

## Oliver Stone condemns Israeli acts, urges US to reassess its support



Acclaimed US filmmaker Oliver Stone spoke out on the historical context of Israel's nuclear program and the current violence in the region, criticizing the US for its unwavering support for Israel.

Stone's comments were made during a recent interview, which went viral on Twitter, where he highlighted the secrecy surrounding Israel's nuclear capabilities and expressed concern over the ongoing conflict with the Palestinians.

Stone began by emphasizing that president John F. Kennedy had reservations about Israel obtaining nuclear weapons, citing Kennedy's claimed plans for severe inspections of the Dimona nuclear facility.

According to Stone, US's stance shifted after his assassination, with president Lyndon B. Johnson allowing Israel a free hand in its nuclear programs.

The filmmaker claimed that the Dimona facility was opened in 1968 without the knowledge of most Americans, attributing this to a directive issued by President Johnson to keep the matter unnoticeable.

Stone argued that the secrecy has contributed to a lack of awareness among Americans regarding Israel's possession of nuclear weapons.

He accused Israeli leaders, particularly Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, of having aggressive intentions, stating that they "want the bomb because they want to blow up Iran."

Expressing his opinion on Netanyahu, Stone called him a "madman," claiming that his actions were justifying a slaughter as revenge.

Stone lamented the high number of casualties in the region, alleging that the Israeli government had killed thousands, including Palestinians.

The filmmaker criticized US President Joe Biden for supporting Netanyahu during a recent visit, expressing disappointment in the administration's approach.

Stone urged a reconsideration of US support for Israel, proposing a complete cutoff of aid and emphasized that such a stance should not be dismissed as antisemitic.

Stone concluded by reflecting on the broader issue of justice, peace, and human decency, expressing confusion over the ongoing violence and the high number of casualties. He questioned the international community's response and underscored the need for having a second thought about US foreign policy in the region.

- License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
- Managing Director: Ali Kakadezfuli
- Editor-in-chief: Mostafa Shirmohammadi
- Int'l & National Desk: Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi, Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollaei Mozaffari, Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan
- Economy Desk: Amirhadi Arsalanpour
- Sports Desk: Leila Imeni
- Iranica Desk: Hamideh Hosseini
- Arts & Culture Desk: Ali Amiri
- Social Desk: Ali Mehran
- Language Editor:

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)  
 Ali Kakadezfuli  
 Mostafa Shirmohammadi  
 Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,  
 Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollaei Mozaffari,  
 Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan  
 Amirhadi Arsalanpour  
 Leila Imeni  
 Hamideh Hosseini  
 Ali Amiri  
 Ali Mehran

Address: 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran

- Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 84711171
- ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892-5
- Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500601
- & Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
- Website: www.irandaily.ir
- Email: newspaper.irandaily.ir
- Email: irandaily@icpi.ir
- Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute



62607571900044 > irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7473 ● Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 ● 100,000 rials ● 8 Pages



# Israel's massacre of Gazans continues in new year

Palestinian girls are writing "2024" in the sand during the last sunset of the year in Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip, on December 31, 2023, amid the ongoing Israeli aggression on the coastal enclave. ● GETTY IMAGES

### International Desk

In 2023, the world witnessed many significant events that became front-page news. India passed China as the world's most populous country, Azerbaijan seized Nagorno-Karabakh region, global temperatures shattered records, a strong earthquake in Turkey and Syria killed more than 67,000 people, and Iran and Saudi Arabia restored their relations after seven years. But the most important event that has shocked people around the world is Israel's ongoing massacre of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip which has inflamed anti-Israel sentiments across the globe. Many countries which have for decades supported the Israeli regime are now shocked by the extent of the regime's barbaric acts in the Palestinian territory.

Since the early days of October, when the Israeli regime began its onslaught on Gaza, cities across the world have also been the scene of angry protests against Israel's massacre of civilians in Gaza. There have been many international efforts to put an end to the crisis but the Israeli regime has so far snubbed international calls for a cease-fire, a position backed by its ally the United States. Steadfast support from Washington has helped Israeli leaders shrug off international concern about the humanitarian crisis which is worsening in the Gaza Strip. Heavy bombardment, and a ground invasion launched three weeks into the war, have reduced vast areas of Gaza to a ruined wasteland and killed at least 21,800 people, mostly

women and children, and thousands more buried under the rubble, according to the Health Ministry in Gaza. The world has watched in horror as the long-running conflict exploded into the bloodiest ever Gaza war after Hamas launched its unprecedented attack on October 7 that left about 1,200 people dead. The surprise attack blindsided and infuriated Israel and sparked a devastating military response. The scale of death and suffering inside Gaza has isolated Israel internationally, with even allies such as the UK now calling for a "sustainable cease-fire". As heavy combat raged on, 85 percent of besieged Gaza's 2.3 million people have been displaced, according to the UN, which warns of the growing risk of hunger and disease as desper-

ate families shelter in makeshift tents against the winter cold. Over 56,000 people have been injured at a time when most Gaza hospitals are either out of service or damaged and overwhelmed. The Israeli army says 172 of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza. UN chief Antonio Guterres has condemned the "epic human suffering" and "collective punishment" of Palestinian civilians. Inside Gaza, Palestinian families - many pushed into the territory's far south as the battlefield draws ever closer - are praying for a respite from the war. "We were hoping that 2024 would arrive under better auspices and that we would be able to celebrate the new year at home with our families," said Mahmoud Abou Shahma, 33, in a camp in Rafah near Egypt.

"We hope that the war will end and that we will be able to return to our homes and live in peace." Meanwhile, at least 129 Israeli captives are still believed held in Gaza after more than 100 were released in a prisoner swap and week-long truce in late November. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned the war will last for "many months". Netanyahu stressed that the war will continue until Hamas is eliminated and the captives are returned. International mediators have continued efforts toward a new pause in fighting. Israel's crimes in Gaza have also provoked reactions by the resistance movements in countries such as Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, which have launched attacks against Israel.

## Traces of a mosque uncovered in Persepolis

### Arts & Culture Desk

In the latest archaeological research at Persepolis, evidence of a mosque dating back to the early Islamic period was unearthed. The findings were recently published in Issue 4 of the Society for Iranian Archaeology journal, authored by Hamed Molaei Kordshuli and Younes Zare. During investigations around the stone steps of the northwest gate of the Apadana Hall at Persepolis, researchers observed inscriptions and carvings indicating the existence of a religious site within this large structure, dating back to the Achaemenid era, ISNA reported. The content of these inscriptions, prayers and divine forgiveness requests, along with blessed names and a likely indication of a qiblah (prayer direction), were identified in Arabic and Kufic script. These scholars believe that the evidence found at this site, combined with writings from historians, travelogues, and Islamic-era explorers, as well as archaeological findings mentioned by Western archaeologists in their reports, strongly supports the notion that "a part of Persepolis was transformed into a mosque during the early Islamic period".

