

Russia, Turkey Say Creation of Palestinian State Only Solution to Conflict

ANKARA (Dispatches) – Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says that creating a Palestinian state was the “most reliable” solution for peace in the Israeli-occupied territories and that fighting alone would not ensure security.

Lavrov spoke on Monday during a news conference with the head of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, who visited Russia after Hamas, the Palestinian resistance movement in Gaza, launched a massive surprise attack on Saturday.

Creating a “Palestinian state that would live side by side with Israel ... is the most reliable path to solve [the conflict]”, Lavrov said.

“We cannot agree with those who say that security can only be ensured through a fight.”

He said Moscow was “deeply concerned” that hundreds have died and that the Gaza has been declared a target for Israeli attacks.



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Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that lasting peace in the Middle East is only possible through the settlement of the Palestinian-Zionist conflict, including the establishment of a Palestinian State with

East Al-Quds as its capital, Anadolu news agency reported.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of St. Ephrem Syriac Ancient Orthodox Church in Yesilkoy on the European side of Istanbul, Erdogan said the realization of an in-

dependent and geographically integrated Palestinian state based on 1967 borders, with East Al-Quds as the capital, “could not be delayed any longer”.

Turkey, he added, was determined to ramp up diplomatic efforts to achieve calm in the fighting between Zionist and Palestinian forces, but added that a so-called two-state solution was the only way to achieve regional peace.

The Turkish president has stressed on the importance of the city of Al-Quds for Muslims and Christians, adding that “the Palestine issue stands as the root cause of the problems in our region.”

“Our region will remain craving peace unless a just settlement is reached,” he added.

He also emphasized that any steps that will escalate tensions in the region, “lead to more bloodshed and deepen the problems should be avoided.”

Arab League Calls on UN to Add Zionist Regime to ‘List of Shame’

CAIRO (Dispatches) – The Arab League has called on the United Nations to add Israel to its annual “list of shame” of countries that commit violations against children in armed conflicts.

Assistant Secretary-General of the League Haifa Abu Ghazaleh made the appeal in a speech at the 54th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council in the Swiss city of Geneva on Sunday, under item seven of the council’s agenda concerned with the human rights situation in the oc-

cupied Palestinian territories.

In her speech, Abu Ghazaleh stressed the need to put pressure on Israel to halt its settlement expansion policies, arming settlers, violations of Islamic and Christian sanctities and its discriminatory measures against Palestinians, including seizing lands, demolishing homes and property, and stealing wealth and natural resources.

She also emphasized on the importance of ensuring international protection for Palestinians by sending international

observers and UN committees and enabling them to enter the occupied Palestinian territories.

Abu Ghazaleh further called for immediate action to release Palestinian prisoners who are held under the so-called administrative detention in Israeli jails.

Back in July, a report by the director of the Palestine Center for Prisoners’ Studies (PCPS) revealed that Israeli forces have arrested as many as 570 Palestinian minors since the beginning of 2023.

The Palestinian resistance

movement, Hamas, said in early June that the international community needs to intervene to end Israel’s violations against Palestinian children.

In the occupied West Bank, Hamas added, Israel keeps kidnapping and jailing minors, and in some cases even kills them, places them under house arrest or uses them as human shields.

Hamas has already called on the UN to include Israel in its annual List of Shame for its violations against Palestinian children.

EU Suspends Development Aid to Palestine

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) – The European Commission announced on Monday that it will suspend development aid to Palestine after the recent developments in the occupied territories.

EU Commissioner for Neighborhood Oliver Varhelyi said on X that the EU executive body puts on hold its “full development portfolio” of €691 million (\$729 million).

“There can be no business as usual,” he added.

Top EU officials, including Euro-

pean Council chief Charles Michel, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and EU top diplomat Josep Borrell, took sides with the Zionist regime in the ongoing Palestinian operation against the occupying regime.

The Gaza-based resistance group Hamas launched Operation Al-Aqsa Flood against the regime early Saturday, firing a barrage of rockets. It said the surprise attack was in response to the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East

Al-Quds and increased settler violence.

The Zionist regime’s army launched Operation Swords of Iron against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

At least 800 Zionists have been killed and over 2,300 others wounded in the fighting, according to the occupying regime’s health ministry.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said that over 560 Palestinians died and over 2,900 were wounded.

Meanwhile, Arab League foreign ministers will meet Wednesday to discuss the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip following a surprise assault by Hamas on the regime, the regional bloc announced.

The “extraordinary meeting” in Cairo will seek to find “avenues of political action at the Arab and international level,” as the regime keeps pounding targets in Gaza following Saturday’s attack, Arab League deputy chief Hossam Zaki said in a statement.

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The occupying regime’s chief military spokesperson said Israel has drafted a record 300,000 reservists as it is “going on the offensive”.

Since Saturday’s surprise operation by Hamas, Israeli aircraft have been pounding Gaza targets while its ground forces have struggled to retake control of villages and towns overrun by Palestinian fighters.

On Monday, fighting was still raging at seven or eight locations inside the occupied territories captured by the fighters.

“It’s taking more time than we expected to get things back into a defensive, security posture,” Israeli Lt. Col. Richard Hecht told a briefing with journalists.

Hamas fighters were continuing to cross into “Israel” from Gaza, Hecht said.

An informed Palestinian official said some Israeli military personnel collaborated with resistance groups with regard to logistics and intelligence in the surprise operation.

The informed source told Tasnim that some of the information obtained from the “infiltration spots” had been acquired through long-time collaboration of certain Israeli military personnel with the resistance groups.

“During Al-Aqsa Flood, the information played a crucial role in facilitating the infiltration of forces into Israeli districts, especially the military bases surrounding Gaza,” the source said.

The official underlined that the cooperation has not been limited to intelligence and the Palestinians have for a long time been procuring a large part of their equipment from the soldiers and the body of the Israeli military.

Tasnim said numerous reports in Hebrew-language news outlets have underscored the importance of bolstered security measures within the Israeli military as the issue of drug addiction among Israeli soldiers, particularly reservists, had made many soldiers exchange their weapons for money or narcotics with Palestinians.

In the occupied territories, sirens sounded in the Tel Aviv area and Al-Quds, and witnesses in the latter city heard explosions that may have been from rocket impacts.

The Israeli military said more than 700 Zionists have been killed since Hamas launched Operation Al-Aqsa Flood on Saturday, but Yediot Ahronot said it estimated there were 1,000 deaths among the Israelis.

Hamas has said the surprise, unprecedented operation came in response to Israel’s crimes against Palestinians in the occupied territories, its 16-year-old blockade of Gaza and the regime’s violations at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The group fired thousands of missiles toward Zionist targets and managed to take control of a vast area near Gaza.

Islamic Jihad Secretary General Ziad al-Nakhala has said the number of Israeli forces and settlers that have been captured by the resistance fighters and taken into Gaza amounts to “dozens and more.”

In a sign of direct involvement, the U.S. announced that it was sending additional weapons and munitions to Israel and moving an aircraft carrier to the eastern Mediterranean closer to the occupied territories.

Austin said he has ordered the USS Gerald R. Ford to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist the occupying regime.

Hamas slammed the U.S. aid as an “aggression” against Palestinians.

The Kremlin said there is a “high risk” of a third party entering the conflict.

“The risk of third forces becoming involved in this conflict is high,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying by the TASS news agency.

“It is very important to find ways as soon as possible to move towards some kind of negotiation process in order to reduce this escalation and move away from a military solution,” he said.

A senior official with Lebanon’s Hezbollah resistance movement, Hashem Safieddine, also warned that the move will lead to a regional escalation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said during a meeting with Secretary General of the League of Arab States Ahmed Aboul Gheit in Moscow that it is necessary to “urgently stop clashes” between Israel and Hamas to spare civilian victims.

He also said there is a need to “pay special attention to the reasons why a solution to the Palestinian problem has not been found for decades.”

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Mekdad, for his part, hailed Iran’s support for the Syrian government and nation, emphasizing that terrorism is condemned all over the world and those who killed innocent people in Homs are the same individuals who are now murdering Palestinians and committing crimes in Palestine.

“We also appreciate the Islamic Republic of Iran’s constant support for and positive role in the establishment of peace and stability across the region. We are grateful for your support for the Syrian government, nation and President Bashar al-Assad. We are sure that the resistance front is fairly sensitive to the interests of Muslim countries and will defend them whenever need be,” the senior Syrian diplomat said.

Polish President: Mideast Tensions Add to Migration Pressure on EU

WARSAW (Dispatches) – The current escalation and conflicts in the Middle East will start a wave of migration towards Europe.

Poland’s President Andrzej Duda said on Sunday “We will likely have another wave of migrants from the Middle East, which will hit Europe ... Our security, protection of Poland’s borders, of course, also the borders of the European Union and the Schengen zone, becomes even more important.”

Since mid-2021, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia have seen an increase in the number of mainly Middle Eastern and African migrants trying to enter from Belarus, which they accuse of facilitating such crossings, a claim Minsk rejects.

Migration and interior ministers from five EU countries most affected by migration across the Mediterranean — Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, and Spain — have taken a hard line on returning migrants who

crossed the bloc illegally to their countries of origin.

They argued that more extreme voices will take over if Europe does not tackle the problem decisively.

The ministers from the Med 5 group hailed the new EU pact on migration but said more resources were needed.

They met in Thessaloniki, Greece, on Friday and Saturday.

Greek Migration and Asylum Minister Dimitris Kairidis, who hosted the sixth meeting of the Med 5, and European Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas congratulated the Spanish presidency of the EU for “doing what is humanly possible” to arrive at a compromise agreement.

The Med 5 agreed on taking a hard line on migrant crossings but also emphasized cooperation with the countries of migration origin.

“It is important to encourage repatriation,” said Italian Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi.

In a press conference, Schinas took issue with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, who said Hungary was “legally raped” on Friday by its fellow EU members.

“Before he talks about rape, he should study the European Treaty,” he said, adding that decisions on migration are taken on an enhanced majority basis. Hungary and Poland were the two dissenters at an EU summit in Granada, arguing for a tougher approach.

“Personally, I would have preferred unanimity,” added Schinas. “But you cannot reach an understanding with someone who doesn’t want to.”

Kairidis added that Orbán is a warning of what could happen if EU does not develop viable solutions.