

► US failed diplomacy enables killings in Middle East: experts

Gaza war 'has been raging for too long'

By Yang Sheng

The UN Security Council on Wednesday heard a growing call for an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas following the killings by the latter of six hostages held in Gaza as speakers also discussed the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip and escalating tensions in the West Bank.

Chinese analysts said that hope for peace is still fragile, as the US' failed diplomacy that weakened the role of the UN Security Council has enabled the killings in the Middle East.

Ambassador Geng Shuang, deputy permanent representative of China to the UN, said

at the UN Security Council briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question on Wednesday that "next week will mark the 11th month of the conflict in Gaza. Despite repeated international efforts and repeated international calls for a ceasefire and an end to all hostilities, there is still no sign of easing or de-escalation."

"This war has been raging for too long. Ceasefire negotiations have been delayed for too long. And the suffering of the population has persisted for too long time. It's time to put an end to all these," Geng said.

Reuters reported that Patience is running out among

United Nations Security Council members and the 15-member body will likely consider taking action if a ceasefire cannot soon be brokered between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Slovenia's UN envoy, council president for September, said on Tuesday.

"There is a raising anxiousness in the council that it has to move one way or the other – either there is a ceasefire or that the council then reflects on what else we can do to bring the ceasefire," said Slovenia's UN Ambassador Samuel Zbogor.

Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told

the Global Times on Thursday that since the outbreak of this round of the Palestine-Israel conflict in October 2023, the international community has never stopped calling for peace and a cease-fire. But Israel can always withstand the pressure and continue the killings in the Gaza Strip. This is because the US' unconditional support has weakened the role of the UN Security Council and encouraged Israel to continue the actions.

Although US President Joe Biden has also called for peace and put pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from time to time, Washington is enabling Israel's

operation not only in the Gaza Strip, but also in other regional countries, said Li Xinggang, a research fellow at the Institute for Studies on the Mediterranean Rim at Zhejiang International Studies University.

Li said that "the reason why the Biden administration appears to call for a cease-fire is that Washington wants to ease the pressure from the international community and the American people that complain and protest about the US' role in this crisis."

Chinese experts are not optimistic about the future of Gaza, as the US-dominated mediation has proved to be ineffective time and time again.

► Warm welcome



Prisoners are welcomed by their relatives after being granted amnesty by Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on the 25th anniversary of his accession to power in Bahrain, on September 5, 2024. Bahrain's government said the pardon of the 457 prisoners "further demonstrates Bahrain's commitment to criminal justice," according to media reports.
Photo: VCG

Japan-Australia security talks 'jeopardize regional stability, world peace'

By Xu Keyue

With multiple references to China-related issues, Japan and Australia vowed to bolster military ties to cope with an increasingly complex regional situation during their "two-plus-two" security meeting in Australia on Thursday, which Chinese observers warn would jeopardize peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and raise deep concerns among regional countries.

The bilateral security talks, this time in Australia two years after the two allies held such meetings in Tokyo, apparently seek forming a collaboration network in the region backed by the US, with China seen as the main target, observers pointed out.

China believes that defense and security cooperation between countries should be conducive to keeping the region peaceful and stable and nurturing mutual trust between regional countries, and should not target any third party, said Mao Ning, spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, on Thursday's press briefing.

Chinese observers pointed out the irony of the two countries' collusion in recent years, citing history during World War II (WWII) when Japan was both an aggressor and a defeated nation while Australia was involved in the Pacific War against Japan.

Currently, Japan is increasingly eager to align itself with the US and other allies like Australia and South Korea, particularly as it seeks to pursue the path of a "normal country," which threatens to undermine the post-WWII international order, said Lü Chao, a research fellow at the Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences.

The promotion of Japan-Australia cooperation came as the US launched the so-called Indo-Pacific Strategy and stepped up its pressure to push forward coordination among allies and partners in an attempt to contain China and undermine its peaceful development, said Chen Hong, executive director of Asia Pacific Studies Centre at East China Normal University.

PLA Army helicopters practice replenishment on maritime platform

By Liu Xuanzun

Multiple types of helicopters of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Army recently conducted replenishment on a maritime platform, a tactic experts said on Thursday enables the choppers to return to the frontline faster in cross-sea operations.

A brigade affiliated with the PLA 71st Group Army recently organized its helicopters to conduct a takeoff and landing training on a maritime platform in the Yellow Sea during a littoral exercise, according to China Central Television (CCTV) on Wednesday.

After completing a defense penetration operation, a formation of various helicopter types chose a maritime relay platform to land and re-

plenish fuel and munitions, enabling a quicker return to combat, CCTV reported, noting that during the replenishment, the helicopters received supplies without turning off their engines.

The CCTV report showed that the maritime platform is a large ship with a large helicopter deck, and the helicopters involved in the drill included the Z-19 attack helicopter and the Z-20 utility helicopter.

Utilizing large maritime platforms for helicopter replenishment saves the time needed for helicopters to return to land bases, significantly enhancing combat efficiency, a Chinese military expert who requested anonymity told the Global Times on Thursday.

If helicopters are damaged during a mission, they can also conduct

emergency landings on the maritime platforms, which could save them from crashing, the expert said.

The mobile maritime platforms can sail to safe positions under the escort of other warships and warplanes, the expert said, noting that they serve as good additions to the PLA Navy's amphibious assault ships and amphibious landing ships that also have large helicopter decks.

Observers noted that PLA Army helicopters often participate in maritime exercises. In another recent drill, conducted by a brigade affiliated with the PLA 83rd Group Army over the Bohai Sea, Z-8L transport helicopters, Z-20 utility helicopters as well as Z-10 and Z-19 attack helicopters practiced low-air defense penetration and fire strikes, according to a separate CCTV report on Wednesday.

