

# Leader: None can stop Resistance if Israeli crimes continue

UN decries 'appalling reports' of strikes on refuge site

## International Desk

Iran's Leader warned Tuesday that "no one can stop" resistance forces if Israel's crimes continue, while a senior UN official denounced the "appalling reports" of the Zionist regime's attacks on civilians fleeing in the south of Gaza.

In a meeting with a group of Iranian elites on Tuesday, the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that Muslim nations are angry at the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip, adding that if Israeli crimes against Palestinians in Gaza continue, no one can stop Muslims and resistance forces.

The Leader emphasized that no matter what the Zionist regime does, it cannot compensate for the blatant defeat it suffered. He called for the trial of the Zionist regime and stated that what is before the whole world is the occupying regime's genocidal crimes, which have been seen by everyone.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said that what is in front of the eyes of the whole world in Palestine is the Israeli regime's crime of genocide.



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei meets with a group of Iranian elites on October 17, 2023. [khamenei.ir](#)

## Bombardments on refuge site

Israel on Tuesday bombed areas of southern Gaza where it had told Palestinians to flee to ahead of an expected ground invasion, killing dozens of people in the bombardments it says are targeted at Hamas resistance fighters that administrate the besieged territory, AP reported. The UN human rights office decried "appalling reports" that civilians who were trying to flee to southern Gaza were killed by a military strike. Spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani urged Israeli forces to avoid "aerial bombardments, indiscriminate or disproportionate attacks" and to "take precautions to avoid — and in any case, to minimize — loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, and damage to civilian objects."

## EU calls for Iran intervention

Meanwhile, European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called on Iran to use its influence to prevent the spillover of Israel's war on the Gaza Strip into the entire West Asia region. In a post on his X account, Borrell wrote, "It is in everyone's interest to prevent a regional spillover. Urged Iran to use its influence to avoid regional escalation".

## 2K US troops on deployment alert

This is while the US military on Tuesday ordered 2,000 personnel to prepare for deployment to the Middle East as a show of force amid the escalating conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, AFP reported. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the deployment would allow the US "to re-

spond more quickly" to the crisis, while the White House stressed it did not intend to put US combat forces on the ground.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said preparing the troops for deployment "is really about sending a signal of deterrence". The move comes as President Joe Biden heads to Israel today to underscore Washington's support for its close ally. Biden will "hear from Israel what it needs to defend its people," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, and also hear how Israel "will conduct its operations in a way that minimizes civilian casualties and enables humanitarian assistance to flow to civilians in Gaza in a way that does not benefit Hamas". Israel has vowed to annihilate Hamas after the large-scale attack by the resis-

tance movement that killed 1,400 people during a rampage through southern Israeli towns on October 7, the deadliest single day in Israel's 75-year history.

## 3,000 Palestinians killed

In retaliation for the attack, Israel has bombarded the Gaza Strip with airstrikes that have killed around 3,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health ministry, and driven around half of the 2.3 million Gazans from their homes. Israel has imposed a total blockade on the enclave, halting food, fuel, and medical supplies, which are rapidly running out. Scores of trucks carrying vital supplies for Gaza headed towards the Rafah crossing in Egypt on Tuesday, the only access point to the enclave outside Israel's control, but there was no clear indication that they would be able to enter.

## Israel's massacre of civilians rage on in Gaza



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## PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

The Battle of Al-Aqsa is in its second week, and the scene continues to escalate in Palestinian territories, especially in the Gaza Strip. Hardly a minute goes by without hearing the sounds of shells targeting the homes of the innocent, leading to their destruction over the heads of women and children. This is in the context of Israel's scorched earth policy, given its utter security failure in reaching the leadership and pillars of the resistance, leading to the complete destruction of entire neighborhoods like Al-Karama, Al-Shuja'iya, Jabaliya, and Sheikh Radwan. In addition, they have been using a policy of displacement, demanding that the residents of Gaza City and its northern areas head south towards the Rafah and Khan Younis governorates to be closer to Egypt, to carry out a citizen displacement plan.

The new dangerous development is the occupiers' threat to central hospitals with bombardment and their demand for evacuation. These hospitals serve hundreds of thousands of citizens. They have been targeted with internationally banned incendiary phosphorus bombs, within the framework of the collective punishment policy used by the regime against the citizens of Gaza.

Since the first day of their aggression on the Gaza Strip, the occupiers have threatened a ground invasion. It is worth noting that the occupiers' death toll has exceeded 1,400, while the number of Gaza Strip martyrs has reached over 2,700, with a significant number of martyrs and wounded still trapped under the rubble. Civil defense forces are unable to extract them due to the lack of equipment capable of doing so, especially since the Gaza Strip has suffered from a suffocating blockade that has prevented the entry of many devices and equipment of this kind for 16 years.

One of the scenes that deeply affected me occurred three days ago when the regime's aircraft carried out continuous, brutal, and savage bombardments in the area where I reside. One of the strikes hit a residential apartment adjacent to mine, resulting in the tragic death of a ten-day-old infant along with her mother and two others. The force of the explosion and the shelling caused shrapnel and glass to scatter inside my home, leading to the injury of my three-year-old daughter as she fled from the sounds of the intense bombardment and explosions. She fell down the stairs during her escape, suffering injuries and a broken arm. Therefore, these are the targets that the leaders of the Israeli regime boast of targeting in Gaza. The Israeli military stated in a press release that on that night, 750 targets belonging to the resistance were hit. Does targeting children, killing them, and attempting to spread terror in their hearts represent the goals of the regime's military? The Zionist Defense Minister explicitly stated that those in Gaza are subhuman and will be treated as such. That's why the occupation does not hesitate to kill children and women in Gaza, cut off water and electricity, and prevent the delivery of food and medical aid to Gaza.

It can be said that we are still in the early stages of an aggression that appears to be intensifying over time to target both human lives and infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, in an attempt to eliminate any hope of living in Gaza and render it uninhabitable.

## EU maintains arms embargo on Iran

EU member states decided on Tuesday to maintain restrictive measures against Iran under the non-proliferation sanctions regime after the JCPOA Transition Day, according to a statement.

The JCPOA, or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, is a 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and major powers under which Tehran agreed to restrain its nuclear program in return for relief from US, EU, and UN sanctions.

"The [European] Council adopted legal acts to maintain the designations that had initially been imposed by the United Nations for individuals and entities involved in nuclear or ballistic missile activities or affiliated to the Islamic Rev-

olutionary Guards Corps (IRGC)," the statement said.

"The council also agreed to maintain sectoral and individual measures, existing under the EU's sanctions regime, notably those related to Iran nuclear proliferation, as well as arms and missile embargoes."

The council claimed that there are valid reasons to refrain from lifting the restrictions on October 18, 2023, as originally foreseen under the JCPOA. It also claimed that its decision is in line with the provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA, in view of Iran not fulfilling its commitments under the JCPOA.

Back on September 14, Britain, France, and Germany also announced in a statement that they would retain their sanctions on Iran related to the country's atomic program and its development of ballistic missiles in what they called a direct response to Iran's consistent and severe noncompliance with the JCPOA. The measures ban Iran from developing ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons and bar anyone from buying, selling, or transferring drones and missiles to and from Iran. They also include an asset freeze for several Iranian individuals and entities involved in the nuclear and ballistic missile program.

Throughout the years following the JCPOA, there has always been a clear difference in interpretation between Iran and Western parties regarding Iranian missile tests, satellite launches, and their connection to Resolution 2231. Western parties claim that this resolution prohibits any ballistic missile activity by Iran including the use of satellite launch vehicles for placing satellites into orbit. They claim that satellite launches help Tehran's ballistic missile program. However, the reality is quite different from the Western interpretation as per the texts of the JCPOA and Resolution 2231. Banning Iran's ballistic missile activities was not mentioned in the 2015 JCPOA text at all. Even in Resolution

2231, the issue was not raised.

What the Western parties refer to is a non-mandatory and non-binding request in the third article of the second appendix of the resolution. This article calls on Iran not to have any activities related to the design and use of ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

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