



Calls growing for permanent truce in Gaza

↑ Palestinians walk amidst the rubble of destroyed buildings in Gaza City on November 26, 2023.
● OMAR EL-QATTAA/AFP

International Desk

Calls are growing for a permanent cease-fire between the Hamas resistance group and Israel to stop attacks on the Gaza Strip and the killing of more people in the Palestinian territory. The four-day cease-fire, which expired on Monday night, let the civilians take a breath and saw dozens of captives held by Hamas freed, with over 100 Palestinian prisoners released by Israel in return.

The Palestinian group took at least 240 captives during an Oct. 7 dawn raid carried out from the Gaza Strip.

A total of 63 captives and 117 Palestinian prisoners have now been released since Friday under the truce agreement.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday that the dialogue that led to the current "humanitarian pause" in Gaza should be continued and transformed into a "full humanitarian" cease-fire.

Iran on Monday also demanded a permanent cease-fire to stop Israel's "crimes" in the territory, which have left nearly 15,000 people dead – most of them women and children.

"As the Islamic Republic of Iran, we want and expect... that the crimes of the Zionist regime

against the Palestinian people will be stopped completely," said Nasser Kanaani, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman. Many other countries and officials from international bodies have also demanded a permanent cease-fire or extension of the truce in Gaza.

Truce extended

The humanitarian pause extended by two days, mediator Qatar said Monday.

"The State of Qatar announces that, as part of the ongoing mediation, an agreement has been reached to extend the humanitarian truce for an additional two days in the Gaza Strip," Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed Al Ansari said on X, formerly Twitter.

According to AFP, Hamas also confirmed the two-day truce extension in Gaza Strip.

The Israeli regime has faced mounting pressure to extend the pause mediated by Qatar, the United States and Egypt, though its leaders have dismissed any suggestions of a lasting halt to the offensive.

The terms of the truce agreement say it can be extended beyond its initial four-day term as long as 10 hostages are released for each extra day, with three times as many Palestinians freed

in return. As such, another 50 hostages would imply a five-day extension.

"The pause should be extended to make it sustainable and long lasting while working for a political solution," The EU's top foreign policy official Josep Borrell said on Monday in Barcelona. Borrell called for a "political solution that should allow us to break the cycle of violence once and for all."

US role in crimes

US President Joe Biden, whose country is providing the Israeli regime with weapons needed for fighting in Gaza, is also among those urging for an extension of the truce as Gaza suffers a dire humanitarian crisis following weeks of Israeli bombardment and siege.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, in a phone call with his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said on Sunday that Washington is an accomplice in the Israeli crimes.

Raisi stressed that the US is "the killer of the people of Gaza" and any intervention by Americans in determining the future course of developments in the Palestinian territory "would mean the continuation of this country's crimes against Palestinians."

The conflict in Gaza began on October 7 when Hamas fighters attacked Israeli cities near the Gaza Strip and killed at least 1,200 people during the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

In response, the Israeli regime launched its brutal attacks on Gaza and imposed a total siege on the territory. The strikes have killed more than 14,800 people, including about 6,000 children and 4,000 women.

Legal action against Israel

Algeria is preparing to host an international symposium on Thursday, which will discuss the legal and judicial ways to hold Israel accountable for the crimes committed against the Palestinian people during the war on Gaza.

Delegations of lawyers and judges from Arab and European countries will participate in the international symposium.

An extension of the cease-fire would open the way to further releases of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. Hamas has so far freed 39 Israeli hostages, and Israel has released 117 Palestinian prisoners under the terms of the four-day truce agreement.

A further 19 foreign nationals have been released from Gaza under separate arrangements.

World should engage with resistance groups



Mohsen Baharvand
Former ambassador to Britain

EXCLUSIVE OPINION

During decades of activity against the occupation of their territory, and especially since the recent Gaza War, Palestinian resistance groups have found a good opportunity to make better and greater use of global diplomatic potential to secure their interests.

Following Israel's atrocities in the Gaza Strip and the nature of the regime, public opinion around the world has expressed sympathy for Palestinians in various ways. This is a new opportunity for the Palestinians that must be grabbed and pave the way for securing Palestinian rights by using new diplomatic methods alongside resistance.

Various organizations and groups working in Palestine against the Israeli occupation and for the protection of Palestinian legitimate interests should engage in diplomacy. Although these Palestinian groups cannot be represented in international organizations because of the nature of international relations, they can play a role through regional organizations. For example, these resistance groups can or should have representatives in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and be a party to negotiations.

It is very natural that as long as there is an issue of occupation in Palestine, there should be those involved in decision-making or diplomatic processes related to the issue who represent the people under occupation. It is not right for resistance groups to bear costs and casualties in the battlefield, but when it comes to decision-making, other countries go to the negotiating table that has sometimes taken a stand against the interests of the Palestinian people and resistance groups.

It is therefore appropriate for resistance groups to have a greater presence in diplomacy themselves, or be represented by countries they trust to take advantage of diplomatic opportunities.

Western governments' view of diplomacy is based on the system of international relations established after World War II. This type of international relations is based on coercive methods and therefore in various crises they mainly use methods such as military attacks, sanctions and other types of pressure.

These practices may have worked in the early decades after the World War, but now they are no longer effective because the international climate has changed and new players have emerged. In the framework of the current international relations, governments and international organizations are the axis. But along with these official institutions, new organizations have stepped in that are non-state but influential in international relations. Therefore, these non-governmental organizations cannot be ignored. Western governments should also change course and instead of focusing on coercive methods, they move toward building mutual understanding and engagement with these organizations.

There are two approaches to solving a crisis: a short-term approach and a focus on addressing the problem temporarily, and the other way is looking for long-term solutions and trying to solve a crisis fundamentally.

Now, in the case of the Gaza war, some governments and international actors are mainly focused on solving the problem temporarily. But this approach is going nowhere, and there's no guarantee that the same problem won't happen again. Therefore, it is better to focus on effective solutions. While solving a crisis fundamentally, it should also be taken into account that the solutions are in the interests of everyone, not just one party.

The current system of international relations cannot serve Palestinian interests. Therefore, if the Western parties have the will to solve the Palestinian issue principally, they should recognize the resistance groups and instead of using force against them, they should engage with them and create mutual understanding.

New destroyer joins Iran's naval fleet

Iran's new destroyer, dubbed Deylaman, joined the country's naval fleet in the Caspian Sea during a ceremony held in the northern port city of Bandar Anzali on Monday.

Deylaman is equipped with various types of domestically-manufactured defense systems and equipment. It has the capability to navigate for a long time, search,

discover, identify, monitor, confront and, if necessary, repel any air, surface and subsurface threats. Deylaman is also capable of carrying helicopters on its deck.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri, who participated in the ceremony, said the destroyer sends a message of peace and friendship to all the neighbors of Iran, in particular the Caspian Sea countries. He noted, "The Caspian Sea is a sea of peace and

friendship, and Iran enjoys amicable military relations with all the Caspian Sea littoral states, so the navy has once again stressed on the message of friendship by building this destroyer, which is a great masterpiece in the history of the navy."

Chief Commander of the Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani and a number of top military officials were also present at the ceremony.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company Tender for Transformer

Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase 500A transformer for IDEAL welding machine. Interested companies are requested to offer their quote based on the specifications mentioned in the attached files on our website. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to commercial2@kswoo.com by December 03 2023. For further information please contact Mr.Zanganeh:

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