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FM: Enemies Enraged by Iranians' Unyielding Resistance

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Thursday that the steadfast resistance of the Iranian people in the face of war and sanctions has deeply angered Tehran's adversaries, particularly the Israeli regime.

Speaking to the national television on Thursday night, Araghchi hit out at Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's attempts to sow discord inside Iran by exploiting energy challenges, stressing that Iran's foes have gravely underestimated the resilience of its population.

"There is a famous saying that God created our enemies foolish," Araghchi said. "Resorting to outdated, repetitive tactics simply does not work. They thought they could drive our people off the field during the war, but instead our people stood firmly behind their country and their establishment."

The foreign minister dismissed Netanyahu's recent claims about Iran's water supply as "more likely to make people laugh."

Netanyahu had boasted he could turn sewage into drinking water for Iranians — a statement Tehran rejected as hypocritical, pointing instead to the dire humanitarian crisis in the besieged Gaza Strip, where access to potable water is severely limited for displaced Palestinians.

Araghchi referred to the 12-day Israeli-U.S. military aggression against Iran in June, which saw strikes on multiple military and nuclear sites, the assassination of senior Iranian military commanders, nuclear scientists, and civilians. The U.S. also participated by attacking Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities.

While acknowledging existing imbalances in Iran's energy sector, Araghchi blamed the situation largely on sanctions imposed by Western powers.

"They have imposed sanctions and tied our hands and feet," he said. "But our resistance against these sanctions has made them extremely angry — just as we resisted in the war."

Araghchi's comments came amid the massive Arbacen pilgrimage, a peaceful religious gathering marking the 40th day after Ashura, when millions of Shia Muslims from across the world, including large Iranian contingents, walk to Karbala to commemorate Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam.

"The same love and enthusiasm exist, and even more motivation," Araghchi said of this year's Iranian participation. "Along the way, I repeatedly met Iranians who kindly expressed their support, telling me: 'Stand firm,' 'Be strong,' 'We are behind you and the Leader,' and 'never abandon the Leader.' This

shows that people's motivation has not only remained but grown."

He added that Iraqis also demonstrated strong solidarity with Iranians. "Many told me that our resistance and the missiles Iran fired filled their hearts with joy and pride. This enthusiasm is visible among the people; it feels like a stronger bond has been formed."

Describing Arbacen as "a display of Shia strength," Araghchi said the Iranian people's resistance was inspired by the spirit of Ashura. "Our enemies truly cannot understand this," he said.

"You have to understand Imam Hussein (AS) to understand that Shia advances through blood and sacrifice. The martyrdom of a commander or an individual does not halt the movement. Yes, every loss is a blow, but it is these very sacrifices that drive the movement forward with greater motivation and fervor. This is not a slogan—it is the reality of the Shia school and the school of resistance."

Addressing the possibility of renewed war, Araghchi said that during his days at Arbacen, "no one asked me this question," though it is frequently raised before such trips.

"The possibility of war always exists for any country," he acknowledged, but warned that "our enemies try to keep us in a constant state of fear so they can impose the psychological effects of war without fighting. We must be alert to such tactics. This is part of psychological warfare, and we must counter it."

Reflecting on the lead-up to the June war, Araghchi said, "I had felt war could be imminent based on regional and international conditions. Today, I do not have that feeling."

However, he stressed the importance of maintaining readiness. "The Armed Forces must always be prepared, and the government must be fully ready for any eventuality. Preparedness is the best deterrent to war," Araghchi said.

Aref Calls for Regional Unity as Eurasian Bloc Rallies Behind Iran



This combo shows Iran's First Vice President Muhammad Reza Aref addressing the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) summit and his meeting with Russian and Kyrgyz officials.

CHOLPON ATA, Kyrgyzstan (Dispatches) — Iran's First Vice President Muhammad Reza Aref, leading a senior delegation to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) summit here, on Friday praised the bloc's supportive stance against recent Israeli and U.S. aggression on Iran, while urging collective resilience and deeper regional cooperation to face future global challenges.

Speaking at the opening session of the EAEU Prime Ministers' meeting, Aref thanked member states for their "constructive and encouraging positions" against "the aggression of the Zionist regime and the United States" directed at Iran.

He condemned the United Nations Security Council's inaction over "blatant violations of international law and the UN Charter by the Zionist regime and America."

"The attacks on a UN member state, including assaults on Iran's nuclear facilities, the killing of civilians, unlawful operations

against our military personnel, and the bloodshed of women, children, and scientists, reveal the Zionist regime's objective to spread insecurity in the region," he said.

He said "the world is witnessing this regime's imposition of hunger on the oppressed people of Gaza, even full occupation — acts amounting to crimes against humanity and continued genocide."

Iran, he added, "reiterates the shared responsibility of all states to halt these gross violations of international humanitarian law and crimes against humanity in Gaza."

Aref also praised the implementation of the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Union, calling it "a unique opportunity for national economies, sustainable development, and deepening economic cooperation."

He announced that the first joint working group meeting would be held in September under the leadership of Iran's Minister of Industry, Mines, and Trade and the EAEU's

trade minister.

"Iranian economic actors are increasingly aware of the benefits and capacities of the EAEU agreement and are determined to enhance cooperation and participation in the supply chains and economic value of the union," he said.

The vice president underscored Iran's readiness "to expand cooperation in key areas such as trade, energy, modern technology, and transportation alongside the free trade agreement."

Calling for collective resilience to global shocks such as "energy insecurity, food insecurity, climate change, and threats from new technologies," Aref stressed the need for unity against "growing dangers caused by monopolies in global financial and banking systems."

On regional security, Aref welcomed the recent peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan and stressed Iran's stance against external interference.

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Sanctions 'Crime Against Humanity' for Killing 500,000 a Year

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned U.S. and Western sanctions, calling for them to be recognized as "crimes against humanity" and urging affected countries to mount a unified response.

In a post on X, Araghchi rejected Western claims that sanctions are a "bloodless alternative to war," citing a study by the British medical journal The Lancet estimating more than 500,000 deaths annually due to U.S. sanctions since the 1970s.

"Reality check: New study by @TheLancet says unilateral sanctions, particularly by the U.S., may be as lethal as war. 500+k lives claimed annually since 1970s, mostly children and the elderly," Araghchi wrote.

He called on the international community to condemn such measures, adding: "High time for inhumane sanctions imposed by the U.S. and its accomplices to be recognized as crimes against humanity. Targeted nations should coordinate efforts to forge a unified and collective response."

Iran has faced decades of stringent sanctions primarily linked to its nuclear program and opposition to Western geopolitical influence.

In 2015, Tehran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with the U.S., Germany, France, Britain, Russia, and China, showcasing the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities. The deal was endorsed by the United Nations Security

Council under Resolution 2231.

However, Washington's withdrawal from the JCPOA in May 2018 and the reimposition of unilateral sanctions have cast doubt on the agreement's future and intensified economic pressures on Iran.

Despite the restrictions, Araghchi said sanctions have only partly hindered Iran's progress, also spurring self-sufficiency and innovation.

"The unilateral sanctions have hampered in some cases Iran's headway but largely contributed to the country's self-sufficiency and dynamized the national drive to push the boundary of its innovation and venture into high-tech sciences with no reliance on foreign assistance," he said.

Armenian Deputy FM: All Iranian Concerns Addressed in Deal

TEHRAN — Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister Vahan Kostanyan on Thursday dismissed the possibility of deploying third-party security forces along the Iran-Armenia border, amid concerns raised over a new transit corridor included in a recent peace agreement with Azerbaijan.

Kostanyan addressed the deal signed on August 8 at the White House by Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

The agreement includes the establishment of a 27-mile transit corridor, known as the "Trump Route," linking Azerbaijan to its Nakhchivan exclave via southern Armenia, bordering northern Iran.

Kostanyan said the Armenian delegation had taken "all the concerns that Iran has" into account during negotiations. "In the declaration that we are speaking about, there is a reference to four very key principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, jurisdiction and reciprocity," he said.

ity," he said.

He added that fears about an extraterritorial corridor have been "fully lifted." Kostanyan also denied media reports suggesting the deployment of foreign troops in the area, saying, "We don't anticipate and we don't foresee any security forces being deployed to this connectivity project zone."

The Armenian official described the corridor as a potential boost to regional connectivity and trade. "This will be conducted for intrastate, bi-

lateral and international trade," he said.

The agreement marks a major step toward resolving the long-running conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, which was controlled by ethnic Armenians but internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan until Azerbaijani forces retook the territory in a swift offensive last year.

Iran has welcomed the peace deal but warned against foreign interference in the Caucasus region.

The Holy Qur'an

Do they not know that Allah accepts repentance from His servants and takes the alms, and that Allah is the Oft-returning (to mercy), the Merciful? The Holy Qur'an (9.104)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:09
Evening (Maghreb)	19:12
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	05:24
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	03:52

Larijani Assures Lebanon of Iran's Continued Support

BEIRUT — Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), praised the late Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as a "towering figure" who made "indispensable and unprecedented contributions" to the resistance movement's strength and struggle.

Speaking near Nasrallah's burial site in Beirut, Larijani urged Lebanese youth to honor the leader's legacy through patience and steadfastness. "We may have lost him, but his sons, raised in his school of thought, live on," he said, adding that hostility from enemies only "proved the movement's power and steadfastness."

He assured continued Iranian support, saying Tehran "does not interfere in the domestic affairs of other nations, but would never abandon its support for the resistance front."

At a joint press conference with Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Larijani dismissed claims of Iranian interference, urging Lebanese leaders to "carefully differentiate between friends and foes."

"Countries outside Lebanon should not dictate to Lebanon. The Lebanese nation is a wise nation and can decide for itself," he said.

Addressing U.S. demands for Hezbollah's disarmament, Larijani warned, "Be careful that Israel does not impose on you through other means what it could not achieve through war... The Resistance is a national asset of Lebanon and of all Islamic countries."

He urged internal dialogue in Lebanon to resolve the issue, stating, "The Lebanese government should speak with its various sects and reach a conclusion."

Larijani highlighted that Iran's alliances with Lebanese resistance groups are based on brotherhood, not control, saying, "The Lebanese resistance doesn't require guidance from others."

On regional tensions, Larijani noted Israel's recent 12-day aggression against Iran failed strategically. He praised Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's leadership, quoting his response to U.S. calls for surrender: "We will not surrender, and we will confront you with strength."

Rejecting U.S. policies, Larijani (Continued on Page 7)