

► China calls on all parties to accelerate two-state solution: Chinese FM Gaza should not be 'a victim of intl politics'

By Zhang Changyue

China calls on all parties to accelerate the two-state solution and support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders, said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday.

Behind the Gaza conflict is the delay in resolving the question of Palestine, Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, told the media after chairing the United Nations Security Council's high-level meeting on "Practicing multilateralism, reforming

and improving global governance," Xinhua reported.

Although the international community is currently focused on the Ukraine issue, global concerns extend beyond Ukraine, with numerous pressing issues, including the Gaza conflict, that demand international attention and should not be marginalized, said Wang, according to a readout released by Chinese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday.

According to the Xinhua News Agency, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said on Tuesday during a press briefing that Israel would begin "this

week" negotiations on the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement and the talks would include the exchange of the remaining Israeli hostages held in the Gaza Strip and Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. The negotiations on the second phase have not yet started, Qatar's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said later on Tuesday, Xinhua reported.

Wang noted that Gaza is a Palestinian homeland and a part of Palestinian territory, and should not be a victim of international politics, adding that the parties concerned should

continue to implement the ceasefire agreement and constructively advance follow-up negotiations.

Wang's call for more attention on the Gaza conflict reflects concerns on the relative marginalization of the Palestine-Israel conflict due to the closely-watched US-Russia talks on ending Ukraine crisis, Liu Zhongmin, a professor from the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times.

At the same time, US President Donald Trump's proposal to seize control of Gaza and

permanently displace the entire Palestinian population of the devastated seaside enclave has created confusion over the implementation of the agreement reached between Israel and Hamas and is not conducive to a long-term solution to the question of Palestine, Liu said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Wednesday that China believes that the pressing priority is to encourage parties involved to implement the ceasefire agreement in a continued and effective manner and advance the following negotiations with a constructive attitude.

► High stakes



A worker packs cartons of eggs at a farm in Petaluma, California, US, on February 18, 2025. As egg prices continue to skyrocket due to the avian flu outbreak, egg farmers are having to invest millions of dollars in biosecurity efforts to keep their flocks safe. Photo: VCG

Are commercial flights still safe in the US? Recent accidents exacerbate fear

By Fan Anqi

Americans are having a nervous time in the sky since the start of 2025 after a string of airplane accidents which have claimed dozens of lives in the past two months.

The latest crash at Toronto Pearson Airport has heightened concerns about North American aviation safety, and will likely increase pressure on regulators and lawmakers to enhance protective measures for air travel in the US, said an article in Newsweek.

On Monday, a Delta Air Lines flight from Minneapolis, US, crashed, turned upside down and caught fire on the runway at Toronto Pearson International Airport while attempting to land Monday. All 80 people on board survived, but 21 people were taken to hospitals with injuries, Delta said in a statement, CNN reported, while describing Monday's crash as "the latest incident in a deadly year for air travel in North America."

Earlier this month, 10 people were killed when a regional airline plane crashed in Alaska, according to CNN.

On January 29, an American Airlines plane collided midair with a US Army helicopter near Washington, DC, killing all 67 people aboard the two aircraft. It was the country's deadliest aviation disaster since 2001, the AP said.

Recent high-profile airline accidents have caused a spike in Americans questioning just how safe it is to fly, according to Google Trends data, Axios reported.

Despite the series of deadly crashes, the Trump administration has begun firing hundreds of employees at the FAA, including some who maintain critical air traffic control infrastructure, the Guardian said.

The recent aviation accidents in the US highlight significant human factors and systemic challenges in the industry, Wang Yanan, chief editor of Aerospace Knowledge magazine, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

"Post-pandemic recovery has placed immense pressure on the aviation sector in the US, leading to shortages of skilled personnel, such as air traffic controllers and pilots," Wang said.

China strives for early conclusion of COC with ASEAN: FM

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Wednesday said that China stands ready to work with ASEAN countries to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, actively advance the consultations of the code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC), strive to conclude the COC at an early date, and jointly keep the South China Sea peaceful and stable.

Guo Jiakun, spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry, made the remarks on Wednesday in response to a media inquiry regarding China-ASEAN relations and disputes in the South China Sea, as media reported that Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim called on Tuesday for a "conclusion" of the COC "as soon as possible" to address and solve disputes in the South China Sea.

Guo said what China takes away from growing its relations with ASE-

AN is to properly handle and solve differences through the Asian Way of friendly consultation. China stays committed to resolving the relevant disputes through negotiation and consultation with the states directly concerned in the South China Sea.

Guo said that under the strategic guidance of leaders of China and ASEAN countries, the vision of building a China-ASEAN community with a shared future is well received and great progress has been made in building a peaceful, safe and secure, prosperous, beautiful and amicable home.

Guo emphasized that China and ASEAN have been each other's largest trading partners for years running. Our negotiations with ASEAN to upgrade to free trade area 3.0 have been substantially concluded. The visa-free arrangement between China and other countries, including Malaysia, has produced remarkable

results, and the "Lancang-Mekong visa" policy was officially launched. China and Malaysia have always been the key players in upholding peace in the Asia-Pacific and promoting development there, Guo said.

Guo added that China supports Malaysia in assuming the rotating chairmanship of ASEAN. We stand ready to work with Malaysia to bring about more bright spots in China-ASEAN cooperation in economy and trade, digital transformation, industrial and supply chains, green development, and people-to-people and cultural exchanges, among other fields, strive for coordinated advances in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, the three global initiatives, and ASEAN community building in a mutually reinforcing way, and help regional cooperation produce more outcomes.

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