



The foreign ministers of the Developing-Eight countries pose for a family photo after a meeting held in Istanbul, Turkey, on June 8, 2024. developing8.org

Unwavering support for Gaza | D-8 throws weight behind Palestinian cause

International Desk

Throwing its weight behind Palestine, the D-8 Council of Ministers on Saturday called for an "immediate and unconditional" ceasefire in Gaza as well as the termination of Israel's months-long onslaught on the Palestinians in the besieged territory.

The foreign ministers of the Developing-Eight countries including Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, and Nigeria in the Istanbul meeting issued a collective statement that urged "an immediate, permanent and unconditional ceasefire, the cessation of the Israeli aggression on the

Palestinian people in Gaza."

The statement also called for "efforts to provide protection for Palestinian civilians and to form a practical and effective international protection mechanism for this in implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations General Assem-

bly on the protection of the Palestinian people."

The group affirmed "the unwavering support to the struggle of the Palestinian people to realize their inalienable rights, the full membership of Palestine in the United Nations and all the resolutions related to the Palestinian Cause in international fora."

Iran's interim Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani

praised the extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers as "an opportunity to continue the active diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in support of the Palestinian cause and the resistance of the Palestinian people against the Zionist regime."

Baqeri Kani also presented nine "practical proposals" for the D-8 countries' joint action

in support of the Palestinian people and against the Israeli war on Gaza.

At least 36,801 people were killed and 83,680 wounded in Israel's onslaught on Gaza since October 7, 2023.

D-8 FMs back ...

Leveraging the international platform provided

by this meeting, Bagheri invoked the International Court of Justice's recent decision concerning the Rafah region, which centers on three main pillars: halting aggression, facilitating unhindered humanitarian aid, and establishing an international fact-finding committee.

In light of the recent political resolution passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors, Bagheri stressed that genuine peace, stability, and security in the Middle East will remain elusive without addressing two key factors: the Zionist regime's nuclear disarmament and the complete cessation of occupation.

Aligning with the Muslim community's call for tangible action from Muslim governments against the Zionist regime, Iran put forth nine proposals at the meeting. Two proposals focused on securing D-8 support for the reconstruction of Palestine and the Gaza Strip, as well as establishing an Islamic fund for financial aid in this endeavor.

Designating the Zionist regime's army and security institutions as terrorist organizations for their perpetration of genocide, war crimes,

and blatant human rights violations constituted another proposal. Additional propositions included forming a D-8 contact group to collaborate with the OIC's contact group, halting the Zionist regime's crimes, and fostering comprehensive Palestinian dialogues to achieve consensus, national unity, and an agreement on governing Palestinian territories post-war and elections. Further proposals advocated for the suspension of the Zionist regime's membership international institutions and participation in events, such as the Paris Olympics, and the cessation of political, economic, and trade ties with the regime.

Establishing a D-8 legal committee to bolster Palestine's international legal campaigns, notably in the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, and supporting the recognition of the Israeli regime as an apartheid entity and launching joint efforts to revitalize UN General Assembly Resolution 3379 were also among Iran's proposals for substantive Palestinian support.

Muslim, pro-freedom, and justice-seeking demonstrators worldwide have united in protests against the Zionist regime, reflecting the recognition of Palestine as an independent state by

numerous countries and the UN General Assembly resolution endorsing Palestine's official, full membership in the United Nations.

Student-led movements in the West and beyond, the International Criminal Court's indictments against the Israeli regime's leadership and other related developments point toward a decisive Palestinian triumph in the Gaza battle. Iran's practical proposals at the D-8 meeting serve to fortify this victory and bolster Palestine's standing on the international arena. Presenting these proactive measures underscores Iran's unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause and pragmatic support for the Islamic Resistance, which remains a central priority of the nation's foreign policy and, as Iran's Leader affirmed, is being implemented unhindered.

Iran's dynamic diplomacy thrives across multiple dimensions, as evidenced by its active engagement in regional and international forums and steadfast advocacy for the Palestinian people and the Resistance Front. The foreign policy tenets of the Iranian government and the late president and foreign minister's approach remain guiding principles diligently pursued without faltering or stagnation.

Israel claims 210 Palestinian lives in Gaza to retrieve four captives



International Desk

Israeli forces released four captives held by the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas since October last year after a violent raid on Saturday that killed over 200 Palestinians in airstrikes on a refugee camp in central Gaza.

The Israeli forces directly targeted civilians, including children, during "a barbaric and brutal aggression" against Nuseirat refugee camp, Gaza government media office said, adding that at least 210 people were left dead and over 400 others injured. The injured were taken to Al Awda Hospital in the camp and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah.

A spokesman at Al-Aqsa hospital said the number of injured is so high that it is difficult to confirm the exact number.

"Dozens of injured people are lying on the ground and medical teams are trying to save them with the simple medical capabilities they have," the Palestinian Health Ministry wrote on Facebook.

The ministry released images, showing patients, including children, who were lying in the corridors of the hospital as they were covered in blood.

A report by Reuters said that it was not immediately clear if the "captive releasing operation" and the Israeli air assault were part of the same operation but both took place in central Gaza's al-Nuseirat, a densely built-up and often embattled area in the eight-month-old war on the besieged strip.

No Israeli official mentioned the scores of Palestinians who were massacred in the camp. Instead, the military issued a state-



Mourners react during the funeral of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes, in Deir Al-Balah, in central Gaza Strip on June 8, 2024. [REUTERS](https://reuters.com)

ment, saying that they "rescued four captives" from the central Gaza Strip.

They were in "good medical condition" and were taken to hospital for medical checks following a "complex daytime operation" in Gaza's Nuseirat, it said.

The captives were held during Hamas unprecedented operation against the occupied territories on October 7.

The total number of Israeli captives still held by Hamas is now 116, of which at least 41 are dead. Israel's war on Gaza has so far killed more than 36,801 people, according to the Gaza health ministry.

Tehran summit on Afghanistan underscores regional initiatives



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International Desk

Tehran hosted the second meeting of the Regional Contact Group on Afghanistan on Saturday to address concerns about the Central Asian country, according to Iran's special envoy for Afghanistan.

Hassan Kazemi Qomi said special envoys from Iran, Pakistan, Russia, and China emphasized regional initiatives to bolster Afghanistan's national security during a press conference after the meeting.

"The discussions in Tehran today focused on terrorism-related issues, assisting in security and border management, and finding solutions for migrants, who constitute nearly 30% of Afghanistan's population," he added.

Neighboring countries are actively pursuing regional cooperation to enhance Afghanistan's security against terrorism and address human rights-related issues, the envoy said.

Kazemi Qomi stated that the meeting in Tehran was part of a series of regional and international discussions considering the sensitivity of the Afghanistan issue and events impacting its security and stability.

The Regional Contact Group on Afghanistan was established in January to address concerns about the Central Asian country, he added.

"One of the concerns raised was the issue of terrorism, which affects both the people of Afghanistan and neighboring countries," the Iranian official said, adding, "This indicates that terrorism was the focus of yesterday's occupiers and today they are trying to stoke instability."

Referring to the forthcoming Doha Summit in Qatar, Kazemi Qomi said the four countries of Iran, Russia, China and Pakistan addressed the concerns in Saturday's meeting and highly recommended that the neighboring and regional countries also involve in the initiative.

The upcoming gathering, dubbed "Doha III," will be the third in Qatar's capital on the subject since UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres initiated the process with special envoys on Afghanistan to facilitate a coherent global approach to the Taliban-governed country grappling with severe humanitarian, economic, and human rights challenges.

The United Nations is finalizing the agenda for a crucial two-day international conference on Afghanistan scheduled for June 30-31, aiming for broad acceptance from all parties.