

Macron: Arms embargo on Israel 'only way' to end war on Gaza, Lebanon

International Desk

French President Emmanuel Macron reiterated his call for an arms embargo on Israel, saying that "stopping the export of weapons" used in the besieged Gaza Strip and Lebanon was the only way to end the occupying regime's fighting there.

"This is in no way a call to disarm Israel... but a call to stop any destabilization in this part of the world," Macron said at a summit of European and Mediterranean leaders in Cyprus.

"We have reiterated the need for a ceasefire, and this ceasefire is essential both in Gaza and in Lebanon. It is necessary now both for our hostages and the civilian population who are victims of the violence, and to avoid regional contamination," he added.

"This is why France has called for an end to the export of weapons used in these theatres of war (...). We all know that this is the only way to put an end to

it."

The French president also underlined that Israel was "deliberately" targeting UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon.

Macron said it was "absolutely unacceptable" that UN peacekeepers in Lebanon are "deliberately targeted" by Israeli forces.

Last Saturday, the French president had already said shipments of arms used in the war on Gaza should be stopped as part of a broader effort to find a political solution to the year-long Israeli aggression on the besieged territory.

France, as one of the weapons providers for Israel, shipped military equipment worth 30 million euros (\$33 million) last year, according to the French Defense Ministry's annual arms exports report.

Israeli sites targeted

Resistance groups struck Israeli military positions in the occupied territories in retaliation for the Tel Aviv regime's ongoing military

onslaught against Gaza and devastating strikes on Lebanon, Press TV reported.

Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah said it launched a rocket barrage at a gathering of Israeli soldiers at the al-Jardah site on Saturday, emphasizing that the operation was conducted "in support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and their valiant and honorable resistance, and in defense of Lebanon and its people."

The Lebanese resistance group also claimed responsibility for a missile strike on the Soma base in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, in retaliation for the barbaric Israeli strikes on towns and villages in southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah fighters also launched a salvo of missiles at Israeli troops stationed at the Zarit barracks and struck an Israeli military position at Mi'ilya in the western Galilee region.

Moreover, Lebanese resistance fighters shelled



The photo shows Israeli targeting of residential areas in central Khan Yunis in southern Gaza Strip on January 19, 2024.

AFP



an Israeli infantry unit in the Khirbet Zarit outpost, confirming a direct hit, before shelling the 7200 base south of Haifa and pounding a factory in the area with a barrage of advanced rockets.

Separately, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq said in a statement that it had conducted new operations against Israeli military sites in the occupied territories, using kamikaze drones in response to ongoing Israeli military onslaught against Gaza and devastating strikes on Lebanon.

The umbrella group of anti-terror fighters made the declaration in a statement on Saturday, stating they had hit a vital target in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The resistance alliance also

reported a second drone strike on a key target located in the same Israeli-occupied region.

Gaza vs. Hiroshima

Meanwhile, the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize warned that conflicts raging around the world, including in Gaza, are heightening the possibility of a nuclear war, renewing calls for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Susumu Ogawa, 84, was

five when the bomb all but obliterated Hiroshima 79 years ago, and many of his family members were among the tens of thousands killed.

"My mother, my aunt, my grandfather, and my grandmother all died," Ogawa told the AFP news agency. "All nuclear weapons in the world have to be abandoned," Ogawa said. "We know the horror of nuclear weapons, because we know what happened in

Hiroshima." Toshiyuki Mimaki, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, said after a Japanese rally in support of Palestinians in Gaza that the situation for children in the besieged Palestinian territory is similar to that of Japan at the end of World War II.

"In Gaza, bleeding children are being held [by their parents]. It's like in Japan 80 years ago," Mimaki told a news conference in Tokyo.

Speaker reaffirms Iran's support on visit to Beirut



Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf speaks to reporters at Beirut's southern neighborhood of Basta on October 12, 2024.

IRNA

International Desk

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf

traveled to Beirut on Saturday to express the Islamic Republic's support for the Lebanese nation

and government as well as its resistance movement Hezbollah amid Israel's escalated aggression on the Arab country.

Qalibaf, at the head of a delegation, arrived at Beirut's international airport following an invitation

by his Lebanese counterpart, Nabih Berri, and was warmly welcomed by the country's officials.

He told reporters upon arrival that he came to Beirut to convey a message from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as well as Iranian officials saying, "As always, we stand in solidarity with the Lebanese people, government, and resistance."

He stressed that he would later in the day leave Leb-

anon for Geneva, Switzerland, where he is scheduled to attend the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) taking place on October 13-17.

At the IPU meeting, Qalibaf said he would "deliver the message of the innocence of the people of Gaza and Lebanon, elaborate on our duties in the international arena in supporting the oppressed, and support the innocence of the people of Lebanon and Palestine."

Qalibaf also met with Berri and Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati before paying a visit to Basta neighborhood of Beirut, where a number of residential buildings had been destroyed in Israeli airstrikes 48 hours earlier.

"Undoubtedly, all Muslim countries must condemn these crimes by the Zionist regime," he told reporters at Basta.

"In this situation, there is no doubt that the Islamic Republic of Iran always supports the people of Palestine and Lebanon and this support continues," he added. "We also consider taking care of the oppressed and displaced people of this region as one of our duties."

Lebanon has been attacked 9,588 times by the Israeli occupation army since October last year, resulting in 2,229 deaths and 10,380 injuries in Lebanon alone, according to statistics released by the Lebanese government on Friday.

'Undeniable war crime': Envoy slams Israeli bombing of hospital in Syria

International Desk

Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations condemned the Israeli strike attack on a medical facility near the Syria-Lebanon border, describing it as a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and an undeniable war crime, Press TV reported.

"This heinous attack on humanitarian aid is a flagrant violation of international law and an egregious attack on life-saving relief efforts," Amir Saeid Iravani said in letters to UN Security Council president Pascale Baeriswyl and UN chief António Guterres.

"The humanitarian facility was established by the Iranian Red Crescent solely to provide critical assistance to displaced Lebanese civilians and victims of the Israeli regime's relentless and barbaric aggression, offering a vital lifeline to those suffering in the face of such atrocities," he added.

He emphasized that the Red Crescent Society of the Is-

lamic Republic of Iran had formally informed the International Committee of the Red Cross of its intention to establish the humanitarian aid center.

Iravani said the Iranian humanitarian aid depot included 200 hospital beds, a fully equipped field hospital with 56 beds and advanced medical equipment, oxygen production units, critical medical items, two mobile bakery machines, food and drinking water, 5,000 food packages, and other vital shelter materials.

"Yet, despite its clear humanitarian purpose, the facility and its supplies were completely destroyed in this savage and terrorist attack," he said.

"The deliberate targeting of humanitarian and medical facilities by the Israeli regime is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and constitutes an undeniable war crime. Under international law, any attack on civilian infrastructure, particularly humanitarian and medical facilities, equip-

ment, and hospitals, is unequivocally prohibited."

Iravani called on the Security Council to condemn the heinous crime in the strongest possible terms, and to take immediate and decisive action to prevent further violations by the Zionist regime.

"In light of the ongoing genocidal war and relentless aggression by the Israeli occupying regime against the people of Palestine and Lebanon, the Security Council must fulfill its duty to protect civilians, humanitarian aid workers, and medical facilities. International law must be upheld, and these egregious crimes cannot go unanswered. In this regard, the Security Council must act to ensure accountability and prevent further atrocities," he said.

Israeli strike on hospital 'a war crime'

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi also condemned Israel's attack on the charity hospital on the Syria-Lebanon border,

calling it "a war crime."

"It is also considered a violation of the principles and rules of international humanitarian law contained in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the customary international humanitarian rules, which absolutely prohibit any attack on civilian places and centers, especially medical centers and hospitals," Gharibabadi stated. Since Israel's offensive began on October 7 last year, the Israeli military has frequently targeted Gaza's healthcare and education sectors. Several hospitals, schools, colleges, and universities have been bombed, with hundreds of educational institutions, including 65 run by the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), either destroyed or damaged. Despite calls from the UN Security Council for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the Israeli regime is pressing ahead with its genocidal war, aiming for the complete eradication of the Palestinians trapped in the besieged territory.

Top court overturns death sentence for activist

Iran's highest court overturned the death sentence of a woman labour rights activist who was accused of links to an anti-Iran Kurdish terrorist group, local media reported Saturday.

"The Supreme Court...

has overturned the verdict against my client, Ms. Sharifeh Mohammadi," her lawyer Amir Raisian was quoted as saying by the Shargh daily. He added that the case was referred for a re-trial.

Mohammadi, 45, was sentenced to death in early July following her arrest in the northern city of Rasht over accusations of being a member of the Komala party, according to rights groups.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

