

‘Disastrous’: US Vetoes Cease-Fire Resolution at UN Security Council

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Global Research, December 11, 2023

[Common Dreams](#) 8 December 2023

Region: [Middle East & North Africa, USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [United Nations](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

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“The Security Council was again prevented from rising to this moment to uphold its clear responsibilities in the face of this grave crisis threatening human lives and threatening regional and international peace and security,” said the Palestinian envoy to the United Nations.

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As the United Nations humanitarian chief [warned](#) that aid workers in Gaza are “hanging on by our fingertips” as they try to mitigate an “untenable” disaster, and with Americans’ [support](#) for Israel’s U.S-backed bombardment of the enclave eroding, the United States on Friday vetoed a resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian cease-fire at the U.N. Security Council.

U.S. Envoy to the U.N. **Robert Wood** [told](#) members of the council that a cease-fire would “only plant the seeds for the next war.”

Thirteen member-countries voted in favor of the cease-fire resolution, which was introduced after U.N. **Secretary-General António Guterres** took the [rare step](#) of invoking Article 99 of the U.N. Charter, warning that Israel’s slaughter of [at least 17,487 Palestinians](#) in just two months “may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.”

The U.K. abstained from voting on the resolution, saying it did not take into account that Hamas committed acts of terrorism when it attacked Israel on October 7.

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. envoy, [called](#) the veto “disastrous.”

“The Security Council was again prevented from rising to this moment to uphold its

clear responsibilities in the face of this grave crisis threatening human lives and threatening regional and international peace and security,” said Mansour. “Instead of allowing this council to uphold its mandate by finally making a clear call after two months of massacres that the atrocities must end, the war criminals are given more time to perpetuate them. How can this be justified?”

Nicolas de Rivière, France’s permanent representative to the Security Council, who voted in favor of the cease-fire, [argued](#) that there is no “contradiction in the fight against terrorism and the protection of civilians, in strict respect of international humanitarian law.”

“Unfortunately once again, this council has failed. With a lack of unity and by refusing to genuinely commit to negotiations in doing this, the crisis in Gaza is getting worse and it runs the risk of extending,” said de Rivière.

The U.S. has now vetoed U.N. resolutions to hold Israel accountable for its policies in Palestine 45 times, human rights lawyer Noura Erakat said.

The US just vetoed an immediate humanitarian ceasefire. Again. This is the second veto against a [#ceasefire](#) the 45th veto the US has issued to protect Israel from accountability and/or an international resolution to Palestinian colonial domination. <https://t.co/bT81yKrBrc> [#Gaza](#)

— Noura Erakat (@4noura) [December 8, 2023](#)

Former U.N. human rights official **Craig Mokhiber**—who [resigned](#) in October over the U.N.’s response to the war in Gaza—noted that U.S. blocked the resolution on the eve of the 75th anniversary of the U.N. Genocide Convention.

On the eve of the 75th Anniversary of the Genocide Convention, the US has again vetoed a ceasefire in the UN Security Council, thereby demonstrating its further complicity in the [#genocide](#) in [#Palestine](#). Thousands have died since its last veto & more will die now. [#Gaza_Genocide](#)

— Craig Mokhiber (@CraigMokhiber) [December 8, 2023](#)

“Thousands have died since [the United States’] [last veto](#) and more will die now,” said Mokhiber.

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