
IRAN AGAIN WARNS AGAINST 'OUTSIDE POWERS' IN SOUTH CAUCASUS

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Azatutyun Radiokayan (15 February 2024)

In what appeared to be a fresh warning to Armenia, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi told a visiting senior Armenian official on Thursday that Tehran remains strongly opposed to the geopolitical presence of outside powers in the South Caucasus.

Raisi's office singled out the issue in its readout of his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Mher Grigorian reported by Iranian news agencies. The intervention of outsiders in regional disputes could only exacerbate, rather than resolve, them, he said in a clear reference to the United States and the European Union.

Raisi made the same point in a December phone call with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinian. In recent years, Pashinian's government has increasingly pinned its hopes on U.S. and EU efforts to broker an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace treaty.

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