

Iran FM: US humanitarian aid in Gaza mere gesture

International Desk

The Iranian foreign minister said that the United States has mostly made a symbolic gesture for sending humanitarian aid into Gaza and, in practice, nothing significant is happening. Referring to the US military aid to Israel, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said as Americans are sending all kinds of weapons, including phosphorous and prohibited weapons to Tel Aviv through Cyprus, or directly from all their bases across the region and killing the oppressed people of Gaza, their humanitarian aid gestures are nothing more than a claim that they are providing humanitarian assistance, and in practice nothing significant is happening. On the sidelines of a meeting with UN humanitarian chief in Geneva on Wednesday, the Iranian official said the aim of his visit to Geneva is to hold talks with UN and other officials on aid deliveries to Gaza. During the meeting with UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths, he called on the United Nations

Wednesday to do more to get desperately needed aid into the besieged strip. "The amount of humanitarian aid sent to Gaza is very small, almost zero, and it is necessary for the United Nations to take immediate and serious action in this regard," Amir-Abdollahian said. Trucks carrying the first delivery of fuel to Gaza since the Israel-Hamas war began on October 7 crossed from Egypt on Wednesday but the UN agency for Palestinian refugees said it was "not at all enough". In his talks with Griffiths, the foreign minister called for "strong and urgent management by the UN to remove the blockage at the Rafah border crossing and get humanitarian aid into Gaza". He also called for an immediate halt to Israel's bloody aggression against the Gaza Strip, stressing that the occupying regime has "no chance" to win the war. The Palestinian enclave has endured more than five weeks of Israeli air and ground attack that have killed 11,320 people, mostly civilians, according to its Health Ministry.



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (R) talks with UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths ahead of a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, on November 15, 2023. MEHDI BOLOURIAN/IRNA

Hamas stance

Referring to his meetings in Doha with Qatari and Hamas officials, Amir-Abdollahian said that the Palestinian resistance movement is ready to act regarding the captives being held by Hamas since the October 7 operation. "If the Israeli regime stops

the genocide in Gaza, resistance groups will also stop counterattacks," he noted. The UN humanitarian chief, for his part, expressed his satisfaction with the meeting and expounded on the UN humanitarian efforts in Gaza. He also underlined the

need to find a solution to the issue of Israeli captives and provide basic needs, especially fuel, to the Gazans. Griffiths further voiced concern about the terrible condition inside Gaza's Shifa hospital, which is a tragedy amid Israel's military raid. The general director of

hospitals in the Gaza Strip says Israeli troops have fired at people inside the hospital. He appreciated Iran's efforts to prevent the spread of the war and stressed the need for more efforts to stop the war and end the current alarming situation in Gaza.

Israel storms Shifa Hospital



AFP

'Stop this horror'

The head of the UN children's agency said Wednesday she had witnessed "devastating" scenes on a visit to Gaza and urged both sides to "stop this horror." "What I saw and heard was devastating. They have endured repeated bombardment, loss and displacement," UNICEF's executive director Catherine Russell said. "Inside the Strip, there is nowhere safe for Gaza's one million children to turn," Russell said in a statement. The United Nations and the Red Cross voiced alarm, demanding that thousands of patients and civilians be protected. "I'm appalled by reports of military raids in Shifa hospital in Gaza," UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said on X. "The protection of newborns, patients, medical staff and all civilians must override all other concerns. "Hospitals are not battlegrounds." The United Nations estimates that at least 2,300 people – patients, staff and displaced civilians – are inside and may be unable to escape because of fierce fighting.

'End indiscriminate killing'

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Wednesday urged Israel to end the "indiscriminate killing of Palestinians" in Gaza, in his sharpest criticism of Israel since the regime launched its brutal ground and aerial attacks on Gaza over a month ago. "We demand an immediate cease-fire on the part of Israel in Gaza and strict compliance with international humanitarian law, which today is clearly not respected," he said. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called for Israel to stop "killing babies," earning a furious response from Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu. Trudeau said on Tuesday that the "killing of women, of children, of babies" in the besieged Gaza Strip must end. Israel's ensuing aerial bombardment and ground offensive have so far killed 11,320 people, mostly civilians, including thousands of children.

Iran's Chief Rabbi: Zionism like Daesh

Younes Hamami Lalehzar, the religious leader of Iranian Jews, said that Zionism is like Daesh as both are characterized by radical and extreme ideology and falsely present themselves as the main and only representative of their respective religion. Iran's chief rabbi told Nour News in a recent interview that Jews across the world oppose the Zionist regime in Israel which he claims has no connection to Judaism. He claimed that the root of the issue in the war between Israel and Hamas was "when Zionism was created," asserting that Zionism caused the most significant damage to the image and belief of Jews

worldwide. Hamami Lalehzar also maintained that the Zionist regime has abused the term antisemitism, according to Israel's Ynet news. The rabbi further mentioned that initially "the first opposition to Zionism came from Jews themselves" and added that "this opposition continues to this day." "Israel is trying to correlate between Hamas and Daesh. Daesh wasn't a representative of Islam, and Muslims around the world have been against the ideology and actions of Daesh throughout history. Similarly, the Zionist regime does not represent the beliefs of the majority of Jews worldwide, but this

abuse continues with the support of the West and the United States." Rabbi Hamami Lalehzar added, "Today, the Zionist regime is seen as corrupt in the global public opinion. This significance can be seen from the anti-Zionist actions of nations supporting the oppressed Palestinian nation, including in European and American capitals, traditionally considered great supporters of this regime." "People from all around the world, regardless of religion, language, or race, see Palestinian children as innocents. Iranians gathered on Monday, November 8, in a spontaneous protest in some of our cities against

the crimes of the Zionist regime. This protest, alongside numerous gatherings in different cities worldwide with the participation of Jews and followers of other religions, is a clear testament to the Zionist regime's absurdity." He also claimed that "this illegitimate regime, which was founded on several Jewish ideals and beliefs, now provides fuel to its war machine using those same false beliefs." "Zionism claimed that they are the only refuge for Jews and that Jews would not be safe anywhere except in Israel. However, since the beginning of Iran's Islamic Revolution, we, the Iranian Jews, have been living well. Jews here are separate from

the Zionists. Iran's policy has ensured that the rights of the Jewish minority are respected. Iranian Jews have always stood against the Zionist regime, and there was no tendency to join this movement in Iran's Jewish community."

Iran's Chief Rabbi Younes Hamami Lalehzar (front) MEHR



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Hague court orders Dutch firm to compensate for Saddam's chemical attacks

The court in The Hague ordered the Dutch company Forafina Beleggingen (formerly KBS Holland) to compensate five Iranian victims who sustained injuries or health damage during Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's poison gas attacks in the 1980s. The amount of compensation has yet to be determined. KBS Holland did not appear during the trial in June, NL Times reported. The Dutch company Melchemie (Now Otjiaha), owned by billionaire Hans Melchers, who died early this month, is not liable for personal injury, the court ruled. The Iranians were soldiers or volunteers in the Iranian army when they suffered horrific injuries as a result of Iraqi attacks with mustard gas, their lawyer Lisebeth Zegveld said. They were fighting in the border area between Iran

and Iraq at the time and were between 16 and 22 years old. According to the victims, the Dutch companies are liable because they supplied Iraq with raw materials for making mustard gas. The victims still suffer from severe health damage and problems with their lungs, eyes, and skin. "The impact of mustard gas never stops and only gets worse," Zegveld said during the trial.

