, too? War and terror come at a price. Now it's your turn to pay"

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

### CARTOON

