

Leader's Office: Media Claims About President's Letter 'Completely False'

TEHRAN — The office of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei has categorically denied social media claims regarding his reaction to a letter from President Masoud Pezeshkian, warning that such fabrications are aimed at sowing division in society.

"Recently, some quotes attributed to the Eminent Leader have been circulating on social media that, unfortunately, have laid the groundwork for public confusion and created discord in society," the Public Relations Office of the Leader's office said in a statement.

The office stressed that the only official sources for news and statements related to the Leader are his official

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Hezbollah Chief: Iran Prevailed in War Against U.S.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- Iran has emerged as a decisive force in shaping the trajectory of West Asian resistance, according to Hezbollah's secretary general, who sharply criticized Lebanon's government for its direct negotiations with Israel—talks he described as producing nothing but shame, humiliation, and bitter disappointment through repeated concessions.

"Iran has prevailed and stood firm, whilst the U.S. has failed. Iran was able to resist aggression, and proved it is a strong state," Sheikh Naim Qassem said in a televised address from Baalbek, southern Lebanon, on Tuesday.

Marking Arba'een, the 40th day after the martyrdom

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Viewpoint

The Message for Tyrants of the Massive Arba'een Rallies

Minab School Six-Word Story Award Draws 16,158 Entries From 38 Countries

Children's Corner

Benyamin Faraji Wins Laos World Youth Championship

Tehran Sets Firm Conditions for Hormuz Reopening

TEHRAN — Iran has firmly rejected the notion that a technical agreement with Oman on a new shipping route would be sufficient to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, with officials stating the waterway will remain closed as long as U.S. military aggression and naval blockade continue.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei made the remarks at his weekly press conference on Monday, as U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent expressed optimism that Washington could reach an agreement with Iran “today or tomorrow” to fully reopen the strategic waterway.

At the heart of Iran’s position is a firm insistence that the Strait’s closure was not caused by any disagreement with Oman, but rather by direct U.S. and Israeli military aggression that began on February 28.

“Reaching an agreement on a safe shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz is a necessary but not sufficient condition for reopening the strait,” Baghaei said at a press conference.

He elaborated that the strait’s closure was a direct consequence of “American treaty-breaking, the naval blockade of Iran, and the series of disruptive actions Washington has carried out against the Islamic Republic”. The Strait of Hormuz has been closed “not because of disagreements between Tehran and Muscat, but because of U.S. and Israeli aggression against Iran”.

Baghaei made clear that as long as U.S. military aggression and violations of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding continue, “no particular change will occur regarding the situation in the Strait”.

“The situation in the Strait of Hormuz will not change as long as the United States continues its acts of aggression and its blockade,” he said. The strategic waterway would “never return to its pre-war state”.

According to a detailed analysis published in the National Security Journal, the arrangement taking shape between Iran and Oman represents what Washington could accept as an “off-ramp” from the war — but not the settlement President Trump has described publicly.

The analysis notes that while Washington is treating the Oman talks as part of a wider settlement process that Tehran says does not exist, Iran has been unusually direct about separating the two. An agreement with Oman on a shipping route has “no link to the Strait of Hormuz being opened or closed. That is a separate discussion,” Baghaei stated.

What is striking about the potential arrangement is what is absent

from it: any American role in the arrangement, any third-party demining commitment Iran has accepted, and any explicit reopening timeline tied to the corridor’s signature rather than to the end of hostilities as Iran defines them.

Baghaei categorically dismissed reports of ongoing negotiations between Tehran and Washington, contradicting statements by President Trump that talks would begin on August 3.

“We do not have any negotiations with the United States at the moment,” Baghaei told reporters. “We are not going to host a delegation or be guests of a country during these days.”

He added: “Today, Mr. Araghchi is traveling for the Arbaeen pilgrimage, and all our negotiators are in Iran.” This directly contradicted Trump’s claim that negotiations with Iran would begin on August 3.

A Single Temporary Corridor Under Negotiation

Baghaei outlined the scope of the Iran-Oman talks, explaining that the two countries are negotiating a single, temporary two-way shipping corridor through the strait.

“The current discussions are about a two-way corridor, not two or three separate routes,” Baghaei said. The proposed temporary route would remain in place until a permanent alternative is introduced.

He noted that the discussions have centered on creating an interim navigation corridor that takes into account the interests of both coastal states by merging the southern route through Omani waters and the northern route through Iranian territorial waters.

Baghaei reminded that Iran had accepted responsibility under Article 5 of the June 18 Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding to help manage navigation through the strait and had begun efforts to restore maritime traffic to pre-war levels.

He said those efforts were disrupted after the U.S. “violated the agreement” by launching military attacks against Iran before the deadline and reinstating what Tehran described as an “unlawful maritime blockade”.

“The understanding with Oman regarding a new shipping lane is solely a prerequisite for regulating maritime traffic. It does not mean the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz,” Baghaei said.

Mediation Structure Clarified

Baghaei also clarified the mediation structure for any potential Iran-U.S. communication, stating that “the mediator in discussions related to Iran and the U.S. is Pakistan, and Qatar assists when necessary”.

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LARGEST BLOOD-SEEKING FLAG RAISED OVER KARBALA SHRINES

22 Million Pilgrims in Karbala Vow Revenge for Martyred Leader



Over 22 million pilgrims from 172 countries gathered in Karbala on Tuesday for Arbaeen, raising a historic red flag inscribed “Ya Latharat al-Hussein” in honor of the martyred Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

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Trump's Third War Defeat Marked by US Reaper Fleet Decimation

TEHRAN — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced that its aerospace force shot down an American MQ-9 Reaper drone over the Strait of Hormuz using a “modern and advanced” air defense system, marking the latest in a devastating series of losses for the U.S. military’s premier armed reconnaissance platform.

The downing, confirmed by the IRGC’s official Sepah News outlet, comes as the U.S. Air Force’s operational Reaper fleet has fallen to roughly 135 aircraft—well below its minimum floor of 189—with Iran having destroyed over two dozen MQ-9s since the war began in late February, representing nearly 20 percent of the Pentagon’s pre-war inventory at an estimated cost of \$1 billion.

General Atomics, the manufacturer, has confirmed that fewer than 10 new airframes remain available for purchase, and the production line for the MQ-9A has been shut down.

The IRGC has documented at least 41 to 42 Reapers destroyed in flight over Iranian territory, the Persian Gulf, and on the ground at U.S. bases in Kuwait and Jordan, with the latest Operation Nasr-2 strikes destroying eight MQ-9s still in canisters at Jordan’s King Faisal Air Base.

The MQ-9 Reaper, which the U.S. Air Force has called the “most valuable player” of its campaign against Iran, has proven increasingly vulnerable against Iran’s layered, domestically produced air defense systems—including the 358 loitering interceptor also used by Yemen’s

Ansarullah forces to down nearly 30 Reapers since 2023.

U.S. officials have conceded that the drone’s survivability in high-threat environments is now in question. Air Force Lieutenant General David Tabor told Congress that the military is “exploring options to acquire as many MQ-9A aircraft as possible right now,” acknowledging the urgent need to replenish a fleet systematically dismantled by Iranian air defenses.

Mohsen Rezaei, advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and former IRGC commander, declared in a television interview Monday that the United States was “defeated midway” in Trump’s third war against Iran, as Iranian forces disrupted American plans, forced the relocation of U.S. command centers, and inflicted heavy casualties.

Rezaei characterized the recent American aggression as Trump’s third war against Iran, coming after earlier 12-day and 40-day wars. He revealed that Iran prepared to strike three locations inside Ukraine in response to an attack on an Iranian ship, but suspended the operation after Kiev claimed the incident was a mistake, while stressing that compensation remains obligatory.

Rezaei detailed the battle of Hormuz, noting that Israel was absent from the latest round of attacks, which focused on southern Iran. American forces bombed communication bridges, radars and military centers in an attempt to weaken Iranian logistics, he

said. When Trump demanded heavier strikes, his commanders replied that “maximum capability had already been used, and still they failed.”

In response, Iran launched successive, precise strikes against U.S. bases across the region, forcing the relocation of American forces and shifting their command from Qatar to Jordan and then to Israel, placing command and support far from the battlefield.

“Trump’s third war against Iran was defeated midway, adding a severe failure to his previous setbacks. We continued our strikes for two days after the Americans stopped,” Rezaei added.

The U.S. recently admitted to 650 killed and wounded in the recent war; Iranian estimates place the figure at nearly 500 killed. While a full-scale American ground invasion is no longer realistic, Washington is already preparing a fourth round, including plots to stir internal unrest and attempts to drag other countries into the conflict, as seen in the Ukrainian attack on the Iranian ship.

Rezaei warned that America’s desperate maneuvers risk igniting the sparks of a third world war, noting that West Asia today holds far greater potential for escalation than Europe on the eve of World War II. Rejecting claims that Iran is the aggressor, he stressed that “it was America that attacked our country and our people, martyred our Leader and our children.”

In a separate tweet Monday night,

Rezaei said, “If the blockade continues, American vessels and forces will face serious risks and casualties. The U.S. must change its behavior — or we will not tolerate this. We will never permit the opening of a second corridor in the Strait of Hormuz.”

Iran’s Assembly of Experts issued a statement Monday warning against trusting the United States given its repeated violations of the war-termination memorandum of understanding with Iran.

Recent developments, it added, have demonstrated that the U.S. president’s signature is unreliable and that placing trust in the arrogant government is nothing more than an illusion.

“Hope for understanding and agreement with this bullying regime will lead nowhere,” the assembly stated.

Acting Defense Minister Brigadier General Seyyed Majid Ibnolreza said Iran will “neither be caught off guard nor stand idly by” amid repeated U.S. threats, adding that Tehran will “use the threat as an opportunity to strengthen our preparedness, reinforce our deterrence, and further enhance our power.”

The United States and Israel waged their first war on Iran in June 2025, lasting 12 days. Their second aggression began on February 28 and halted in early April after 40 days. Tehran and Washington signed the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding on June 17, but Washington has effectively violated the deal by

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