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The stances of various geographical groups concerning developments in Gaza

The European Union and some European countries:

Open discussions within the European Union are underway regarding whether to advocate for a humanitarian ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Ireland have recently expressed clear support for this initiative. In Luxembourg on 23 October, European Union Foreign Policy Coordinator Josep Borrell indicated openness to pressing for a ceasefire.

Contrarily, Germany has opposed calls for a humanitarian ceasefire in the EU concerning the Gaza Strip. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock stated that combating terrorism is necessary, pointing to ongoing intense missile attacks against Israel. She emphasised that there can be no peace and security for Israel and the Palestinians unless terrorism is addressed. Austria and the Czech Republic share a similar position to Germany on this matter.

- France:

French President Emmanuel Macron arrived in Tel Aviv to express France's full solidarity with Israel following the Hamas attack. Macron called for the preservation of civilian lives in Gaza while acknowledging Israel's massive airstrikes in response, with the stated aim of dismantling the Hamas movement. He also advocated for a humanitarian truce to facilitate aid delivery to the Gaza Strip, currently under complete siege, and the release of hostages held by Hamas since the initial attack. During discussions with his Israeli counterpart, Macron affirmed that France's primary goal is the release of those detained in the Strip, pledging comprehensive support to Israel.

European Commission:

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen unequivocally stated that there is no justification for the bombing of the Baptist Hospital in Gaza City. She called for a swift establishment of facts and emphasised the importance of holding those responsible accountable. She said: "Israel has the right to defend itself within the framework of humanitarian and international law. However, the recent tragic incident of bombing a hospital in Gaza, where hundreds of wounded were housed, has left us all shocked. The hospital has now become a devastating inferno. The scenes from the hospital are both terrifying and painful. There is no justification for bombing a hospital full of civilians. It is imperative to establish all the facts, and those responsible must be held accountable." In this challenging time, Von der Leyen called for intensified efforts to protect civilians from the brutality of the ongoing war, extending condolences to the families of the victims.

Council of Europe President Charles Michel also condemned the Israeli bombing of the Baptist Hospital and the loss of hundreds of Palestinian lives. He explicitly stated that "targeting civilian facilities constitutes a violation of international law."

- Poland:

Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a strong call for an immediate de-escalation of the military conflict between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. This urgent appeal follows the bombing of a hospital in Gaza, resulting in the tragic loss of hundreds of civilian lives. The Ministry expressed "Poland's deep anger at the unacceptable toll on innocent civilians due to what it described as Israeli aggression. The shocking reports about the atrocities at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza only intensify this sense of horror."

In no uncertain terms, the ministry stressed "the imperative of protecting civilians in accordance with international law." It further urged "all parties involved to take decisive actions to de-escalate the conflict," emphasising the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities to prevent further loss of innocent lives.

- Italy:

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has conveyed her “profound sadness” in response to the bombing of a hospital in Gaza, resulting in an estimated 500 casualties. “While awaiting final confirmation of the incident's details, Italy reiterates its commitment to safeguarding the civilian population and urgently addressing pressing humanitarian issues.” Meloni emphasised the need for a swift resolution to the crisis.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Taiani expressed his indignation and sorrow over the hundreds of victims at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza. He stressed that, especially in the midst of a conflict, prioritising the protection of the civilian population must be an absolute and unwavering commitment.

- Greece:

The Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly condemned the missile attack on the Baptist Hospital in the Gaza Strip, denouncing the resulting loss and injury of hundreds of lives. The ministry expressed deep dismay at the tragic events that unfolded at the Gaza Hospital, describing the loss of human life as extremely painful.

“From the outset, Greece has consistently emphasised the imperative to protect civilians and uphold fundamental human values.” The ministry affirmed Greece's unwavering commitment to this position, underlining its dedication to advocating for the safeguarding of civilian lives and the preservation of human dignity in times of conflict.

- Cyprus:

The Cypriot Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a strong condemnation of the Israeli attack on the Baptist Hospital in Gaza, describing it as resulting in the “tragic loss of civilian lives.” The ministry emphasised the critical importance of respecting international humanitarian law and urged for an immediate de-escalation of the situation.

Expressing strong disapproval of the attack on the Gaza Hospital and the consequent loss of many civilian lives, the ministry underscored the imperative not to target medical facilities under any circumstances. It further reiterated the call to consistently respect international humanitarian law, emphasising the need for an immediate cessation of the escalation of violence.

- Russia:

Deputy Chairman of the Russian National Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, has characterised the deadly attack on Baptist Hospital as a "heinous military crime." In assigning responsibility, he has placed ultimate blame on the United States for this tragic incident.

- The United States:

The United States State Department spokesman, Matthew Miller, rejected the idea of a ceasefire by Israel in the Gaza Strip, citing concerns that it would benefit the Hamas movement. He argued that a ceasefire would "provide Hamas with the opportunity to rest, recover, and prepare for continued terrorist attacks against Israel."

- The United Nations:

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, emphasised that the grievances of the Palestinian people are legitimate and longstanding. He acknowledged the broader context of these tragic events, noting the enduring nature of the long-term conflict and 56 years of occupation with no apparent resolution. Guterres called for an immediate ceasefire on humanitarian grounds.

- Asian countries:

- **China:** The Chinese Foreign Minister conveyed to his Israeli counterpart Beijing's commitment to contributing to Palestinian-Israeli reconciliation. China expressed strong support for decisions leading to peace, framing the conflict as a pivotal choice between war and peace. While condemning acts of violence and attacks on civilians, China remarked that Israel's actions exceeded the boundaries of self-defence. On 24 October 2023, China called for an international peace conference. These statements were made ahead of the Chinese Foreign Minister's planned visit to Washington from 26 to 28 October.
- **Pakistan:** Interim Pakistani Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Akbar urged UN Secretary-General António Guterres to intervene and play a role in halting Israeli violence against the Palestinians.
- **Japan:** The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed deep dissatisfaction with the harm inflicted on innocent civilians and extended sympathy to the victims, their families, and those injured. Japan urged all parties to adhere to international law to prevent further civilian casualties. The ministry emphasised its commitment to intensifying efforts to ensure the safety of civilians, de-escalate tensions, and swiftly calm the situation.
- **India:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India expressed dissatisfaction and shock following the bombing of Al-Ahly Baptist Hospital. He emphasised the need for accountability for those involved in the events in Gaza.
- **Bangladesh:** Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condemned the attack, renewing her call to world leaders to halt the war and the arms race for the sake of humanity's welfare.

-The African Union:

The President of the African Union, Moussa Faki Mahamat, has strongly accused Israel of committing a "war crime" in the aftermath of the bloody attack on the Baptist Hospital in Gaza. He expressed "the difficulty of

finding words that fully convey the condemnation of the Israeli bombing, which led to the tragic loss of hundreds of lives.” Mahamat called on the international community to take decisive action in response to the situation.

- Some Latin American countries:

- **Brazil:** President Lula da Silva of Brazil commended Egypt's role in addressing the Palestinian issue, particularly through the Cairo Peace Summit. He emphasised the imperative to halt the bombing in the Gaza Strip and referred to Brazil's resolution submitted to the Security Council, which garnered 12 supportive votes but faced objection from the United States. Lula da Silva characterised the hospital raid that resulted in hundreds of deaths as an "inexcusable tragedy" and reiterated his call for international humanitarian intervention and a ceasefire, emphasising that innocent lives should not bear the consequences of the ravages of war.
- **Argentina:** Argentina reported that seven of its citizens were killed in attacks launched by Palestinian factions in Israel, with around 15 others listed as missing. Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero announced that approximately 625 Argentine citizens in Israel had requested repatriation. Buenos Aires witnessed various events and marches in solidarity with the Palestinian people, underscoring the impact of the conflict on the Argentine community and the broader international call for peace.