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## Gabbard to resign, cites husband's cancer



Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard announced May 22 she was resigning from her post effective June 30 amid her husband's rare bone cancer diagnosis. ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Natalie Neysa Alund and Josh Meyer  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON - Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard announced May 22 she was resigning from her post as the nation's top intelligence official amid her husband's rare bone cancer diagnosis.

"I am deeply grateful for the trust President Trump placed in me and for the opportunity to lead," Gabbard wrote in a post on X. "Unfortunately, I must submit my resignation, effective June

30, 2026. My husband, Abraham, has recently been diagnosed with an extremely rare form of bone cancer."

According to a resignation letter posted by Gabbard on social media, she told President Donald Trump she was "deeply grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the opportunity to lead the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for the last year and a half."

In her post, Trump said Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence Aaron Lukas will serve as Acting Director of National Intelligence after June

30.

"Her wonderful husband, Abraham, has been recently diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer, and she, rightfully, wants to be with him, bringing him back to good health as they currently fight a tough battle together," Trump wrote. "I have no doubt he will soon be better than ever. Tulsi has done an incredible job, and we will miss her."

Gabbard, a U.S. Army reserve officer

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## Labor market resilient despite war

Lucia Mutikani  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON - The number of Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits fell the week of May 10, pointing to labor market resilience and giving the Federal Reserve room to focus on surging inflation from the war with Iran.

There are no signs yet that employers are responding to rising costs by reducing headcount. The nearly three-month-long U.S.-Israeli war with Iran has disrupted shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, boosting energy prices, as well as straining global supply chains and causing shortages of a wide range of goods, including fertilizers, aluminum and consumer products.

"We still can't rule out some spillover effects from the war and the spike in oil prices on to the labor market, which we have always expected would come with a lag," said Matthew Martin, a senior U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. "But for now, we think the labor market is showing enough stability to allow the Fed to feel comfortable keeping policy steady."

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits slipped 3,000 to a seasonally adjusted 209,000 for the week ended May 16, the Labor Department said on May 21. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast 210,000 claims for the latest week. Claims have remained low despite high-profile layoffs in the technology sector, linked to the adoption of artificial intelligence.

The labor market could still soften. A survey from S&P Global showed private sector employment dropping to a 21-month low in May, with services businesses citing "growing concerns over rising costs and deteriorating demand conditions." Economists are anticipating accelerating inflation will erode demand and undercut economic growth.

The survey also suggested that price pressures would continue to build. Its measure of prices paid by businesses for inputs jumped in May to the highest level since November 2022. Businesses passed on the higher costs to consumers, with S&P Global

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## Pakistani official seeks breakthrough on Iran

Jacob Bogage and Parisa Hafezi  
REUTERS

WASHINGTON - Iran's foreign minister met Pakistan's interior minister on May 22 to discuss proposals to end the U.S.-Israeli war, Iranian media reported, with Tehran and Washington still at odds over Iran's uranium stockpile and controls on the Strait of Hormuz.

Two days after presenting the Iranians with the latest U.S. message in the negotiations, Syed Mohsin Naqvi held another round of talks with Iranian For-

eign Minister Abbas Araqchi in Tehran, the semi-official Tasnim and ISNA news agencies reported.

Naqvi was facilitating communication to try to achieve a framework for ending the war and resolving differences, ISNA reported. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters on May 21 that there had been "some good signs" in the talks, but there could be no solution if Tehran enforced a tolling system in the Strait of Hormuz, which it effectively closed to most shipping after the war began on Feb. 28.

"There's some good signs," Rubio said. "I don't want to be overly optimistic. ... So, let's see what happens over the next few days."

A senior Iranian source told Reuters on May 21 that gaps had been narrowed, although uranium enrichment and the Strait of Hormuz remained among the sticking points.

The war has wreaked havoc on the global economy, with the surge in oil prices stoking fears of rampant

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Raheleh, an Iranian woman who lost two of her children in the Minab school bombing on Feb. 28, reacts at the school May 21 in Minab, Iran.

MAJID ASGARIPPOUR/WANA VIA REUTERS

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