



Israel-Iran war of attrition continues – negotiations fruitless

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Negotiations with the E3 countries have not yielded any results. Although attacks on both sides are decreasing, they are continuing unabated.

Yesterday, a round of urgent talks between representatives from Europe and the US and Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi ended in Geneva. According to reports, the talks were inconclusive, as Iran rejected demands for a complete halt to uranium enrichment and instead stated that there would be no negotiations until Israel completely ceased its attacks.

The marathon negotiations in Geneva lasted just under three and a half hours. According to the Iranian [news agency Press TV](#), the talks focused mainly on the future of the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, better known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The meeting at the European headquarters of the United Nations was convened at the request of the three European signatories to the JCPOA. After the talks, Foreign Minister Araghchi told reporters that Tehran would not hold talks with any party as long as Israel continued its aggression against Iran. The Israeli regime must stop its attacks and crimes against the Iranian people, otherwise there would be no negotiations.

Statement by Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi following talks with the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs:

“Today we met and held discussions with the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, as well as with the EU High Representative in Geneva.”

– [Source: Press TV on X \(old Twitter\)](#)

“Iran will continue to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense,” Araghchi continued, expressing “deep concern” about the lack of international condemnation of the Israeli attacks.

He reiterated that Iran's nuclear program is peaceful and remains under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Araghchi expressed his willingness to continue talks and then traveled to Moscow, where he will meet with President Vladimir Putin on Monday.

Russia's stance

Meanwhile, Russia is being criticized for not providing Iran with more support. Andrei Martyanov, a former Soviet officer and blogger on military and maritime issues, [explains on his blog](#) that it has long been his thesis that Iran is not an easy partner. Although it is an ancient culture with a very proud people, Iran is also – understandably – extremely sensitive about issues of sovereignty and generally cautious when it comes to alliances. Often to its own detriment.

Martyanov refers to Putin's stance on the conflict: Russia strongly opposes further escalation between Israel and Iran. When asked how Moscow would respond to the targeted assassination of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei, Putin simply replied that this was a “scenario I will not even discuss.” Russia has not been asked to intervene militarily and sees no reason to change its current position. Although air defense systems have already been delivered to Iran, Tehran shows “little interest” in deeper military cooperation.

Putin spoke out in favor of mutual security guarantees—both for Iran's right to peaceful use of nuclear energy and for Israel's right to security. Moscow has submitted several compromise proposals to all parties involved—including the US, Israel, and Iran—and hopes for a diplomatic solution.

Martyanov goes on to write that one cannot impose oneself on other states. If a country decides to act alone, one must respect that. Russia is prepared to do its part if asked – but that has not happened so far. Hence, there will be no delivery of S-400 systems to Iran: according to Russian assessment, these are not necessary at present.

Background to Iran's stance

In an [interview with YouTuber Rachel Blevins](#), military and political analyst Mark Sleboda explains that although Iran signed a new agreement on Monday, it does not contain any

defense clauses. It only covers economic, political, and other areas. Originally, under President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash under mysterious circumstances, it had been expected that Russia would build a multi-layered air defense and electronic defense system for Iran.

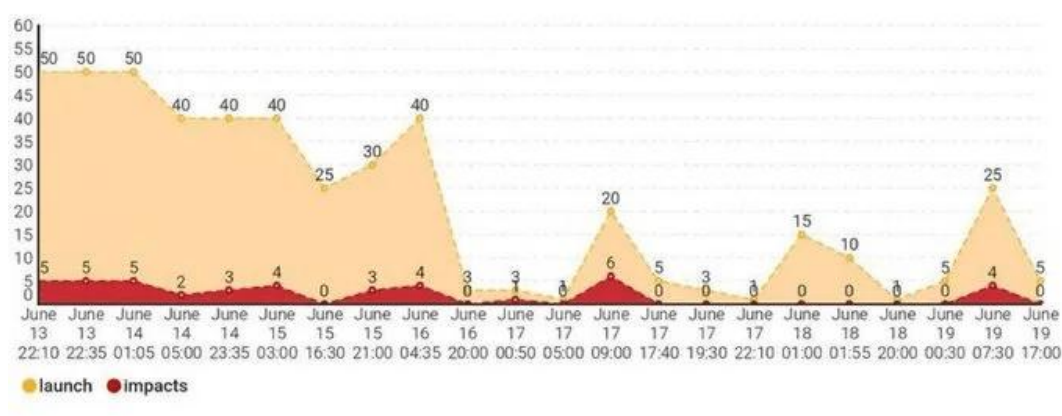
However, Raisi's elected successor, Massoud Peseshkian, has turned more toward the West and does not want any military agreements or aid from Russia. Russia even proposed a closer strategic partnership between Russia, China, and Iran, but Iran apparently rejected it. At present, therefore, there is no guarantee of Russian air defense protection for Iran.

Decreasing intensity of attacks

The following graph shows that the number of missiles fired by Iran has decreased significantly. However, the number of hits remained roughly the same. This is mainly due to the fact that Israel's so-called “Iron Dome” has been significantly weakened: air defense bases have been taken out of action, and the remaining systems are being used in a more targeted and economical manner as supplies are running low.

Iran is also deploying new types of missiles that are better able to evade the defense system and carry larger explosive charges.

Iran's missile strikes based on media evidence



Israel also had to reduce its attacks. Israeli claims of complete air superiority over Tehran are doubtful. Drones are likely to be used for the most part over Iranian territory. Most Israeli aircraft fire missiles from Iraqi airspace. The F-35 and F-16 jets used require extensive maintenance per flight hour – and are currently being pushed to their limits.

Regime change through covert operations?

Sleboda assumes that a possible regime change in Iran would be initiated less by open acts of war than by covert operations on the ground. Assassinations, terrorist and sabotage campaigns, drone attacks from within the country – similar to Operation Spiderweb – would be part of this scenario. But all of this would not be enough to bring about an actual regime change.

Possible instruments could be groups such as the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) – an organization that was previously on the US terror list for killing Americans – or Baluchi separatists, who are allegedly supported by Israel and the CIA. Such groups could act as proxies in Iran to bring about a political and social crisis, resulting in the overthrow of the Iranian government.

There are many examples of such covert operations – most recently in Georgia, and previously in Ukraine, Yugoslavia, Latin America, and even in Iran itself: in 1953, the democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh was overthrown in a coup organized by MI6 and the CIA. He was succeeded by the Shah's regime of terror and torture.

In light of increasing tensions with Israel and growing pressure from the White House, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has reportedly transferred important powers to the Supreme Council of the Iranian military, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), according to Iran Insight.

This move follows claims that Khamenei, accompanied by close family members, including his son Mojtaba, was taken to an underground bunker in northeast Tehran, Iran Insight reports.

Under the Iranian system of government, Khamenei has supreme command of the armed forces, the power to declare war, and can appoint or dismiss high-ranking figures, including military commanders and judges.