

Iran: US greenlights resumption of Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza



This handout picture released by the Israeli army shows troops on the ground in the northern Gaza Strip on December 2, 2023.
● ISRAELI ARMY/AFP

Speaking just before his departure from Dubai at the end of a two-day Middle East visit, Blinken said it was "important to understand why the pause came to an end: It came to an end because of Hamas. Hamas reneged on commitments it made."

Israel has also publicly blamed Hamas for the end of the temporary truce, but Hamas has said Israeli air strikes were to blame.

US supports attacks

Blinken said Washington remains committed to supporting Israel's right to self-defense.

Later on Thursday, US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby also said Washington supports the resumption of attacks in Gaza after the end of the truce, which Netanyahu had affirmed would happen to destroy Hamas.

French President Emmanuel Macron warned Saturday that Israel's aim of eliminating the Palestinian resistance group risked unleashing a decade of war.

Achieving the "total destruc-

tion of Hamas" would mean "the war will last 10 years", Macron said at a press conference on the sidelines of the UN's COP28 climate talks in Dubai.

The Hamas resistance group is popular in the occupied territories and enjoys good relations with many regional countries, including Turkey, Iran, Syria and Qatar.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan Saturday pushed back against mounting US pressure to cut Ankara's historic ties with Hamas.

The US Treasury's top terrorism financing official conveyed Washington's "profound" alarm about Ankara's past relations with Hamas during a visit to Turkey this week.

Erdogan said Saturday that Washington was well aware that Turkey does not view Hamas as a terrorist organization.

"First of all, Hamas is a reality of Palestine, it is a political party there and it entered the elections as a political party and won," he said in remarks released by his office.

"Our expectation is that these perpetrators of genocide, these butchers of Gaza, who were caught red-handed - especially Netanyahu - will receive just punishment," Erdogan said

on Saturday.

'No chance for peace'

Erdogan also said that the chance for peace in Gaza after the humanitarian pause was lost for now due to what he described as Israel's uncompromising approach, broadcaster NTV reported on Saturday.

Smoke again clouded the sky over the north of the Palestinian territory, whose Hamas government said 240 people had been killed since a pause in hostilities expired early Friday and combat resumed.

In Israel, the military's Home Front Command reported 40 missile alerts in the south and center of the occupied territories, and the Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad announced "rocket barrages" against three Israeli municipalities near Gaza.

According to the United Nations, an estimated 1.7 million people in Gaza - around 80 percent of the population - have been displaced by eight weeks of war.

The population is short of food, water and other essentials, and many homes have been destroyed. UN agencies have declared a humanitarian catastrophe, although some aid trucks did arrive on Saturday.

International Desk

Iran said on Saturday Israel's fresh attacks on the Gaza Strip, which killed more than 240 people in just 24 hours, had been greenlighted by the United States.

Foreign Ministry spokesman

Nasser Kanaani, in a post on X, called the new Israeli crimes a "great moral scandal" for the US, which "reveals the true colors of the American human rights" to the world.

Kanaani said the resumption of Israeli attacks after a seven-day hiatus added to

a long list of US war crimes, child killing and ethnic cleansing to the harrowing crime of killing more than 16,000 Palestinians over the past 48 days in Gaza, where the week-long truce allowed the exchange of captives held by Hamas for Palestinians imprisoned in

Israel.

US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken blamed Hamas for the broken truce on Friday and claimed that he was already seeing signs that Israel had taken new steps to protect civilians as it resumed its military campaign.

Iran, Russia, China to hold joint naval drill in Persian Gulf

Naval forces from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia and China are set to stage a joint naval exercise in the Persian Gulf, where the three powerhouses will carry out large-scale maritime maneuvers involving various divisions of their military forces.

Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani told the state-run Islamic Republic of Iran News Network (IRINN) television news channel on Friday that Iranian, Chinese and Russian forces will jointly

practice exercises during the 2024 Marine Security Belt naval war game, Press TV reported.

He added that delegates from Pakistan, Brazil, Oman, India, South Africa and a number of the Caspian Sea littoral states have also been invited to participate in the drills as observers.

Iranian naval forces and their Chinese and Russian counterparts have held several military drills in recent years to improve the security of international

maritime trade, counter piracy and maritime terrorism, exchange information in naval rescue and relief operations, and exchange operational and tactical experiences.

Irani went on to say that the main phase of the country's largest maritime zone will come on stream at the port city of Jask, in southeastern Iran, during the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations marking the 45th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The commander stated that

heavy-lift vessels will be deployed in the maritime zone by the end of the current Iranian calendar year, which concludes on March 19, 2024.

"Given the growth in the number of operating heavy lift vessels in the country, we are planning to establish a much larger maritime zone in Konarak" in the country's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, the Iranian Navy commander said.

On Saturday, Irani attend-

ed an exhibition in which Iran's Navy unveiled a domestically developed and manufactured vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone, alongside a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) that can undertake a variety of marine operations autonomously.

The VTOL drone, dubbed Chamrosh-4, named after a bird in Persian mythology believed to live on the summit of Mount Alborz, enjoys cost-efficient technologies and can easily take off from and land vertically on the decks of all types of naval



● IRNA

vessels, and carry out assigned missions.

Moreover, the remotely operated vehicle can detect, locate and destroy both anchored and sleeping naval mines. The ROV reportedly

has the ability to carry a wide range of equipment and clear mines.

It can go as deep as 200 meters (656 feet), and has operational endurance of some 24 hours.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Two IRGC officers killed in Israeli attack in Syria

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said two of its officers serving as military advisers in Syria were killed in Israel's attacks on the Arab country.

The IRGC in a statement on Saturday identified the two forces as Mohammad Ali Ataee Shoorche and Panah Taqizadeh, who were killed during an advisory mission in Syria, according to IRNA. The IRGC said in the statement that the two servicemen have been martyred against a backdrop of the relentless and barbaric crimes the fake Zionist regime has been committing against Gaza, with the bla-

tant support of the US and a number of European governments, which have killed thousands of Palestinians in an unequal and unfair war. Israel has carried out hundreds of air attacks against targets inside government-controlled parts of



Syria in recent years, which have killed a number of IRGC advisers there.

Iran maintains an advisory mission in Syria at the request of Damascus, with the aim of helping the war-torn Arab country get rid of the foreign-backed terror-



ists, who have been fighting against the Syrian government since 2011.

In 2017, Iran's advisory assistance helped Syria defeat the Daesh terrorist group. Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, who was killed in a US airstrike near Baghdad International Airport in January 2020, played a key role in the defeat of Daesh. Israel has been a key supporter of the terrorist groups operating on the soil of Syria and has targeted the positions of Iran's military advisers as well as those of the Syrian Army and resistance groups that have been fighting the terrorists.