

► Experts warn of uncertainties given deep-rooted contradictions

Hamas says it has agreed to Gaza cease-fire proposal as crisis deepens

By Shen Sheng

Hamas has agreed to a 60-day cease-fire proposal with Israel on Monday local time that includes the release of half the hostages held in Gaza and Israel's release of some Palestinian prisoners, according to media reports. Arab mediators are awaiting a formal response from Israel.

A senior Hamas official told CNN the proposal calls for the release of 10 living hostages and 18 deceased hostages. The hostages will be released in exchange for 140 Palestinian prisoners serving life sentences and 60 serving sentences of more than 15 years. Israel will also release all Palestinian minors and female prisoners, the official said.

The proposal also entails a cease-fire during which Israeli forces redeploy to the lines specified in the Witkoff proposal, while humanitarian aid flows intensively to meet the basic needs of the population in Gaza.

According to the Reuters, the pro-

posed deal follows the mediators' meeting with Hamas representatives in Cairo on Sunday. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, the Qatari prime minister, joined the discussions on Monday and met both Egyptian President el-Sisi and Hamas representatives, said an official briefed on the meetings, according to Reuters report.

Regarding Hamas's acceptance of the proposal, Ding Long, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University said that faced with the harsh realities of the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, survival crisis, Hamas has no choice but to make compromises.

Ding noted that following the Israel-Palestine conflict, Israel finds itself in a dilemma, unable to continue its policy of sustaining politics through warfare. Domestic pressure is rising.

But judging by the failed trajectory of past talks, the announcement does not necessarily mean an end to the war is imminent, Al Jazeera noted. Over the

past two years, Hamas has accepted proposals for a cease-fire and the release of Israeli captives and Palestinian prisoners, only for Israel to reject them and insist on continuing the war.

"Cease-fire efforts are fraught with uncertainties," Ding added, indicating that the implementation of such agreements is unlikely to proceed smoothly and that significant reversals are a high probability.

Al Jazeera noted that the major sticking point has been the duration of the cease-fire. Hamas wants a permanent end to the war, but Israel has been seeking a temporary truce that would allow it to resume its destruction and displacement campaign in Gaza after its captives in the territory are released.

Zhu Yongbiao, a Middle East affairs expert at Lanzhou University, agreed, noting that the fundamental contradictions remain unresolved, making any proposed solution only a "short-term balance" after another round of negotiations.

Chinese tiltrotor aircraft draws foreign media attention amid test flight speculation

By Liu Xuanzun and Liang Rui

A Chinese tiltrotor aircraft, previously displayed as a model at exhibitions, has once again attracted foreign media attention amid test flight speculations.

Citing undated photos published this week, news website Defence Blog reported on Monday that China has flown the first prototype of a tiltrotor aircraft being developed by the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC).

The Chinese side has not announced the alleged test flight as of press time, but the aircraft was indeed shown to the public in previous exhibitions. A model of the aircraft was also displayed at AVIC's booth at AERO Asia 2023, held in Zhuhai, South China's Guangdong Province in November 2023, the military channel of China Central Television (CCTV) reported at the time.

The appearance of the Chinese aircraft bears some resemblance to the V-280 Valor, which the US Army has chosen to become its long-range assault aircraft, CCTV reporter said.

US news outlet the War Zone also noted this. Instead of the whole nacelle rotating, only the front portion pivots. This solution reportedly reduces complexity, increases reliability, and improves performance compared with earlier tiltrotor concepts where the whole nacelle rotates, like on the US-made V-22 Osprey, the report said.

The tiltrotor's configuration highlights Beijing's ambition to expand rapid transport and assault options for the People's Liberation Army (PLA), claimed Interesting Engineering.

Fu Qianshao, a Chinese aviation expert, told the Global Times on Tuesday that the transport efficiency of a tiltrotor aircraft is about three times that of a helicopter. While the highest speed of a conventional helicopter can barely reach 300 kilometers an hour, a tiltrotor aircraft could reach more than 600 kilometers an hour. It combines the advantages of a helicopter and fixed wing aircraft.

Based on the model displayed at exhibitions, Fu said that this tiltrotor uses a design that is technologically superior to the US' V-22, providing more reliability. He said he looks forward to further development of the aircraft.

Suspicious package



US Police investigate a suspicious package left outside of the Times Square police precinct in New York City, on August 18, 2025. Police were forced to evacuate parts of Times Square along 43rd Street and 7th Ave as the bomb squad investigated.

Photo: VCG

S.Korean FM signals USFK involvement in Taiwan won't be on SK-US summit agenda: media

By Feng Fan

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun signaled Monday that the possibility of US Forces Korea (USFK) intervening in an emergency over the island of Taiwan should not be placed on the agenda of Seoul-Washington summit talks, Yonhap News Agency reported. Chinese expert said Cho's remarks reflect the pragmatic diplomacy of the Lee Jae-myung administration.

During a parliamentary foreign affairs committee session, Kim Gi-hyeon, a lawmaker from the main opposition People Power Party, voiced opposition to US Forces Korea's (USFK) involvement in a possible Taiwan contingency, urging that the issue not be brought up at next week's summit.

Cho said such efforts were under way to that effect, while denying that talks with the US were taking place under the premise that Seoul could agree

to the mobilization of USFK troops and equipment for a Taiwan contingency, the Yonhap reported.

Kim Joon-hyung of the minor Rebuilding Korea Party asked about South Korea's possible involvement in such a contingency, Cho said no country should attempt to abruptly change the status quo for the sake of peace and stability in East Asia.

"South Korea is signaling it will not pick sides in the US

containment strategy against China, especially on the Taiwan question, which is China's core of core interests," said Da Zhi-gang, director of the Institute of Northeast Asian Studies at the Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences.

"This reflects South Korea's pursuit of a practical and balanced diplomacy toward China and the US," said Da.

Ties between China and South Korea have recently shown signs of improving. On

Friday, Chinese Ambassador to South Korea Dai Bing posted on social media that "Amid the current complex and turbulent international situation, strengthening friendly cooperation between China and South Korea is in the interest of both sides and aligns with the common expectations of our peoples."

