

TEHRAN -- Iran confirmed exchanging messages with the United States through third countries, though Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said these contacts have not led to "meaningful negotiations."

Speaking on the sidelines of a Tehran conference, he said various states are attempting to reduce tensions but talks are not yet underway. Baghaei criticized Britain, France and Germany for pursuing an anti-Iran resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors, saying it mirrors their failed push at the UN Security Council and shows they are not serious about dialogue.

TEHRAN -- A senior Iranian diplomat has warned that unilateral actions by the United States and Israel threaten international law and global stability. In a post on X, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi said he had discussed the issue with UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order George Katrougalos during a meeting in Tehran. "Our discussion focused on how unilateral and arbitrary actions—such as aggression and crimes committed by the U.S. and Israeli regime—erode international law and destabilize the global system, pushing the world further away from justice, equality, and peace," Gharibabadi said. He also urged the UN expert to play a "vital role in strengthening international law."

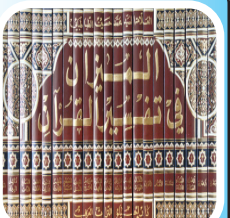
VOL NO: LV 12679 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Monday, November 17, 2025, Aban 26, 1404, Jamadi al-Awwal 26, 1447, Price 500,000 Rials

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# Cooperation With IAEA to Change If EU Passes Resolution

TEHRAN -- Iran said on Sunday it would review its relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) if a resolution proposed by European powers is adopted, criticizing what it described as political pressures on the country over its nuclear program.

Speaking at an international conference on "International Law under Aggression, Invasion and Defense" in Tehran, Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, said the resolution — reportedly submitted by the European "Troika" of France, Germany and the UK — would seek to suspend Iran's uranium enrichment and prevent it from resuming nuclear reprocessing activities.

"Iran will reconsider its relations with the IAEA; if a resolution is issued, a fundamental review will take place," Gharibabadi said. He described the move by European countries as an attempt to exert pressure, rather than engage in meaningful diplomacy.

Iran has maintained that its nuclear program is entirely peaceful. Gharibabadi said the country has cooperated extensively with the IAEA, allowing inspections of all facilities that were not targeted in previous attacks, and continuously implementing the Additional Protocol and IAEA safeguards.

Despite this, he said Western countries have ignored Iran's compliance while focusing on political objectives. "They are not concerned with interaction; they only want to use international mechanisms to pressure Iran," he said.

The conference, held at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran, was attended by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi Atomic Energy Organization chief Muhammad Eslami, and senior political and academic figures from Iran and abroad. The gathering aimed to discuss international legal perspectives on state aggression and defense.

Gharibabadi stressed that Iran has faced two forms of attacks: one against its territorial integrity and another

## FM Araghchi: Iran Stronger After 12-Day War

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday that the country has emerged stronger following a recent military confrontation, signaling Tehran's continued commitment to diplomacy while warning that any future aggression would face a robust response.

"We are stronger now," Araghchi told a conference in Tehran, referring to the aftermath of a 12-day war with Israel and allied forces.

"If previous failed attempts are repeated, the outcome will be no different. At the same time, we have managed to restore our capabilities. Sanctions certainly carry a cost, but they have not been able to break our will."

Araghchi spoke at the opening of an international conference on "International Law under Aggression, Invasion, and Defense," held at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event gathered senior officials, scholars, and think-tank representatives from Iran and abroad to discuss diplomacy and international policy.

Reflecting on the recent military escalation, Araghchi described it as an "attack on diplomacy," saying that the aggressors — Israel and the United States — ultimately failed to achieve their objectives.

"The military strike may have damaged facilities, but knowledge and resolve cannot be destroyed by bombing," he said. "Now, the call for renewed negotiations has begun."

Araghchi stressed that diplomacy must be based on dialogue rather than coercion.

"There is a rule for diplomacy: you cannot impose your demands. The first step is to accept that dialogue must replace force. When that condition exists, Iran has shown it is ready to negotiate. We never abandoned the negotiation table; it was the other side that walked away," he



Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi addresses an international conference on "International Law under Aggression, Invasion, and Defense" at the Foreign Ministry in Tehran, Nov. 16, 2025.

said.

He added that the United States and Western countries had consistently sought to impose their demands, but diplomacy remains possible if principles are respected. "Diplomacy can continue today, but its rules must be upheld," Araghchi said.

Turning to Iran's approach to regional security, Araghchi emphasized the country's preference for peaceful solutions. "I spoke in my speech about two paths: force and diplomacy. Diplomacy is our first choice," he said.

He described Iran's regional outlook as "very promising," highlighting the country's ability to withstand the 12-day war and defend itself against aggression from the United States and Israel, supported by certain other countries.

Araghchi recounted that the opposing forces requested an unconditional ceasefire on the 12th day of the war signaling

that they had failed to meet their objectives.

"Iran was able to show strong defense. Some claim the Iranian sky was under their control, but it is rarely mentioned that the skies of the regime were under the control of Iran's missiles. The regime had no choice but to agree to a ceasefire," he said.

Highlighting national resilience, Araghchi said: "What matters now is the will of the Iranian people. They did not succeed in breaking national cohesion. A few months after the 12-day war, I can confidently say that in terms of defensive strength, we are far stronger than before June. We have learned many lessons from the war, identified our weaknesses and strengths, and are now better prepared for defense — which in itself is a deterrent."

Araghchi reiterated that Iran will only engage with other countries through diplomacy

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targeting its nuclear facilities. He described these attacks — by Israel and the United States — as "serious crimes" and warned that attacks on nuclear facilities constitute threats not just to Iran but to global peace and security.

"Every attack against nuclear facilities, whether sabotage, military action, or targeting of scientists, represents a threat to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and international security," he said, noting that all Iranian nuclear facilities had been under stringent IAEA monitoring.

Gharibabadi criticized selective enforcement of international law, citing attacks on Syria and Ukraine while Iran's cases received limited international condemnation. He said some members of the international community of encouraging illegal acts and exacerbating tensions, undermining nuclear non-proliferation norms.

The deputy foreign minister also criticized the IAEA Board of Governors and the UN Security Council for failing to act, saying the IAEA director-general did not report the attacks to the Security Council despite being responsible for oversight.

Iran's stance comes amid rising tensions with Europe over the possible reintroduction of punitive measures via the IAEA Board of Governors. Gharibabadi questioned the rationale behind the resolution, noting, "We are not enriching uranium at this stage, so what is the West worried about?"

He described the European and U.S. draft resolution as demanding that Iran suspend uranium enrichment, refrain from resuming reprocessing activities and engage in dialogue with the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany in good faith.

Gharibabadi stated that these demands ignore Iran's transparency measures and its cooperation with the IAEA over the past three years, including implementation of the revised Code 3.1 which requires Iran to notify the IAEA "as soon

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## Iran Vaulted to 2nd Place Globally in Cord Blood Storage

TEHRAN -- Iran has become the second-largest country in the world for umbilical cord blood storage, with more than 250,000 samples registered in its stem cell bank, officials said on Sunday.

Speaking at a press conference for World Umbilical Cord Blood Day at the Royan Research Institute in Tehran, Mortaza Zarabi, CEO of Royan Technology Company, highlighted the country's progress in stem cell research and clinical applications.

"Iran has grown into the largest and most reputable stem cell storage center in the region, building on the pioneering research of the late Dr. Kazemi Ashtiani," Zarabi said.

"We now maintain a private bank with around 250,000 cord blood samples and a public bank with nearly 5,000 samples. This achievement reflects 20 years of ef-

fort in technology development, clinical applications, and innovative infrastructure."

Zarabi traced the beginnings of Iran's stem cell research to 2002, when the country first entered the field.

"Dr. Kazemi Ashtiani recognized the revolutionary potential of stem cells in medicine and pushed for serious engagement in this area," he said, noting that backing from Iran's Supreme Leader after Dr. Kazemi's proposal was a turning point for the field.

In addition to cord blood, the institute now collects and stores stem cells from bone marrow, peripheral blood, adipose tissue, umbilical tissue, and dental pulp.

Stem cells, he explained, are undifferentiated cells capable of developing into specialized cells, and are categorized into hematopoietic (blood-forming) and non-hematopoietic types, which are used

in treating blood disorders, neurological conditions, orthopedic diseases, cardiovascular issues, cerebral palsy, and autism.

Zarabi highlighted that postnatal materials, including cord blood, placenta, umbilical tissue, fetal membranes, and cord blood serum, are valuable sources for developing therapeutic products such as "Amiker," cord blood PRP, and placental extracts.

The Royan Institute has conducted extensive clinical trials, including studies on cerebral palsy, autism, osteoarthritis, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Cord blood and other stem cell transplants have been performed for hematologic and orthopedic patients, with more than 40 patients treated for conditions such as thalassemia, leukemia, immunodeficiencies, and congenital anemia.

Approximately 1,850 patients have had

their stem cells stored, and nearly 900 have received transplants. Non-related donor transplants are also performed. In neurological cases, around 60 patients with cerebral palsy or autism have received treatment. Hematologic transplants have achieved over 80% success rates, according to Zarabi.

Zarabi said Iran ranks alongside the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia as a leading regional hub for cord blood storage. Globally, he added, the market is dominated by a few U.S. and European companies, but Iran's storage volume and international activity place it second worldwide.

"The global ranking is based on sample numbers: banks with fewer than 100,000 samples are ranked third, 100,000 to 400,000 second, and over 400,000 first," he said. "Crossing 250,000 samples places us in the second tier despite sanctions

and infrastructure challenges."

Royan has also developed cryogenic storage tanks domestically, produced the first wound-healing product derived from fetal membranes ("Amiker"), and established Iran's largest genetic database with 100,000 entries. The company operates 46 collection offices nationwide, ensuring broad access and positioning Iran as the only registered private cord blood bank in the country.

Zarabi emphasized that Royan goes beyond storage, facilitating clinical applications of stem cells. Treatments for osteoarthritis using products derived from umbilical tissue, as well as regenerative therapies for burns, diabetic foot ulcers, and corneal surgeries, are now available.

"This reflects two decades of continuous effort toward self-sufficiency, technology development, and advancing modern medicine in Iran," he said.