



The picture released on November 5, 2023, shows Israeli tanks and soldiers stationed at a location in the northern Gaza Strip as battles between Israel and the Palestinian Hamas movement continue.

● ISRAELI ARMY/AFP

Public opinion, Western gov'ts diverging



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OPINION EXCLUSIVE

In recent days, particularly on Sunday, significant marches and large gatherings have taken place in Western countries, showing support for the oppressed people of Gaza. Participants in these marches called for an end to the war and the killing of unarmed Gaza residents. These large-scale protests indicate that the global public sphere is no longer under the control and exclusive influence of Israeli media and Western lobbies. Non-mainstream media and social networks have transformed into tools that break the monopoly on information dissemination. Western nations initially created the virtual space as a tool for spreading their culture and hegemony in other countries. However, it now seems that this virtual space has turned against them, exposing their falsehoods and unfounded claims. Supporters of the Palestinian people, including Palestinians themselves, have successfully challenged the dominance of Western media, which supports Israel, and conveyed their message of suffering, along with images of Israel's crimes, to the entire world. Naturally, people across the world do not accept this mass killing by Israel for any reason. Although Western governments support Israel, public opinion worldwide opposes the killing of innocent civilians and violations of international law. The systematic massacre in Gaza is a blatant violation of human rights and human dignity and touches the heart of every human being.

Public awareness about what is happening in Gaza is being raised, and the contradictory approaches of Europe and the United States in dealing with this war are being revealed. So, Western policymakers should reconsider their policies since people have lost trust in their positions. These policymakers need to understand that their unwavering support for Israel does not benefit them anymore. If this trend of support continues, they and their parties might face defeat in future elections.

If we look at the votes recently cast in the United Nations General Assembly regarding the condemnation of the massacre in Gaza, the phenomenon of abstention becomes noteworthy. Most European countries that support Israel abstained from voting, while very few opposed it. Diplomatically, abstaining from a vote is considered a form of positive support. This demonstrates that the positions of Western policymakers regarding Israel are gradually changing.

In the past few weeks, we witnessed strong stances taken against Israel in the European Parliament, as well as cries of protest against Israel in the parliaments of European countries and even in the US Congress. Some American senators, including Bernie Sanders, raised objections because they believed Israel's heinous acts, under the leadership of Netanyahu's hawkish cabinet, would lead to global hatred against the Jews, and the Jewish people would have to pay for the war-mongering policies of Netanyahu's cabinet. All of these signs indicate that, unlike the past, the world and its events are no longer interpreted and analyzed according to the wishes and views of Western mainstream media, which support Israel. People worldwide are concerned and upset about what is happening in Gaza, and this global outcry against the mass killings of the people of Gaza is heard from the streets of Washington, London, Paris, and Berlin.

If there is a Western statesman who listens, they should know that it is time for them to stop squandering their credibility and prestige by blindly supporting Netanyahu's crimes and to see the reality as it is. The world is taking a stand against Israel's atrocities and so should they.

gime, heavily backed by the US and certain European countries, is committing heinous crimes against humanity and genocide in Palestine, particularly against children.

"We believe that the [Israeli] bombardments [against Gaza] must be stopped as soon as possible and a cease-fire must be established," he said. He emphasized the need

to send aid to the "oppressed" yet "powerful" people of Gaza as soon as possible.

The president further said Iran cooperates with and supports any measure by the Muslim, regional and international countries aimed at deterring the Israeli regime and the US from massacring the innocent people of Gaza.

Raisi noted that Tehran and Baghdad have a com-

mon stance on the Palestinian issue.

The Iranian president rejected as "sheer lie" the US claims about sending aid to Gaza and announcing a cease-fire in the war-stricken strip, saying such claims do not match the Americans' actions.

"Unfortunately, the US provides arms, intelligence and financial aid to the Zionist regime to brutally kill the Palestin-

ian people and it actually encourages the [Israeli] regime," he said.

The Iranian president noted that the US vetoed a draft resolution presented by Brazil to the United Nations Security Council on the establishment of humanitarian pauses in the war on the blockaded Palestinian territory.

This would in fact pave the way for the Israeli regime to carry out more acts of

murder, he added.

Raisi said the battle of the resistance front against Israel and the defeat it has inflicted on the regime have crumbled the Israeli regime.

He noted that Muslim nations and those regional and global countries that believe in God cannot justify their silence vis-à-vis the ongoing crimes against the Palestinian people.

International Desk

The Health Ministry in the Gaza Strip said Monday the death toll from the Israeli bombardment of the Palestinian territory had surpassed 10,000, nearly one month after the start of the conflict.

The toll of 10,022 deaths was announced in a press conference in Gaza by Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidreh. He said at least 292 Palestinians were killed overnight from Sunday into Monday in intense bombardments by the Israeli Army, which he accused of "perpetrating 19 massacres in the last hours". The majority of those killed in Gaza since the start of the war have been civilians, including more than 4,000 children.

The war in Gaza was triggered by the October 7 Hamas attacks, which killed 1,400 in southern occupied territories.

'Enough is enough'

As the conflict between Hamas and Israel deepens,

especially after Israel's brutal attacks on the Gaza Strip, the heads of several major UN bodies made a united call for a humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza.

"An entire population is besieged and under attack, denied access to the essentials for survival, bombed in their homes, shelters, hospitals and places of worship. This is unacceptable," the UN chiefs said in a joint statement.

"We need an immediate humanitarian cease-fire. It's been 30 days. Enough is enough. This must stop now." Israel has rebuffed mounting international pressure for a cease-fire, saying captives taken by Hamas fighters should be released first. On average, a child is killed and two are injured every 10 minutes during the war, the UN relief agency for Palestinians said.

Diplomatic efforts

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, whose country is the biggest supporter of the Israeli war on Gaza, arrived in Turkey on the early hours of Monday, following a whirl-

wind tour of the Middle East during which he heard a chorus of Arab calls for an immediate cease-fire.

Blinken held 2.5 hours of one-on-one talks in Ankara with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who pressed the US official to support an "immediate" cease-fire.

Blinken said that Washington was working "very aggressively" to substantially expand the amount of aid reaching trapped civilians in Gaza.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell also on Monday suggested a plan under which Israel could suspend its military operation in Gaza in return for the Red Cross getting access to captives held by Hamas.

"Call it a truce, window, whatever, but we need that violence recedes and that international humanitarian law is being respected," Borrell said.

Borrell warned that an "over-reaction by the Israelis in the end makes them lose the support of the international community".

"There is no military solution to the conflict," Borrell said.

"Even if Hamas is uprooted in Gaza, this will not solve the problem of Gaza."

Risk of broader war

Russia on Monday called for an end to the fighting in Gaza and said a resumption of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations was essential to avoid the risk of a broader war and an increase in "terrorist activity".

"The priority today is the speedy cessation of hostilities in Gaza," Russia's Foreign Ministry said. "If not, we will face the risks of radicalization and an increase in terrorist activity and the danger of the conflict expanding its geography."

Anti-Israel sentiments

Anti-Israel sentiments are rising across the world following the regime's killing of innocent civilians in Gaza. Cities across the world are the scene of demonstrations in support of Palestinians. Many countries have also taken some measures to show their anger at the regime's actions in Gaza.

On Monday, the South African government said it would re-

call all its diplomats from Israel to signal its concern over the situation in Gaza.

Many countries including Turkey, Chile, Colombia, Jordan, Bahrain and Honduras have also recalled their envoys. Meanwhile, Bolivia became the first nation to sever diplomatic ties with Israel over its "disproportionate" attacks in Gaza. South Africa said the position of the Israeli ambassador to the country was becoming "more and more untenable", accusing the diplomat of having made "disparaging remarks" about people criticizing Israel.

"The South African government has decided to withdraw all its diplomats in Tel Aviv for consultation," Khumbuzo Ntshavheni, a minister in the president's office, told a press briefing without providing further details. Pretoria has long been a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause, with the ruling African National Congress (ANC) often linking it to its own struggle against apartheid. Numerous pro-Palestine protests have taken place across South Africa over the past month.