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## **The stances of various geographical groups concerning the war on Gaza**

### **The European Union and some European Countries:**

- On 26 October 2023, European leaders convened at the Brussels summit to discuss various issues, with a primary focus on the Israeli war on Gaza. Divergent opinions on ways to halt the aggression were evident among the leaders. Ahead of the two-day summit, the Prime Minister of Hungary remarked, "The issue is decisive, opinions are divergent, and the discussions will be deep."

The Prime Minister of Ireland conveyed, "The European Union calls for a humanitarian truce, and in Ireland, there is significant sympathy for the Palestinian people."

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte, urged Israel to take responsibility for facilitating the arrival of humanitarian aid. Xavier Bettel, the outgoing Prime Minister of Luxembourg, called for a cessation of hostilities and encouraged consideration of all initiatives leading to a ceasefire. The Prime Minister of Spain emphasised the necessity for the international community to convene a peace summit within the next six months to facilitate a peace agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis.

- Subsequent to the European Summit in Brussels, leaders of the European Union issued a statement calling for the cessation of the siege on Gaza. They underscored the urgency of expeditiously delivering humanitarian aid, establishing secure humanitarian corridors, and implementing a humanitarian truce to provide unimpeded aid to the Gaza Strip. The statement emphasised the paramount

importance of protecting civilians at all times, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and the imperative to avoid further escalation.

### **• The Vatican:**

On 29 October 2023, during his weekly prayers, Pope Francis made a heartfelt plea for a ceasefire to bring about peace in the world, particularly in light of the perilous conditions in Palestine. He underscored the critical significance of delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza promptly and urged the immediate release of hostages. The Pope emphasised the imperative need to earnestly pursue a ceasefire for the sake of peace.

### **. Russia:**

. On 30 October 2023, Dmitry Peskov, the spokesperson for the Russian presidency, announced that Russia maintains a firm position, urging the Hamas movement to promptly release all the hostages it currently holds. Peskov emphasised that Russia is actively utilising all available means to establish communication with both conflicting parties and all concerned entities in order to secure the release of the detained Russian hostages. Hamas, on the other hand, asserts the necessity of an immediate ceasefire and the pursuit of a settlement based on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

. In response to Russia's stance, which perceives the West as exacerbating the ongoing conflict in Gaza and calls for an end to the war, as well as its opposition to an American resolution supportive of Israel, and its reception of a Hamas delegation, Israel summoned the Russian ambassador in protest and

characterized Russia's positions as disappointing. The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement expressing its regret over the situation, stating that its officials conveyed to the Russian ambassador that the invitation extended to the Hamas movement conveys a message that legitimises what it refers to as "terrorism against Israelis".

### **The United States:**

- On 30 October 2023, John Kirby, the spokesman for the US National Security Council, stated that the United States does not endorse a ceasefire between Israel and the Hamas movement. He emphasised that these calls should be replaced by a temporary humanitarian truce aimed at facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid. The current focus of the US administration is on ensuring a secure passage out of Gaza. Additionally, they reject any appeals or initiatives in the United Nations and the Security Council for an immediate ceasefire.
- On 1 November 2023, the President of the United States announced his support for a "pause" in the conflict between Hamas and Israel. This pause is intended to permit the departure of "prisoners" from the Gaza Strip.

### **Asian countries:**

- **China:** On 31 October 2023, the spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry declared that China remains committed to actively contributing to a comprehensive, just, and enduring resolution of the Palestinian issue. He

underscored the crisis arising from the prolonged illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, emphasising the need to recognise the Palestinian people's right to establish an independent country.

- **India:** The Prime Minister of India, on 18 October 2023, expressed profound shock in response to the Israeli occupation's bombing of the Baptist Hospital in Gaza, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives and numerous injuries. He extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, called for a swift recovery for the wounded, and deemed the civilian casualties in the ongoing conflict a matter of grave and persistent concern. He emphasised the necessity of holding those responsible accountable for their actions.

### **African countries:**

- **South Africa:** In a statement dated 30 October 2023, the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged the United Nations to deploy a rapid force to safeguard civilians in the Palestinian Gaza Strip. This appeal was prompted by the intense and escalating bombing by Israel in response to an attack by the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas). South Africa proposed the establishment of a Protection Force, emphasising its staunch support for the Palestinians, surpassing that of many other nations. While some countries advocated for a ceasefire or the creation of a humanitarian corridor to facilitate aid entry into Gaza, South Africa's statement highlighted the devastating impact on entire generations of families in Gaza over the preceding three weeks. It noted “the tragic loss of

25 individuals, including family members of a member of the Palestinian community in Johannesburg, killed in an Israeli airstrike. Furthermore, family members of a senior Palestinian diplomat in South Africa were killed in their residential building the day before.”

### **Some Latin American countries:**

- **Brazil:** On 30 October 2023, the President of Brazil affirmed his country's commitment to United Nations directives. Brazil does not classify Hamas as a terrorist group, aligning with the UN's position on the matter. The President criticised the Israeli Prime Minister, describing his actions as an attempt to completely annihilate the Gaza Strip, expressing concern for the well-being of children and women.
- **Argentina:** The Argentine Foreign Minister, on 27 October 2023, disclosed that he sought United Nations mediation for the release of Argentine hostages in Gaza. Argentina had sent humanitarian aid to the region. The Foreign Minister unequivocally rejected terrorist operations and expressed support for a humanitarian truce.