

# **A report on reactions to the Israeli aggression against the occupied Palestinian territories, with a particular focus on the Gaza Strip**

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## **First: Asia, Australia:**

In response to the unfolding events between Israel and Palestinian factions in Gaza, the Department documented various reactions from Asian nations and the subsequent developments. The reactions of select Asian countries are outlined as follows:

### **1- China:**

- China has expressed profound concern regarding the escalating tensions and violence between Palestine and Israel. It has urged all involved parties to exercise restraint, cease hostilities immediately, and safeguard civilians to prevent further deterioration of the situation. China emphasised the unsustainable status quo in the peace process and advocated for the implementation of a two-state solution, leading to the establishment of an independent State of Palestine. China called for increased international commitment to the Palestinian issue, urging swift resumption of peace talks between Palestine and Israel. The Chinese Foreign Ministry emphasised its ongoing collaboration with the international community to achieve these objectives. The Chinese Foreign Ministry has called upon all concerned parties to exercise restraint and promptly cease hostilities to ensure the safety of civilians.

- In reaction to China's stance, the Israeli Embassy in Beijing said it was “expecting a ‘stronger condemnation’ of Hamas,” asserting that “the timing was inappropriate for calls for a two-state solution when people are being slaughtered in the streets.”

### **2- India:**

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed deep shock in response to the attack on Israel, expressing unwavering solidarity with Israel.

### **3- Japan:**

- Japan strongly condemned the firing of rockets and the incursion into Israeli territory by Hamas and other Palestinian fighters from the Gaza Strip. The nation extended condolences to the families of the victims and expressed heartfelt sympathy to the wounded. Japan urged all involved parties to exercise maximum restraint to prevent further damage and loss. Additionally, Japan expressed deep concern about the casualties in the Gaza Strip resulting from attacks by the Israeli Defence Forces.
- The country affirmed its commitment to taking all possible measures to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals in both Israel and the Gaza Strip. Japan emphasised its ongoing efforts to communicate with Israelis and Palestinians, working towards de-escalation in close coordination with the international community.

### **4- South Korea:**

- The Government of the Republic of Korea vehemently condemns the indiscriminate attacks on Israel originating from Gaza, particularly denouncing rocket attacks, and urges an immediate cessation of these assaults. Additionally, the government expresses profound concern regarding the significant number of civilian casualties resulting from these attacks and extends its deepest condolences to the victims and their families.

### **5- North Korea:**

- The President of North Korea has voiced support for Palestine and the Palestinian cause, emphasising that the issue transcends regional boundaries and extends beyond the confines of Arab and Muslim communities. The President underscored that the Palestine issue is fundamentally about freedom.

### **6- Pakistan:**

- Pakistan is closely monitoring the unfolding situation in the Middle East, expressing deep concern about the escalating hostilities between Israel and the Palestinians and the associated human cost. The nation consistently advocates for a two-state solution as the pivotal element for achieving lasting peace in the Middle East. Pakistan emphasises the importance of a just, comprehensive, and enduring resolution to the

Palestinian issue in accordance with international law and aligned with relevant resolutions from the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Furthermore, Pakistan asserts the necessity of establishing a viable, sovereign, and contiguous State of Palestine based on the pre-1967 borders, designating Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. The country calls upon the international community to take collective action to halt hostilities, protect civilians, and contribute to the establishment of lasting peace in the Middle East.

### **7- Southeast Asian Countries:**

**Indonesia:** Indonesia expresses deep concern about the escalating conflict between Palestine and Israel. The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement, emphasises the urgent need for an immediate cessation of violence to prevent further casualties.

**Thailand:** The Thai government extends its deepest condolences to the government and people of Israel, strongly condemning the attack that tragically resulted in the loss of life and injury to civilians. Thailand also expresses concern for the safety of all foreigners, including Thai citizens, and is actively engaged with relevant authorities to ensure the safety and protection of Thai citizens in Israel.

**Philippines:** The Philippines condemns the escalation of fighting, particularly attacks against civilian populations. The Philippine government acknowledges the right of states to self-defence under the United Nations Charter in response to external aggression. Simultaneously, the Philippine government is actively taking measures to protect Filipino workers in Israel amid the current situation.

### **8- Iran:**

- The Iranian Foreign Ministry dismissed accusations of Tehran's involvement in operations in Palestine as politically motivated attempts to justify Israel's actions. It asserted that the dispatch of a US aircraft carrier to the Mediterranean constitutes active participation in Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. The ministry emphasised the Palestinian resistance's capability and determination to defend their people, expressing

hope for collective measures from the Islamic world to support Palestinians against Israeli actions.

- Additionally, the Iranian President reached out to the leaders of both Hamas and Islamic Jihad, underscoring Iran's support for the Palestinian resistance. Iran has called for an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to address regional developments.

### **9- Australia:**

- The Australian government has called for restraint to safeguard civilian lives amidst the ongoing conflict in southern Israel and the Gaza Strip.

### **10- New Zealand:**

- New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins said his country “unequivocally condemns Hamas' attacks on Israel, and is horrified by the targeting of civilians and the taking of hostages which violate fundamental international humanitarian principles.” He highlighted New Zealand's classification of the military wing of Hamas as a terrorist organisation and reiterated the country's recognition of Israel's right to defend itself. Additionally, New Zealand called for restraint, the protection of non-combatants, and adherence to international humanitarian law by all parties involved.

### **Second: The Americas:**

- The assessment indicates that American diplomacy, up to the present moment, cannot be deemed unsuccessful in achieving a ceasefire agreement because it did not actively pursue one. This lack of pursuit is underscored by what is perceived as an unprecedented green light given to Tel Aviv to proceed with its aggression. The US Secretary of State has limited his statements to expressing support for "humanitarian truces" on multiple occasions, a stance that Israeli officials have rejected.

- The Pentagon's communication to Congress, as conveyed in an official letter signed by Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, outlined that the US Army will not offer protection for any US parliamentary delegations visiting Israel. Secretary Austin explained that these restrictions were imposed due to the perceived unjustified risks and burdens on service members who would be tasked with providing support to members of Congress during visits to Israel. (Source: CBS News)

- Within the US State Department, sources indicate that American ambassadors of Arab origin and other diplomats have utilised a discreet official channel by sending numerous protest telegrams to Secretary of State Blinken's office. These telegrams serve as a confidential mechanism, allowing ambassadors and diplomats to voice their objections on specific matters to the Minister of Foreign Affairs without compromising their positions within the Ministry. (Source: Foreign Policy)

- While the Biden administration's unwavering support for Israel persists, a surge in popular anger is evident across numerous American cities, with Washington, DC being a focal point. Tens of thousands gathered in front of the White House, chanting "Liberate Palestine," and displaying Palestinian flags and banners with messages such as "Stop the occupation" and "Stop shooting now." Large demonstrations unfolded in various American cities, expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and condemning Israeli massacres. Demonstrators collectively called for an end to Israeli aggression against Gaza, the lifting of the siege on the Gaza Strip, and the immediate entry of humanitarian aid.

- According to CNN, 66 percent of Americans are calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Notably, 80 percent of Democrats express the same sentiment, indicating significant opposition within President Biden's party to his policies in this conflict. Concurrently, the US House of Representatives approved providing aid totalling \$14.3 billion to Israel as part of its "war against Hamas," setting the stage for potential confrontation in the Senate.

- Josh Paul, an official at the US State Department with over 11 years of experience in the Office of Political and Military Affairs, publicly announced his resignation from his position. In his post on his official LinkedIn account, Paul stated that he could no longer support key policy decisions, citing concerns about rushing more weapons to one side of the conflict, which he views as short-sighted, destructive, and unfair. He emphasised that he cannot endorse further US military aid for Israel, expressing his objection to contributing to actions that lead to the killing of Palestinian civilians. The Washington Post characterises Paul's departure as a rare instance of internal dissent within President Biden's foreign policy apparatus, representing a public display of opposition to the administration's strong support for Israel.

- In recent days, tens of thousands of Americans, along with members of the Palestinian, Arab, and other communities, participated in demonstrations across several US cities, including Washington, Chicago, California, New

York, Houston, Dallas, and Michigan. The demonstrators voiced strong condemnation of the aggression on Gaza, raising Palestinian flags and displaying banners that affirmed the Palestinians' right to resist occupation. Moreover, these banners rejected the characterisation of resistance as terrorism and called for an end to the Israeli occupation, the liberation of Palestine, the release of all prisoners from occupation detention centers, and a cessation of American support for Israel.

- Numerous student groups organised vigils and protests, some of which resulted in direct confrontations between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel groups. Notably, a significant controversy emerged at Harvard University when dozens of student groups endorsed a letter from the "Harvard Solidarity Committee," stating that Israel bears "full responsibility for all acts of violence" with regard to Palestine. The letter faced considerable backlash from various quarters, including students, faculty, prominent alumni, politicians, and even the president of Harvard University. Subsequently, several groups retracted their support for the letter.

- Colombia, Chile, and Honduras have decided to withdraw their ambassadors from Israel, indicating a diplomatic response to the ongoing conflict. Furthermore, Bolivia and Belize have taken a more severe measure by cutting off their diplomatic relations with Israel. Venezuela's relations with Israel have remained severed since the 2009 attack on Gaza. Notably, Cuba does not formally recognise Israel as a state. These diplomatic actions underscore the international repercussions and responses to the conflict.

- Uruguay, Panama, and Haiti opted for abstention in the voting on Resolution ES-10/21 during the General Assembly's special session on October 27, 2023. In contrast, Guatemala and Paraguay cast "no" votes. This indicates a varied stance among these countries regarding the resolution, highlighting the diversity of perspectives within the General Assembly on the matter.

The administration is closely monitoring the unfolding developments in the Gaza Strip and the reported use of internationally prohibited weapons, leading to the targeting of defenceless civilians, including children and women, as well as critical infrastructure. In response to these concerning events, the administration has taken the following actions:

1. In response to the statement made by the Minister of Heritage in the Israeli government on November 5, 2023, regarding the possibility of

dropping a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip, the administration has drafted a letter addressed to Mr. Rafael Grossi, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This letter condemns the statement, characterising it as a call for genocide. The letter affirms the administration's concern about the extremism and brutality of the Israeli occupation, which is accused of committing serious violations against the Palestinian people, thereby violating international norms and conventions. The administration has requested Mr. Grossi to take appropriate action in his capacity as the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

2. The administration has actively raised awareness of the reported violations and crimes of genocide against civilians in the Gaza Strip during its participation in the 15th session of the Amman Security Forum in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

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