

Two-state ...

Does this imply that the war will persist indefinitely?

Page 1 > Not indefinitely. Israel will persist in the conflict until it attains a sense of security or receives assurances from regional and international actors regarding its safety. The post-war future for Gaza has generated various proposals, all converging on the notion that Hamas should not retain significant power and influence. The involvement of Iran and Hezbollah could escalate the conflict into a regional war, but, as of now, both have exercised restraint. Despite the destructive nature of the Gaza war, it may pave the way for a new phase in the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations. Talks about normalizing Saudi-Israeli relations, postponed during the conflict, could potentially resume and progress more swiftly after the war subsides.

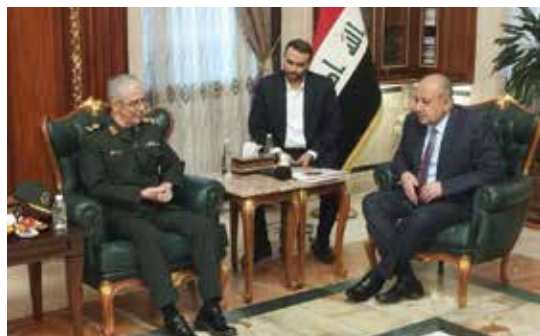
Given the substantial losses suffered by Israelis in Gaza, particularly the high casualties on October 7, coupled with the widespread global sympathy for Palestinians, there is speculation that regional and international actors, notably the United States, may be inclined to engage with the Palestinian issue. What do you foresee for the future in this context?

Numerous proposals have been put forward to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict, with the two-state solution emerging as the most widely discussed option. This solution is supported by UN resolutions and has garnered global consensus. However, implementing the two-state solution faces challenges. Israel has not embraced this approach, with certain political factions resisting the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Additionally, internal disagreements among Palestinians, exemplified by the problems during the Palestine Liberation Organization's rule in the West Bank, have hindered the creation of an effective governance model. Hamas rose to power amid problems within the self-governing entities, characterized by senior politicians maintaining control through repressive measures and the absence of free political competition. Criticisms, including administrative and financial corruption, have further complicated the situation. The division among Palestinians benefits Israel, making the realization of two separate states challenging.

In the absence of the implementation of the two-state solution and the persistence of the option of war, Israelis will endure ongoing hardships and live in perpetual fear. Palestinians, in turn, will remain subjected to continued attacks.

After a brief period, if the Gaza war concludes and a cease-fire is established, relief and aid will enter Gaza, and measures addressing Israel's security concerns will likely be implemented. There's a possibility of defining a buffer zone between Gaza and Israeli-occupied territories. However, the ultimate fate of Gaza remains uncertain. While tensions may ease, after the war Israel aims to secure several outcomes in its favor: Firstly, ensuring its security. Secondly, minimizing Hamas's influence in political and military processes. Thirdly, Israel seeks a return to normalcy in its relations with Arab countries. Arab nations generally support the two-state solution, but not all their plans hinge on the Gaza war. Despite the pursuit of the two-state solution, achieving it poses significant challenges.

Iran, Iraq share 'very close' stance on Gaza war: Top general



Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri (R) meets with Iraqi Defense Minister Thabet Mohammed al-Abbasi in Baghdad on December 3, 2023. **IRNA**

Iran's top military commander said Iran and Iraq pursue a "very close" stance on the Palestinian issue, particularly the ongoing Israeli large-scale war on the Gaza Strip. Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri made the announcement in a meeting in Baghdad on Sunday with Iraqi Defense Minister Thabet Mohammed al-Abbasi, Press

TV reported. Baqeri said the common stances of the Iranian and Iraqi governments, nations and religious authorities on leading regional and international developments are very important.

He highlighted Iraq's high position in Iran's foreign and defense policies, saying Tehran and Baghdad need to strengthen security and defense cooperation, given the current situation of the two countries and the region.

Pointing to the great achievements of the Iranian Armed Forces in tactical, strategic and technical spheres, the top general expressed the country's readiness to share its knowledge, experiences and capabilities with Iraq.

Baqeri also said the Iranian Armed Forces are prepared to stage bilateral or multilateral naval rescue and relief drills in the Persian Gulf.

The Iraqi defense chief, for his part, said his country's people, with different political views, feel bound to stand with the Palestinian people in the face of the Israeli regime.

In a meeting with Iraqi Minister of Interior Abdul Amir al-Shammari on Sunday, Baqeri hailed the measures taken by the Iraqi government to control border areas between the two neighboring states.

He noted that joint activities of the two countries' border guards can help establish full security along the borders.

He added that 1,500 kilometers of common border between Iran and Iraq "should be the border of friendship, trade and safe tourism."

AEOI unveils nuclear achievements: Microwave radiation, advanced gamma systems

National Desk

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran on Sunday unveiled its two nuclear achievements, including a microwave radiation system and an improved self-shielding gamma radiation system.

The microwave radiation system, with the aim of atomic analysis of elements, along with the improved self-shielding gamma radiation system for the eradication of agricultural pests were unveiled in the presence of the organization's chief, Mohammad Eslami.

As a sign of advancements in nuclear technology and radiation systems, the microwave radiation system was built for the first time in the world with the most advanced technology for the purpose of atomic analysis of materials by the specialists of an Iranian company.

This system offers si-



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multaneous and rapid analysis of several elements, regardless of their concentration levels, with high accuracy, and has many applications in sectors such as environmental, pharmaceutical, food, chemical and other industries.

Also, with the ability to irradiate bulk agricultural products such as grains and legumes, the unveiled self-protection gamma radiation system causes disinfection, control of germination and

reduction of storage pests, and increases the storage time of products by reducing the microbial load and destroying food spoilage microorganisms.

Irradiation method has many advantages compared to other pest control methods, such as the use of poisons, chemical pesticides, etc., including high reliability, permeability, ease and simplicity of use, fast and continuous process, while not having any harmful residue.

At least 700 Gazans killed in a single day as Israeli bombing intensifies

US VP: Gaza images, videos are devastating

International Desk

Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip sought shelter in an ever-shrinking area of the south on Sunday as Israel stepped up its bombing from air, sea and land across the enclave, killing at least 700 in a single day.

The Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza announced on Sunday that more than 700 Palestinians were killed in the past 24 hours, as a result of Israel's ongoing aggression on the besieged strip. The renewed warfare fol-

lowed the collapse on Friday of a seven-day pause in the fighting between Israeli forces and Hamas fighters. The Israeli Army also ordered more areas in and around the enclave's second-largest city of Khan Younis to evacuate. Heavy bombardments were reported overnight and into Sunday in the area of Khan Younis and the southern city of Rafah, as well as parts of the north that had been the focus of Israel's blistering air and ground campaign. US Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday reiter-

ated Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas, but said international and humanitarian law must be respected, noting that too many Palestinians have been killed.

"Frankly, the scale of civilian suffering, and the images and videos coming from Gaza are devastating," Harris told reporters. "So, we all want this conflict to end as soon as possible, and to ensure Israel's security and ensure security for the Palestinian people. We must accelerate efforts to build an enduring peace."

'Too much to bear'

The UN human rights chief urged for an end to the war, saying the suffering of civilians was "too much to bear."

Many of the territory's 2.3 million people are crammed in the south after Israeli forces ordered civilians to leave the north in the early days of the two-month-old war, sparked by an Oct. 7 attack by Hamas that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in southern Israel.

Gaza deaths over 15,000

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said the death toll has surpassed 15,200, and 70% of those killed are women and children. With the resumption of fighting, hopes for another temporary truce receded. A week-long cease-fire, which expired Friday, had facilitated the release of dozens of Gaza-held Israeli and foreign prisoners and Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Britain's Defence Ministry confirmed at the weekend that its military will conduct surveillance flights over Gaza to help locate prisoners held by Hamas. Hamas fighters seized



AFP

around 240 Israelis and foreigners, according to Israeli authorities. Around 110 have since been freed, mainly during the recent week-long truce.

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Saturday that France was "very concerned" by the resumption of violence in Gaza, and that he was heading to Qatar to help in efforts to kickstart a new truce.

Macron also told a press conference at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai that the situation required the doubling down on efforts to obtain a lasting cease-fire and the freeing of all prisoners. He said Israel "must more precisely define" what it seeks to accomplish in its war as the full elimination of the Hamas resistance group would take a decade. Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein

Amir-Abdollahian said the United States' supportive policies are the main factor encouraging the Zionist regime to continue the massacre of civilians in the besieged strip.

In a Saturday phone call with the EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, Amir-Abdollahian stressed the necessity of putting an immediate end to Israel's crimes against Palestinians.

"The Zionist regime's military attacks against the people of Gaza must stop as soon as possible to pave the way for the dispatch of humanitarian aid," he said. More than 1.7 million people have been displaced, most of them from northern Gaza, since Israel launched its military offensive on Gaza.

Reuters, AP, Al Jazeera, and Press TV contributed to this report.



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