

Iran president, Malaysia PM:

# Western support prolongs Israel's atrocities in Gaza



Anwar Ibrahim



Masoud Pezeshkian

**International Desk**

Iran and Malaysia criticized the policies adopted by the US and some Western countries toward Gaza, saying that their acts of support for Israel contradict their claims of defending human rights and efforts for the establishment of a cease-fire in the Palestinian territory.

Minister Anwar Ibrahim underlined that the Western countries' media and military support for Israel will lead to the continuation of the regime's crimes against the "oppressed and defenseless people of Gaza."

The two leaders also emphasized the need for a coordinated action by the Muslim countries to confront Israel's crimes and stop the genocide unfolding in Gaza.

Pezeshkian and Ibrahim said that holding a summit of the Organiza-

tion of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an effective measure in this regard.

More than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli military action since last October. The Gaza Health Ministry says more than 16,456 of those deaths were children.

Alongside the fatalities, satellite image analysis suggests nearly 60% of buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed since the beginning of the war.

Meanwhile, nearly two million Palestinians have been displaced by the Israeli occupation army and face a grave humanitarian crisis as the war enters its 11th month.

Israel launched the war on Gaza on October 7, 2023 after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas waged the surprise Operation al-Aqsa Storm against Israel in response to the regime's decades-long campaign of blood-letting and devastation against Palestinians.

## No nexus between Gaza truce talks, response to Haniyeh killing: *Iran*



**International Desk**

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani rejected any link between the ongoing cease-fire negotiations in Gaza and Iran's response to the assassination of Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July. "Iran's response to the assassination of Martyr Haniyeh as an official guest of Iran and the issue of the cease-fire negotiations in Gaza are two separate issues," Kanaani said during his weekly press conference on Monday, Press TV reported.

Haniyeh was assassinated on July 31, while he was in Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Iranian political and military leadership, including Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khomeini, and President Masoud Pezeshkian, have vowed to avenge Haniyeh's killing.

"We have been and are the strongest and most important regional and international supporter of the cessation of war and [establishment of] cease-fire and we still support any action in this regard," Kanaani said. He, however, emphasized that the cease-fire negotiations have nothing to do with Iran's "legitimate and legal right to punish the aggressor."

Iran has the right to defend its security and territorial integrity in accordance with the United Nations Charter and has been committed to political and legal approaches in this regard, the spokesman said.

He expressed regret that the Security Council has failed to fulfill its duty vis-à-vis the Israeli regime, adding, "We told our friends that we do not seek to intensify insecurity in the region but we insist on Iran's legal right to punish the aggressor and we will use it at the appropriate time."

Kanaani responded to a question about some countries' mediatory role to dissuade Iran from giving a response to the Israeli regime.

"If the international community and the Security Council were able and had shown in practice that they have the necessary will and ability to maintain regional and international peace in the face of the Zionist regime, we would not have witnessed more than 10 months of crimes in Gaza," he said. Kanaani rejected the "irrational" request made by some countries from Iran to exercise self-restraint under the circumstances that Israel is posing a serious threat to regional peace and security.

"We are facing a rogue regime that does not adhere to any international regulations. The impunity of this regime is a threat to regional and international peace and security," the Iranian spokesman emphasized.

Back in April, Iran launched a missile and drone attack on Israel in retaliation for a missile attack by Israel on Iran's diplomatic premises in the Syrian capital of Damascus earlier in April, which claimed the lives of several members of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

## Israeli strikes on Yemen port 'possible war crime': *HRW*

An Israeli air raid last month on a key Yemeni port was a "possible war crime" that has threatened food and aid supply for millions, Human Rights Watch said on Monday.

The July 20 attack on the western port city of Hodeida came a day after the Yemen's Armed Forces claimed responsibility for a drone attack on Israel's commercial hub of Tel Aviv, AFP reported.

New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the Tel Aviv strike that killed one person could also constitute a war crime.

The Israeli response decimated the Hodeida port's fuel storage capacity and killed at least nine people. HRW said "at least six civilians" were killed in the strikes which "reportedly injured at least 80 others".

The rights group noted that the Hodeida port "is critical for delivering food and other necessities to

the Yemeni population". The damage "could have a long-term impact on millions of Yemenis who rely on the port for food and humanitarian aid", it said.

The strikes "damaged or destroyed at least 29 of the 41 oil storage tanks at Hodeida port, as well as the only two cranes used for loading and unloading supplies from ships," HRW said.

It added that the attack also forced the Hodeida power plant offline for 12 hours.

"The attacks appeared to cause disproportionate harm to civilians and civilian objects. Serious violations of the laws of war committed willfully, that is deliberately or recklessly, are war crimes," HRW said.

In November the Yemen's Ansarullah movement began attacking Israeli-bound ships in the Red Sea, a campaign they have said is meant to show solidarity with Palestin-



AFP

ians in Gaza. The resistance movement has also launched strikes on other Israeli port towns since the Israel's war on Gaza began in October. The Israeli strikes on Hodeida risk worsening conditions for millions

of Yemenis, HRW said. "Yemenis are already enduring widespread hunger after a decade-long conflict. These attacks will only exacerbate their suffering," said Niku Jafarnia, HRW's Yemen and Bahrain researcher.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## British diplomat resigns over arms sales to Israel

A British Foreign Office official resigned in protest at his country's arms sales to Israel, saying the UK government "may be complicit in war crimes".

Mark Smith, a counter-terrorism official based at the British embassy in Dublin, said he had resigned after making numerous internal complaints, including through an official whistleblowing mechanism, but receiving nothing but pro-forma responses, The Guardian reported.

Smith said he had previously worked in Middle East arms export licensing assessment for the government and "each day" colleagues were

witnessing "clear and unquestionable examples" of war crimes and breaches of international humanitarian law by Israel in Gaza.

He said that senior members of the Israeli cabinet and military have expressed open genocidal intent, Israeli soldiers take videos deliberately burning, destroying and looting civilian property. "Over half of Gaza's homes and over 80% of Gaza's commercial properties have been damaged or destroyed."

"Whole streets and universities have been demolished, humanitarian aid is being blocked and civilians are regularly left with no safe quar-

ter to flee to. Red Crescent ambulances have been attacked, schools and hospitals are regularly targeted. These are war crimes."

He said there was "no justification for the UK's continued arms sales to Israel, yet somehow it continues". The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said it could not comment on an individual case, but that the government was committed to upholding international law. The Labour government has pledged to review the policy of arms sales to Israel, but has so far not come to any decision. The foreign secretary, Da-

vid Lammy, has said it may continue to allow the sale of defensive weapons but cut off the flow of offensive weapons being used in Gaza. He said it was a complex judicial process. Smith said he was resigning with sadness after a long career in the Foreign Office, and that the only response he received to his complaints was to the effect of "Thank you, we have noted your concerns".

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur on the Palestinian Territories, praised Smith's move as brave, and said she hoped many more diplomats would join him.