



Members of the United Nations Security Council vote on a proposal to demand that Israel allow aid access to the Gaza Strip - via land, sea and air routes - and set up UN monitoring of the humanitarian assistance delivered, during a meeting at the UN headquarters in New York, US, on December 22, 2023.

REUTERS

Public opinion ultimately calls shots, not UNSC

Right to self-defense belongs to Palestinians, not Israel



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INTERVIEW

After a series of unsuccessful attempts, the United Nations Security Council achieved a breakthrough on Friday by passing a resolution aimed at bolstering and streamlining humanitarian aid to the people of the Gaza Strip. The United States which previously vetoed resolutions calling for a cease-fire, chose to abstain this time, alongside Russia. Prior to the voting session, the US engaged in consultations and made a major revision to the proposed resolution by removing the call for an immediate halt to the Israeli aggression. To gain further insights into the matter, Iran Daily has spoken with Mehdi Zakerian, an international relations expert and university lecturer.

IRAN DAILY: After several attempts, a resolution was eventually passed in the UN Security Council over the Gaza war and Israeli crimes. What is the significance of the latest resolution?

ZAKERIAN: This time, the US chose to abstain from vetoing the proposed resolution, which marks a notable shift. The US and Israel had vehemently opposed any resolution pertaining to the Gaza war. However, it seems that Washington has finally yielded to global demands. The international community highlights the dire situation in Gaza, characterized by genocide, grave human rights violations, lack of safety for civilians, and limited access for relief efforts.

By endorsing the resolution, the Security Council slammed Israeli crimes and demand an end to such acts. Therefore, with the US abstaining and not vetoing the resolution, Washington's green light for Israel to continue its crimes has faded. In fact, the containment of Israel and

America's cooperation with the international community may be the key aspects of this resolution.

Why do you think America chose not to veto the proposed resolution and instead abstained?

A: The global public conscience has expressed vehement opposition to the Israeli massacre in Gaza, resonating loudly in various countries worldwide. While the US previously condoned Israel's acts, it now finds itself compelled to align with this global demand.

The resolution of global public opinion carries more weight than the Security Council resolution and had been expressed much earlier than the resolution against Israel and the US. Without these global condemnations, or in other words, without the resolution of global public opinion, we might not have witnessed the same outcome in the Security Council.

The recent resolution explicitly calls for the establishment of conditions for a “sustainable cessation of hostilities” serving as a potential foundation for the future, and shattered the alliance between Israel and the US in committing war crimes.