

Washington's disregard of humanitarian crisis draws harsh criticism

US vetoes Gaza resolution at UN again

By Zhang Yuying and
Liang Rui

The US on Wednesday vetoed a UN Security Council draft resolution that called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, drawing harsh criticism from most of the UN members. The US' consistent biased support of Israel and its repeated use of veto at the UN have been a major factor contributing to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, expert said.

The draft, put forward by the council's 10 non-permanent members, demanded an immediate, unconditional and per-

manent ceasefire, as well as the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

The 15-member council voted 14-1 in favor of the resolution, and the US used its veto as a permanent council member to block it.

When the US cast its first veto on October 18 last year, nearly 3,000 civilians had been killed in Gaza. By the time the US cast its second veto, 17,000 people had been killed as a result of Israeli bombardment. With its continued use of veto, when the US cast its fifth veto on April 18 this year,

the death toll in Gaza had surged to 34,000. Now, nearly 44,000 people have been killed in Gaza, and the US still does not hesitate to use its veto, Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the UN, said at a Security Council meeting on Wednesday.

The US' move to block the resolution drew harsh criticism from most of the members. "China is very disappointed with the result of today's vote," Fu said, noting that the US single use of the veto has shattered the Gazan people's hope for survival and pushed them further into darkness and des-

peration.

"The loss of each and every one of them means eternal pain for the surviving relatives. People cannot help but ask: do Palestinian lives mean nothing? Can the deaths of 44,000 people not win even a little bit of sympathy from the United States? How many more people have to die to wake them up from pretending asleep?" Fu asked.

Liu Zhongmin, a professor from the Middle East Studies Institute at Shanghai International Studies University, said the US has repeatedly abused its veto power on critical issues

like a ceasefire in Gaza, and backed Israel despite immense pressure from international community.

The expert specified that the differences between the US and its Western allies, particularly European countries, regarding the Gaza crisis are intensifying. Meanwhile, opposition to Washington from developing countries and the Islamic world has become an increasingly evident trend, Liu said.

The US' consistent biased support of Israel and its repeated use of veto is a major factor contributing to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Liu said.

Rescued at sea



Several migrants arrive at the port of La Restinga de El Hierro on the Guardamar Talia, on November 21, 2024 in Tenerife, Spain. They are among the 72 migrants who were onboard a cayuco with navigation problems, which was sighted by a merchant ship to the CCS of Tenerife. Following the alert, a rescue boat was mobilized, as well as a helicopter, which managed to pick up the migrants from the sea. Photo: VCG

New Chinese ambassador assumes post in Ukraine, 'to strengthen bilateral ties'

By GT staff reporters

Ma Shengkun, the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Ukraine, has arrived in the country to assume his post. Ma, who previously served as Deputy Director General of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, has pledged to promote cooperation, and expressed confidence in strengthening bilateral ties, he said in a statement upon arrival.

In a written statement he delivered on Wednesday upon arrival, Ma said political mutual trust has continuously deepened, pragmatic cooperation has yielded fruitful results and cultural exchanges have been vibrant between China and Ukraine over the past more than 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, which have brought tangible benefits to both countries and their peoples. Ma also pledged to promote friendship, exchanges, and cooperation.

Ma noted that the world is undergoing unprecedented changes, posing challenges to global peace, stability, and development.

China will continue to follow the path of peaceful development, firmly adhere to an independent and peaceful foreign policy, and to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, Ma said.

"As the newly appointed ambassador to Ukraine, I am keenly aware of the expectations from both governments and peoples and the significant responsibility of advancing China-Ukraine relations. It is a profound responsibility and honor," Ma said, adding that he will remember his duties, dedicate himself to his responsibilities, and work tirelessly to serve as a guardian of China-Ukraine friendship, a promoter of exchanges, and a facilitator of cooperation.

The Chinese Embassy in Ukraine issued a notice on Wednesday evening highlighting the serious security situation across Ukraine, where the entire country remains under a state of war. The embassy noted the frequent sounding of air raid alerts in recent days, with heightened risks of airstrikes and other security threats.

US acknowledges task force in SCS, 'won't change China's capability'

By Liu Xuanzun

The US has reportedly acknowledged for the first time the existence of a task force named after Philippine name of China's Ren'ai Jiao (also known as Ren'ai Reef), which is backing Philippine military activities in the South China Sea. The move could encourage the Philippines to take bolder actions that could escalate tensions, but it cannot change China's capability and determination in safeguarding its rights, Chen Xiangmiao, director of the World Navy Research Center at the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, said on Thursday.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visited a command and control center in the western Philippine province of Palawan, and in a post on X, Austin said he "met with some American service members deployed to US Task Force Ayungin," in what appeared to be the first public acknowl-

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edgment of its existence, Bloomberg reported on Thursday.

Ayungin is the Philippine name for China's Ren'ai Jiao.

The Philippine military said on Thursday the US troops provide technical assistance that helps enhance Manila's maritime domain awareness, according to Bloomberg.

Chen said he believes the Chinese side has long been aware of the existence of such a US task force, which has been training the Philippines' navy and coast guard forces and providing planning and guidance to the Philippines' maritime operations.

One reason why the US and the Philippines chose to make the US force's existence public now is probably to enhance US-Philippine bilateral relations, according to Chen.

Austin's visit could encourage Manila to make bolder moves that escalate tensions, and the publicly announced existence of US forces supporting the Philippines also means that the US' grey zone tactics in using the Philippines to contain China is becoming more open, Chen said.

However, it is unlikely that the US forces will enter a direct confrontation with China, as the situation could become too costly for the US, Chen said, noting that Washington will likely continue to encourage Manila to stir up more trouble.

China has the capability and determination to defend its rights on Ren'ai Jiao as well as safeguard the situation, and this cannot be changed by either the US or the Philippines, Chen said. China will continue to take necessary measures in accordance to laws to resolutely safeguard China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights, he said.

