# 'Horrendous events' in Gaza 'beggar belief': **UN rights chief**

#### International Desk

The level of violence ravaging Gaza in recent days is unfathomable, the UN rights chief said Sunday, with attacks on schools harboring displaced people and a hospital turned into a "death zone".

"The horrendous events of the past 48 hours in Gaza beggar belief," United Nations High Com-

Elsewhere in northern Gaza, a Hamas health official said more than 80 people were killed on Saturday in twin strikes on Jabalia refugee camp, including on a UN school sheltering displaced people.

"The killing of so many people at schools turned shelters, hundreds fleeing for their lives from Shifa Hospital, amid con-

large numbers of women, children and men severely wounded or killed".

"The pain, dread, and fear etched on the faces of children, women and men is too much to bear," Turk said. "How much more vio-

lence, bloodshed and misery will it take before people come to their senses? How many more

25 health workers after the Israeli military had earlier ordered the evacuation of some 2,500 displaced people sheltering on the hospital grounds. Columns of sick and injured – some of them amputees - were seen making their way out of Shifa Hospital Saturday towards the seafront without ambulances along with displaced

#### **Deal on captives**

A deal to free captives Hamas seized in its October 7 attack on Israel now hinges on "minor" practical issues, Qatar's prime minister said Sunday, without giving details or a timeline.

"The challenges that remain in the negotiations are very minor compared to the bigcaptives. Israel has so far refused to heed calls for a ceasefire before all the cap-

tives are released.

**Israel's casualties** 

The regime's army said

Sunday three more sol-

diers were killed in fight-

ing in the Gaza Strip on

Saturday, raising the

number of troop deaths

there to 62 since the con-

the conflict, resistance groups, including Ansarullah movement in Yemen, have warned Israel over its brutal attacks on Gaza

Yemen said on Sunday that its armed forces have seized an Israeli ship and detained dozens of its crew members in the Red Sea following warnings by the Yemeni Ansarullah movement



A grab from an AFPTV video shows an Israeli armored vehicle rollina past Palestinians fleeing Gaza City on at on November 18 2023 BELAL AL SABBAGH/AFP

alestinians carry an injured per as rescuers search the rubble of a ouilding for survivors following Isra bombardment in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip on Novembe MAHMUD HAMS/AFP



missioner for Human **Rights Volker Turk said** in a statement.

He spoke as the World Health Organization scrambled to evacuate the last remaining patients and staff from the Shifa Hospital, with UN officials describing the Palestinian territory's largest health facility, raided last week by Israeli troops, as a "death zone".

hundreds of thousands in southern Gaza, are 'Death zone' actions which fly in the face of the basic protections civilians must be

tinuing displacement of

tional law," Turk said.

the aftermath of the re-

The World Health Organization said it had led an assessment mission to Shifa Hospital and deafforded under internatermined it was a "death zone", urging a full evac-He described the images purportedly taken in

civilians will be killed?"

uation. The United Nations ported Israeli strike on health agency said it was the UN-run Al-Fakhura developing an evacua-School as "horrifying", tion plan for nearly 300 and "clearly showing remaining patients and people, doctors and nurses, as loud explosions were heard around the complex.

All premature babies at the hospital were later evacuated, a health official in the territory said. Eight babies had died in the past days after power supplies ran out at Shifa, with not enough electricity to continue operating the incubators, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

ger challenges; they are more logistical, they are more practical," Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told a joint press conference with EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

Qatar has helped broker talks aiming to free some of the 240 captives in return for a temporary cease-fire, a mediation effort that has so far led to the release of four flict began. Fighting raged Sunday in Gaza, more than six weeks after a shock Hamas attack sparked an air and ground offensive by Israel. In Gaza, around 12,300 people, more than 5,000

of them children, have been killed in the conflict. Israeli ship seized

Since the beginning of

that the force will target any Israeli ship crossing the country's territorial waters

52 people who were on board the ship were also arrested.

The incident came after a spokesman for Ansarullah, Yahya Sarea, said on Sunday the group will target all ships owned or operated by Israeli companies, or carrying the Israeli flag.

## **US discussed** post-Netanyahu era with Mideast countries



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Ankara, Turkey, on November 6, 2023. AP

dable challenges created by decades of Israeli policies. However, the US's position

ing guidance to the Israeli military and potentially participating in the conflict firsthand. As a result, the US's involvement has entrenched it as a party to the conflict, implicating it in the resultant violence and civilian casualties. Additionally, the US has

been implicated in safe-

### PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

The enduring conflict in Gaza has evolved into one of the most devastating and destructive chapters within the intricate Israeli-Palestinian struggle, marked by unprecedented loss of Palestinian lives, particularly those of women and children, at the hands of Israel. This has been carried out through a myriad of air strikes and ground incursions, amounting to thousands, on the besieged coastal enclave. The toll on human life in Gaza has been staggering, exceeding 12,000 deaths with the vast majority being civilians, and resulting in the displacement of hundreds of thousands. The humanitarian situation in Gaza has plummeted into

dire straits, with the population grappling with severe shortages of essential resources such as water, electricity, fuel, and medicine, alongside the looming threat of disease outbreaks. Israel's actions have extended to the deliberate targeting of critical civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and media offices, in blatant disregard of international humanitarian law. In response, human rights organizations have levied accusations of war crimes and crimes against humanity against Israel, underscoring the urgent need for an independent and unbiased investigation. Israel couches its actions in Gaza as defensive mea-

sures against Hamas, the Palestinian resistance group in control of the en-

clave. However, numerous observers have highlighted the disproportionate and indiscriminate nature of Israel's attacks that amplify the underlying factors contributing to the conflict, such as the illegal occupation, blockade, and settlement expansion in Palestinian territories. The role and motivations of the United States, as Israel's primary ally and sponsor, in the ongoing crisis have come under scrutiny. Meanwhile, a notable dichotomy has emerged: while publicly and practically supporting Israel in its campaign in Gaza, the US has also been engaged in private discussions in the region, seeking to draw a distinction between a "bad Israel" and a "good Israel". Sources, on the condition of anonymity, told

Iran Nuances that US officials have conveyed their disapproval of some Israeli actions in Gaza to regional counterparts, attributing the current conduct in the conflict to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The sources said that Biden administration officials have told a number of regional Arab officials and leaders that Netanyahu will be gone after the current war and that his political rivals will be more willing to negotiate and work with the Arab states. American officials have urged regional states to plan for a post-Netanyahu Israel after the war.

In light of these developments. it became evident that the US strives to maintain the process of normalization between some Arab countries and Israel, despite widespread condemnation of Israel's aggression and oppression of the Palestinian people. Washington seeks to present a potential post-Netanyahu Israeli cabinet as a partner for Arab nations, emphasizing the two-state solution as a viable path to resolve the conflict, despite the formi-

on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is fraught with inconsistency. While professing support for a solution, it continues to back Israel, the country that denies Palestinians their fundamental rights and self-determination. Additionally, the US decision to recognize Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as Israel's capital and relocate its embassy there, in contravention of international law and UN resolutions. further complicated the situation. The United States' involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly regarding the assaults on Gaza, has sparked intense debate. Critics contend that the US has not only provided diplomatic support for Israel but has also directly facilitated these attacks through military assistance, including offer-

guarding Israel from international critique and potential legal ramifications. Detractors posit that Israel's conduct in Gaza amounts to 'war crimes' and 'crimes against humanity', asserting that the US, by insulating Israel from international scrutiny and condemnation, is facilitating these alleged atrocities. Furthermore, the US has drawn criticism regarding its role in obstructing initiatives to institute a ceasefire. If successful, such endeavors could have conceivably stemmed the cycle of violence and forestalled further civilian casualties. Critics. however. contend that the US's resistance to these initiatives has permitted the conflict to rage on unrestrained, culminating in an increased toll on human life and suffering.