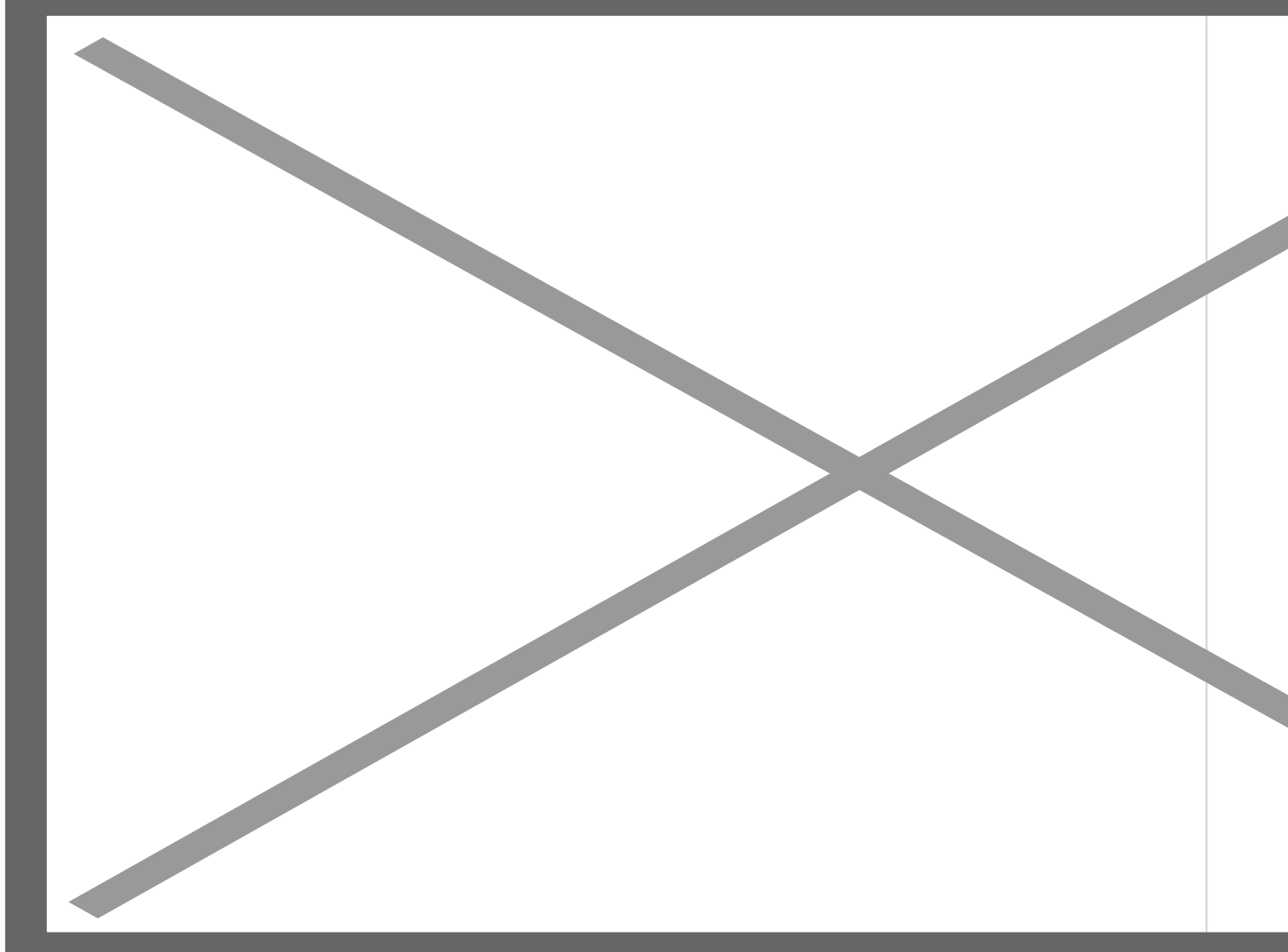


Iranian foreign minister and Hamas chief meet ahead of Gaza ceasefire

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Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (L) holds talks with Hamas politburo chief

Ismail Haniyeh in Doha, Qatar on Nov. 23, 2023. (Photo by Fars)

Doha, November 24 (RHC)-- Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has held talks with Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh in Doha where he has traveled as part of a regional tour for consultations amid the Israeli invasion of Gaza.

The meeting on Thursday night came as a breakthrough four-day truce in the war began on Friday morning and an exchange of captives and prisoners followed hours later.

Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani discussed the plan with Amir-Abdollahian and thanked Iran for its "pivotal role and valuable efforts in helping to achieve a humanitarian cessation of the war against Gaza," Fars news agency reported.

"We have reached a good stage," the Qatari minister said, adding the first priority is the ceasefire, and then "our effort is to extend the temporary ceasefire and stop the war and killing of Palestinians completely and prevent a return to war."

Amir-Abdollahian welcomed the ceasefire, saying if the Israeli regime continues the war, "the situation in the region will become more tense and the reactions will be more widespread." He said Israel is not able to continue the war without the support of the United States.

Amir-Abdollahian said what had happened against the United States in the region in the last six weeks was the reaction of the resistance groups to U.S. support for the genocide in Palestine and had nothing to do with Iran.

U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria have seen an uptick in attacks since Israel launched its invasion of the besieged Gaza Strip, leaving scores of American troops injured, including over two dozen soldiers diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries.

Amir-Abdollahian said Hamas is a liberation movement which has emerged from within the civil society of the Palestinian nation. Hamas, he said, cannot be eliminated and its enemies should not think they can achieve what they failed during more than a month and a half of war through political means.

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