

Palestinians urge world to end Israel's occupation after ICJ ruling



Israeli security forces close-off a main entrance to Huwara town in the occupied West Bank following reported attacks by Israeli settlers on July 19, 2024.

● JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AFP

International Desk

Palestinian activists and political factions called for immediate international action to end Israel's occupation after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that the regime's presence in Palestinian territory is unlawful. Many activists and legal experts say the Friday's ruling by the ICJ, which has found that Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories is unlawful, will do little to improve life for Palestinians. Other states must now apply collective pressure on Israel to end its rule over Gaza and the West Bank,

including annexed East Al-Quds, if the situation there is to change, they said. The world's highest court concluded on Friday – with 12-3 judges in favor – that Israel is forcibly displacing Palestinians from their lands, exploiting water resources, annexing large swaths of the occupied territory “by force” and is violating the right of Palestinians to “self-determination”. The ICJ also ruled that Israel must stop all building of settlements in the West Bank and should compensate Palestinians for human rights violations in the occupied territory.

Call for 'immediate' action

Hamas resistance group called for “immediate” international action to end Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories. A statement from the group, which has been fighting Israel in Gaza since the October 7 attacks, welcomed the ruling from the International Court of Justice, saying it puts “the international system before the imperative of immediate action to end the occupation”. The office of Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said it welcomed the “historic decision and demands that Israel be compelled to

implement it.” Palestinian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Varsen Aghabekian Shahin hailed “a great day for Palestine” while Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu slammed the ICJ ruling as ‘decision of lies’. Iceland's Foreign Ministry has also backed the ICJ's advisory opinion, saying that, “The ICJ's Advisory Opinion is clear. Continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem [Al-Quds] is unlawful, and so are its settlement activities. Iceland calls on Israel to cease all activity that violates international law,” the ministry said on X. Slovenia also welcomed the

ICJ's decision. In a statement, the Slovenian Foreign Ministry called on the UN and member states to take adequate steps to implement the ICJ's interpretation of international law. Iran's Foreign Ministry's spokesman Nasser Kanaani said reacted to the ICJ's ruling, saying that the international community, especially the UN Security Council, should take practical steps to end Israel's aggressions against Palestinians and the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territory.

No global action

However, Zainah el-Haroun, the spokesperson for Al-Haq,

NEWS IN BRIEF

Top military brass exalt Raisi's efforts to boost defense power



National Desk

Commanders of Iran's military forces appreciated measures taken by the late president Ebrahim Raisi in ensuring coordination between the government and military sectors to strengthen the country's defense capabilities. On Saturday, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Hossein Salami, Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Commander of the Law Enforcement Command Brigadier General Ahmadreza Radan, and Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani had a meeting with Acting President Mohammad Mokhber in Tehran to express their gratitude to the outgoing administration. The commanders also admired Raisi's useful ideas during the security meetings, especially those of the country's Supreme National Security Council. They also appreciated Mokhber for his efforts to manage the country's affairs after Raisi died in a tragic helicopter crash on May 19.

Iran 'fully' ready to play active role in promoting security in West Asia

Iran is “fully” ready to play an active role in countering challenges and promoting peace and security in West Asia within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the United Nations, its ambassador to the UN said. Amir Saeid Iravani told the UN Security Council meeting in New York on “Cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations” that enhancing collaboration between the UN and regional organizations is “more important than ever,” Press TV reported.

“In an increasingly complex global environment, maintaining international peace and security requires coordinated responses at national, regional, and international levels,” he said. “Enhancing collaboration between the United Nations (UN) and regional organizations is more important than ever,” he added. According to Iravani, regional organizations have unique understandings of local issues, providing realistic insights and preventive mechanisms tailored to specific needs, enabling them to address emerging conflicts



effectively and seek peaceful, political solutions. Iran, he said, “recognizes” and “highly values” the roles of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the SCO, and the Common-

wealth of Independent States (CIS) in strengthening peace and stability in the region and supporting constructive cooperation between these organizations with the UN.

“We believe that such cooperation can enhance security and development, which are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of multilateralism in addressing global threats and challenges,” he said. He explained that drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime are “significant concerns for Iran” and offer opportunities for practical interactions between the UN and the SCO. “The SCO, with its multi-faceted structure, can actively contribute to international

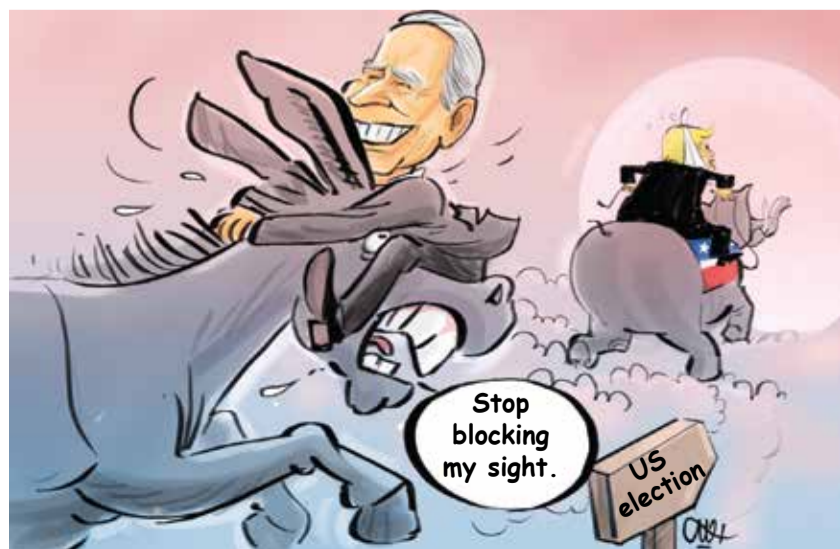
efforts by developing its regional capacity and aiding national governments in combating terrorism and extremism,” he added. Iravani stressed that the SCO supports international efforts in conflict prevention, counter-terrorism, transnational crime prevention, and combating illegal drugs. Last year, the SCO officially approved Iran's full-fledged membership in the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population. Iran actively participated in the 24th summit of the SCO held in Astana on July 3-4, 2024.

Russia rejects US claims on Iran's nuclear work

International Desk

Russia's permanent representative to the international organizations in Vienna said the new US claims about Iran's nuclear activities are made for “propagandistic purposes.” Mikhail Ulyanov was reacting to recent comments by the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken who has claimed that Iran is capable of producing fissile material for use in a nuclear weapon within “one or two weeks.” “This assertion that Iran is one or two weeks away from reaching the capacity of producing fissile material for Nuclear Weapons was used many times over the last 20 years and will be used again in the years to come, as always, for propagandistic purposes,” Ulyanov wrote on X. This is while, the US national security advisor Jake Sullivan said on Friday that, “I have not seen a decision by Iran to move in a way that signals it has decided to actually develop a nuclear bomb right now.”

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



A shot that ...

In the days since the shooting, the Secret Service has come under scrutiny for its response to the assassination attempt and the agency's director, Kimberly Cheatle, has been subpoenaed to testify before Congress. US law enforcement officials investigating the assassination attempt on Trump said 20 minutes passed between the time Secret Service snipers first spotted the gunman on a rooftop and the time shots were fired at Trump. Officials said the snipers had spotted the suspect, 20-year-

old Thomas Matthew Crooks, on the roof of a building outside the security zone at the rally in Pennsylvania and had also been alarmed by the residents about the presence of the rifle-wielding assassin in the area “but the calls were not heeded.” The motive for the assassination attempt remains a mystery as Crooks was shot at the scene but the ostentatious show made a splash by hitting the headlines and helping Trump's approval rate soar. Polls conducted for The Telegraph show that most Americans in the swing states now consider Trump a pres-

ident-in-waiting, raising concern among Democrats who believe that Biden's campaign has already hit a snag. For the first time since the presidential race began and right after the assassination, a majority of 53 per cent in a combined poll across Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina and Pennsylvania think that Trump will emerge victorious from the presidential race in November. This is while the incumbent president had defeated Trump in all the five states by a narrow margin in the 2020 vote.