

Iran's Leader slams US for vetoing Gaza cease-fire resolution

International Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei denounced the US for "brazenly vetoing" a UN Security Council resolution to stop the ongoing Israeli genocide in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The third US veto of a Security Council resolution demanding a cease-fire in Gaza revealed "the lies of Western civilization's claims about human rights and the hypocrisy of Westerners in the Gaza issue", the Leader said Saturday, Press TV reported.

The US vetoed a draft UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution on Israel's war on Gaza, prompting widespread criticism from rivals and allies alike.

The move on Tuesday was the third US veto of a UNSC resolution demanding a cease-fire in Gaza, and came a day after Washington circulated a resolution that would support a temporary cease-fire linked to the release of all Israeli captives from the Palestinian territory.

"The Westerners, who make noise and uproar for the execution of a criminal, have turned a blind eye to the killing of 30,000 innocent



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses organizers of a conference to honor the sacrifices of Iran's Khuzestan province during the 1980-1988 war on Iran. khamenei.ir

people in Gaza, and the US has brazenly vetoed the resolution to stop bombing Gaza for the umpteenth time," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"This is the true face of Western culture and civilization and liberal democracy, which on the surface,

there are spruced-up politicians with smiles on their faces, but inside, it is a rabid dog and a blood-thirsty wolf," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei likened Western civilization to a "lopsided load that will not reach home", but "the culture of the righteous and

correct logic of Islam will prevail". The US veto of the UN resolution drew criticisms from many countries.

Zhang Jun, China's envoy to the UN, expressed "strong disappointment and dissatisfaction" with the US.

"The US veto sends a wrong message, pushing the situation in Gaza into a more dangerous one," said Zhang, adding that objection to a ceasefire in Gaza is "nothing different from giving the green light to the continued slaughter".

Russia's Ambassador to the UN Vasily Nebenzia said the US veto marked "another black page in the history of the Security Council".

He accused the US of trying to play for time so that Israel could complete its "inhumane plans" for Gaza, namely to squeeze the Palestinians out of the territory and completely "cleanse" the territory.

France's UN envoy Nicolas de Riviere expressed regret that the resolution "could not be adopted, given the disastrous situation" in Gaza. Palestinian UN envoy Riyad Mansour told Al Jazeera that the US veto was "very regrettable".

"Call it whatever, humanitarian, describe it as you wish, but immediate cease-fire, as requested by the secretary-general of the UN, and almost all humanitarian agencies of the United Nations, and a massive number of countries in the General Assembly," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran denies sending ballistic missiles to Russia

Iran categorically denied Western media accusations that it provides ballistic missiles to Russia in its war with Ukraine.

The dismissal came after Reuters cited "six sources" as claiming earlier in the week that Iran had provided Russia with a large number of powerful surface-to-surface ballistic weapons amid deepening military cooperation between the two strategic partners.

"Despite no legal restrictions on ballistic missile sales, Iran is morally obligated to refrain from weapon transactions during the Russia-Ukraine conflict to prevent fueling the war—and that is rooted in Iran's adherence to international law and the UN Charter," Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations said in a post on its official X account on Friday.

Reuters also claimed in its report that the "shipments began in early January after a deal was finalized in meetings late last year between Iranian and Russian military and security officials that took place in Tehran and Moscow."

Following the groundless accusations, the US administration warned Iran of a "swift and severe" response from the international community if it had provided Russia with ballistic missiles.

Campaigning begins for Iran's parliamentary elections

National Desk

Candidates running for the Iranian parliamentary seats launched their election campaign on Thursday, one week ahead of the polls.

Voters are due to cast their ballots on March 1 to select new members of parliament, as well as the 88-seat Assembly of Experts that oversees the activities of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and is in a position of authority to either appoint or dismiss the Leader.

A large number of electoral

posters and banners have been erected in favor of individual candidates or their coalitions. The candidates have also been allowed to place campaign ads on television.

Large billboards and election posters have sprung up in the capital Tehran and other cities to announce the start of campaigning, urging people to take part. Officials have also repeatedly called for a high turnout in the elections.

Last week, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei urged

people to head to the polling stations.

"Everyone should participate in the elections," he said last week. "It is important to choose the best person, but the priority is for people to participate."

President Ebrahim Raisi has also urged people to cast their ballots on March 1.

Some 15,200 candidates have been approved by the country's Constitutional Council to compete for Parliament's 290 seats. It's a record number and more than twice the candidates who ran in the 2020 elections, when

voter turnout was just over 42%. The current Parliament has been dominated by conservatives.

On Wednesday, the Constitutional Council sent the names of the 15,200 qualified candidates to the Interior Ministry, which holds the elections. Any candidate for elections in Iran must be approved by the council.

The candidates include 1,713 women, which is more than double the 819 who ran in 2020. The elections will be held on March 1, and the new Parliament will convene in late May.



Algerian magazine publishes special issue on Iran



International Desk

The Algerian magazine for children, Ghomaida, has published a special issue to introduce Iran.

The six-page story is titled, "Iran, the Land of Civilization and Revolution".

Ghomaida is one of the most professional magazines for children in the Arab country. Ghomaida means 'hide and seek', which is a popular children's game.

The magazine has published articles about Iran's historical sites including Persepolis – the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, and Iran's scientific achievements.

US, UK launch fresh strikes on Yemen

American and British forces on Saturday carried out a fresh wave of strikes on Yemen, including the capital Sana'a.

A joint statement by the US-led coalition forces in the

Red Sea claimed the strikes targeted 18 Ansarallah movement's targets across eight locations in Yemen including weapons storage facilities, attack drones, air defense systems, radars

and a helicopter, according to AFP.

It was co-signed by Australia, Bahrain, Denmark, Canada, the Netherlands and New Zealand, who gave unspecified "support" to

the new round of strikes, the second this month and fourth since Yemen began their attacks on Israel-bound ships in the Red Sea in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Yemen's Armed Forces' spokesman Yahya Saree was defiant, vowing in a social media statement that the Ansarallah movement would "confront the American-British escalation with more qualitative military operations against all hostile targets in the Red and Arab Seas."

Saturday's operation comes after several vessels were struck this week in the region, including the fertilizer-filled Rubymar, whose crew had to abandon ship after it was hit several days ago and began taking on water.

British maritime security agency UKMTO reported another attack on an unspecified ship near the port of Djibouti on Saturday night, saying there had been an "explosion in close prox-

imity to the vessel, no damage is reported to the vessel and there are no injuries to the crew."

Iran condemned on Sunday the latest strikes by the US and Britain on Yemen, saying they were seeking to "escalate tensions and crises" in the region.

"With such attacks, America and Britain seek to escalate tensions and crises in the region, and expand the scope of war and instability," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in a statement.

"Certainly, this kind of arbitrary and aggressive military operation, aside from aggravating insecurity and instability in the region, will not achieve anything for these aggressor countries," Kanaani added.

He further condemned the US and Britain for failing to "take immediate and effective action" to stop Israel's deadly campaign in Gaza.

Gaza situation
Yemen say their attacks on

shipping around the Red Sea are in support of Palestinians in war-ravaged Gaza. Israel's military campaign in Gaza has claimed the lives of more than 29,690 people so far. Israel's onslaught has also wounded 69,879 people since October 7.

People in the besieged territory are also facing starvation as Israel has continued relentless bombardment and blocked delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid.

Dire food shortages sent hundreds of Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza on Sunday.

Desperate families in the north of the besieged war zone have been forced to scavenge for food as fighting have stopped humanitarian aid trucks from reaching the devastated area.

Hundreds fled northern Gaza Sunday and headed south whichever way they could, walking down garbage-strewn roads between the blackened shells of bombed-out buildings.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

