

# *Iranian Foreign Ministry says no negotiations between Iran and U.S. at any level*

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Tehran, July 15 (RHC)-- The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry says there are no ongoing talks between the Islamic Republic and the United States at any level, denying several media reports in this regard.

Speaking to reporters over the weekend, Abbas Mousavi said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is engaged in no negotiations with the American officials at any level."

Mousavi was reacting to recent reports by certain social and other media outlets alleging that Iran has been in talks with the U.S. through Russian mediation. They went as far as claiming that the talks were being conducted between the two countries' foreign ministers.

Rumors about clandestine Iran-US talks come at a time that Iranian officials at various levels have said time and again that there would be no talks with Washington after the United States unilaterally left a nuclear deal with Iran, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and re-imposed tough sanctions against the country, which had been lifted under the deal.

On May 29th, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei ruled out the possibility of talks between Tehran and Washington, saying such negotiations will be “fruitless,” “harmful” and “a total loss.”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran will absolutely not sit for talks with America ... because first, it bears no fruit and second, it is harmful,” the Iranian leader said in a meeting with a number of university professors, elites and researchers in Tehran. The only way to counter this trick, he said, is to utilize the means of pressure available for use against Americans. “If they are used properly, the Americans will either stop or decrease pressures.”

On May 26, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araqchi met with Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah in Muscat, categorically rejecting recent claims about the beginning of negotiations between the Islamic Republic and the United States with the goal of reducing tensions between the two sides.

Rejecting all reports about any form of direct or indirect talks with the United States, the Iranian diplomat emphasized: “The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to establish balanced and constructive relations with all countries in the Persian Gulf region based on mutual respect and interests.”

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