



## US double standards on Palestinian issue



By Zohreh Qanadi  
Staff writer

### PERSPECTIVE

The United States has prevented the United Nations from recognizing a Palestinian state by casting a veto in the Security Council to deny Palestinians full membership in the world body. Twelve council members voted in favor of granting the Palestinians full member status, while the UK and Switzerland abstained.

Washington has long advocated for a two-state solution and the veto once again reveals its contradictory stance and double standard policy. The rejection comes as Israel's war on the Gaza Strip has aroused sympathy toward Palestinians around the world and prompted growing calls for the recognition of the State of Palestine. Since the start of the offensive on October 7, Tel Aviv has killed over 34,000 Palestinians and injured around 77,000 more.

Now, more than ever, Palestinians are subjected to the harshest level of aggression, persecution, and genocide. Despite this, the US unilaterally killed their UN bid in support of Israel.

After the vote, Robert Wood, the US deputy ambassador to the UN, said his country "has worked vigorously and with determination to support Palestinian statehood in the context of a comprehensive peace agreement that would permanently resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict".

He cited the Hamas resistance movement's attack on Israel on Oct. 7 as the complicating factor for the Palestinian application for statehood and referred to President Joe Biden's policy, stating that sustainable peace in the region can only be achieved through a two-state solution with Israel's security guarantee.

This reflects the US support for the two-state solution while protecting the interests of both the US and Israel. As a senior political analyst Marwan Bishara from Al Jazeera said the US move demonstrated that "Palestine could only be a country the way the United States sees it, or Israel sees it, only at the time that it's suitable to the United States and within the geopolitics and the global interest of the United States".

Enthusied with the US move, Israel's Foreign Minister Israel Katz praised the decision to block the proposal, saying, "The shameful proposal was rejected. Terrorism will not be rewarded."

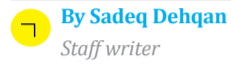
The Security Council has consistently called for a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, a result that has failed to materialize during negotiations between the two sides. It is worth noting that the two-state solution, based on pre-1967 borders, would leave out significant Palestinian territories. Nevertheless, Washington impeded the very opportunity for Palestinians to achieve the minimum prerequisites for establishing an independent state, despite the majority of the global community supporting the membership.

The latest veto is not the only instance showcasing its double standard policy. US policy has always been in line with exacerbating the regional crisis stemming from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Washington has barely acted against Israel for its settlement activities in the occupied West Bank, which is illegal under international law, as well as the blockade of Gaza, which has technically turned the coastal enclave into the world's largest open-air prison since 2007.

The US has only confined itself to condemning the settlements in words, turning a blind eye to Israel's atrocities, including crimes against civilians in Gaza and the expansion of settlements in the West Bank.

The US stance on the Palestinian issue appears to be aimed at breaking the Palestinians' will and forcing them into submission to the occupying power, in order to win more concessions from them over the two-state solution. However, the approach has backfired especially in the wake of Hamas' Operation Al-Aqsa Storm on October 7 which once again raised global awareness and drawn condemnation of Israel's handling of the Palestinian issue.

# MP: Iran's missile strike was limited, cautionary to Israel



By Sadeq Dehqan  
Staff writer

An Iranian parliamentarian stated that Iran employed the minimum level of its offensive missile capability during its recent retaliatory operation against Israel, as the primary goal was "to caution the Zionist regime".

On April 13, Iran launched extensive missile and drone strikes against Israel in response to its attack on the Iranian diplomatic premises in Syria on April 1, during which seven Iranian military advisors were killed. The "punishment" attack was also in response to Israel's repeated aggression against Iran and the UN Security Council's failure to hold the regime accountable for the April 1 attack.

In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Jalil Rahimi Jah-anabadi said the majority of the missiles and drones used in the operation were from the early generations of Iran's military equipment. The intention behind this operation, he said, "was solely to issue a warning to the Zionist regime that if Iran intends to infiltrate Israel, neither their Iron Dome nor their regional and international allies will be able to stop Iran". He added that if the atrocities of Israel persist, the Islamic



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Republic may confront it with its next-generation weapons at any time. The member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said when several relatively unsophisticated missiles easily bypass Israel's defensive barriers and inflict damage on the intended military zone, undoubtedly Iran's hypersonic missiles and next-generation ballistic missiles can easily target any point within the occupied territories. "However, our operations

were carried out in a limited manner, and only bases that had attacked our consulate in Syria were targeted," he emphasized. "Our forces demonstrated the capability to conduct operations of high complexity and scope to overcome defensive barriers such as the Iron Dome as well as the fighter jets and air defense systems of NATO forces and Western countries supporting the Zionist regime."



Jahanabadi expressed hope

that "the Zionist regime receives the messages of this operation and pays attention to the core messages of the operation instead of falling prey to misunderstandings and propaganda."

The lawmaker reiterated that the operation was solely in response to Israel's attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, adding that, "If the Security Council had taken appropriate action following the attack and addressed the Zionist regime's breach of

international rules, Iran's response might have differed". Regarding the involvement of regional countries in tracking the drones and missiles used in the operation, he highlighted Jordan's role, clarifying that no other regional country besides Jordan was involved in such an operation. He concluded that the matter has been investigated, and clear messages have been sent to Jordan and other concerned countries through diplomatic channels, expressing hope for resolution.

## Pakistan, Iran must foster trust



By Syed Ali Hassan  
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi arrived in Pakistan, at the head of political and economic delegation, on a three-day official visit. His visit to Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi will further strengthen Iran-Pakistan relations in various sectors including agriculture, trade, energy, among others. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan has stated that Pakistan and Iran have decided to sign a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in workforce and cinema. Both countries will take steps for the exchange of skilled individuals. After the Islamic Revolution in Iran, there was a surge in relations between both countries, reaching its peak during the tenure of General Zia-ul-Haq, when Iran's then-president Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visited Islamabad and Lahore. Subsequently, Pakistan and Iran started strategic cooperation, but these relations gradually decreased after the death of Zia-ul-Haq. Pakistan supported Iran significantly during the war imposed by Saddam Hussein on Iran, providing Tehran with missiles.

Pakistan is currently facing a severe energy crisis, and to some extent, completing the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project has become inevitable for Pakistan to control it. And only this project is immediately feasible for Pakistan, or else if Pakistan discovers a large amount of natural gas, the present government has expressed determination to complete this project until it reaches completion. While American authorities have clearly expressed their reservations about this project, the current Pakistani Energy Minister Masood Malik has called on the US to exclude the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project from US sanctions.

Pakistan's attention and priority should be the completion of the gas pipeline project, which is in Pakistan's best interest. This project was initiated in 1996, and despite 28 years, it has only reached Iran's border due to Pakistan's lack of interest. Pakistan should complete the work of laying the gas pipeline within its territorial boundaries and arrange access to affordable energy for the Pakistani people. Although, there are many obstacles to the promotion of trade between Pakistan and Iran, smuggling is the biggest obstacle. A mechanism for trade in local currencies between Pakistan and Iran should also be established soon, which will benefit both countries.

## US-Israeli scenario ...

Washington views Israel as the linchpin of its regional policies in West Asia, with negotiations with Saudi Arabia primarily aimed at safeguarding Israel's security and influence in the region. However, the underlying objective is evident: US plans entail Israel's dominance in West Asia, a move intended to bolster its global standing in geopolitical rivalries and the restructuring of the global order. Given this context, the failure of Arab-US negotiations to broker a Gaza cease-fire comes as no surprise. Arab leaders often overlook the fact that all Islamic nations of the region are viewed as adversaries by the US due to their opposition to Israel. As a result, they pose a threat to US interests. The scope of such enmity varies, but the common thread is clear. If the Palestinian resistance groups, Iran, and the axis of resistance are at the forefront of

the American-Israeli tug-of-war, it will trickle down to weaken other Arab countries in the region. This could involve exerting economic pressure, limiting access to new technologies, sparking internal unrest, fomenting regime change, and even leading to the disintegration of these nations in favor of Israel, thereby shaping the new Middle East. This blueprint for a new Middle East, favoring Israel and the West, is underway, with the Gaza conflict serving as a pivotal piece. The cessation of hostilities in Gaza will not halt this agenda. US talks for political and security pacts between Arab states and Israel are a tactic to buy time to advance pro-Israel policies in the region gradually. The surge in US military aid to Israel underscores this strategy. Regional Arab players must resist the incremental implementation of the US-Israeli agenda. Elevating the Palestinian cause to a collective

regional concern can act as a deterrent to the envisioned American-Israeli Middle East. Making the Gaza conflict a proxy war between Iran and Israel is a calculated move to sideline the Palestinian plight, enabling America to pursue its agenda in West Asia with Arab states as tactical pawns. Organizing a new Islamic summit can reinforce the primacy of the Palestinian issue in the Islamic world. Iran and influential Arab stakeholders should persist in diplomatic efforts for peace in the Gaza Strip. Collective political initiatives supported by all Islamic nations can pave the way for progress. Leveraging global public opinion can serve as a barrier against potential American and Israeli attempts to obscure the Gaza conflict and fully occupy Palestinian territories. This shared Islamic goal should unite both Arab and non-Arab nations in safeguarding the Palestinian cause.