

## Iran developing chopper, replacing assault rifle in Army: **Minister**



### National Desk

Defense Minister Mohammad-Reza Ashtiani said on Wednesday Iran "was taking measures" to develop a new homegrown military chopper.

"We are making an indigenous helicopter at the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industries Co.," Ashtiani told reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting in Tehran.

In 2009, Iran unveiled its first copter Shahed 285, a light attack and reconnaissance aircraft.

Ashtiani also said the Defense Ministry would gradually equip various military units with a new indigenous assault rifle called Masaf to replace the German HK G3 battle gun. "Masaf is an advanced weapon developed by the Defense Ministry," he said. HK G3 has been used as the official rifle in the Iranian Army for more than four decades.

Ashtiani further spoke of the Iranian-made training jet Yasin.

The aircraft "is one of the most advanced training jets" that would satisfy Iran's needs for such planes to train pilots, he said.

# US at odds with world

## UN General Assembly calls for immediate cease-fire in Gaza



By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Staff writer

The United Nations General Assembly has called for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, revealing a significant global divide with the United States siding against the majority. In a vote on Tuesday, 153 UN members supported the resolution for an immediate cease-fire, with only 10 countries opposing and 23 abstaining.

The resolution reflects a stark reality: The world pursues peace, while the US and Israel lean towards war. The vote has no legal force but was the strongest sign yet of eroding international support for Israel's actions. The recent escalation of attacks by Israel on Gaza has increased the opposition to the war, as evident in the growing number of votes in favor of the cease-fire.

Apart from Israel itself, notable countries opposing the truce include the US, Austria, Liberia, Guatemala, and Paraguay. Countries abstaining from the resolution include the UK, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Argentina, Cameroon, Georgia, South Sudan, and Ukraine.

Hours before the UNGA vote, US President Joe Biden criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies, stating that "indiscriminate" bombing of civilians was costing international support. Israel is losing global support. Biden said Netanyahu needed to change his hardline cabinet and that ultimately Israel "can't say no" to an independent Palestinian state, opposed by far-right members of the Israeli cabinet, particu-



Display monitors show the result of voting in the United Nations General Assembly, in favor of a resolution urging Israel to uphold legal and humanitarian obligations in its war against the Gaza Strip, December 12, 2023 at UN headquarters.

larly regarding the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine. However, it appears that not only Israel but also the US and a few other few supporters of Israel are losing international standing. Reports indicate that London and Washington are increasingly isolating themselves amid the global consensus for an end to the conflict. As reported by Sky News, with reference to the abstention vote by the UK and the opposing vote by the US, it is mentioned that London and Washington are increasingly isolating themselves.

Also last week, the US States vetoed a proposed resolution for an immediate cease-fire in a UN Security Council session, with 13 members voting in favor, and

the UK abstaining. Meanwhile, the US president's verbal criticisms of Israel persist, even as Netanyahu announced on X on Tuesday that in detailed discussions with Biden Washington has fully supported Israel's ground assault on Gaza and reduced international pressure to stop the war.

Despite the global outcry against Israeli actions during the past two months and the proposition of UN cease-fire resolutions, the United States, in tandem with Israel, continues to support the ongoing war. The only response from US authorities has been ethical recommendations to Netanyahu's hardline cabinet to distinguish between military and non-military tar-

gets – an advice acknowledged as futile by many.

The UN General Assembly resolutions, while not legally binding, serve as a reflection of global sentiments on contentious issues. The two cease-fire resolutions in October and the recent one clearly demonstrate the United States standing against the world.

The Gaza conflict, accompanied by Israel's inhumane massacres and destruction, has become a significant stage for testing the US' claims of global inclusivity. This is where officials at the White House easily overlooked violations of human rights, the right to life, and compliance with international conventions related to war, genocide, and

war crimes.

Iran, aligning with Muslim and Arab states, has reaffirmed its positive vote for the UN resolution, condemning Israel and recognizing the regime's crimes in Gaza.

After the vote, Amir Saeed Iravani, Iran's Permanent Representative to the UN, said that, "The situation is entirely clear. A UN member, one of the permanent members of the Security Council, has decided to stand by the criminal regime of Israel and allow it to continue the massacre of civilians in Gaza. The explicit opposition of the United States to a cease-fire implies endorsing war, violence, and ultimately more death for children and women in Gaza."

### First Announcement

## Tender invitation

### Invitation to public tender for Dextrose (DEX)//28000Kg

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of Dextrose (DEX) for Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product. Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until Dec 28, 2023.

Deadline for submission of offers for tender is: January 09, 2024.

Email: n.ahmadian@tpco.ir

Phone No.: +98-41-34217426

Tender	No	Quantity
Dextrose (DEX)	PVS-0241048	28000 kg

Public Relations of Tabriz Petrochemical Company (Public Stock)

First turn published: December 14, 2023

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### First Announcement

## Tender invitation

### Invitation to public tender for: FILTROL GRADED(CLAY-24) TONSIL CO 616 G // 23430KG

Tabriz petrochemical company intends to procure its required quantity of FILTROL GRADED(CLAY-24) TONSIL CO 616 G for ABS production plant from reputable & reliable producer and supplier of said product.

Interested suppliers should submit their request to below email in order to get tender documents until 7 days after the first print.

Email: M.iranmakani@tpco.ir

Phone No.: +98-41-34282973

Tender	No	Quantity
FILTROL GRADED(CLAY-24) TONSIL CO 616 G	PVS-0241044	23430KG

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## FM: US to blame for influx of refugees to West Asia, Europe

Iran's foreign minister has blamed irresponsible actions and coercive economic measures of the US for the recent influx of refugees to the West Asia region and also Europe and elsewhere. Hossein Amir-Abdollahi made the remarks in an address to the Global Refugee Forum 2023, in

Geneva, Switzerland on Wednesday, Press TV reported.

The minister said the Iranian government, which is itself hit by the US sanctions, works hard to provide basic services to millions of Afghan refugees in Iran, many of whom entered the country following the chaotic

US withdrawal from Afghanistan and after it took massive economic measures against the country.

The minister said the contributions offered by the UN refugee agency, the UNHCR, only compensate for one percent of the total cost of supporting Afghan refugees in Iran.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist

