

Russia's Draft Gaza Ceasefire Is the Last Chance to Prevent an Unprecedented Humanitarian Catastrophe

By [Andrew Korybko](#)

Global Research, October 16, 2023

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#), [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Law and Justice](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name.

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

The draft humanitarian ceasefire put forth by Russia, whose balanced approach towards the latest Israeli-Hamas war has positioned it as the only truly neutral stakeholder in this conflict, is likely the last chance to prevent West Asia from sliding back into a self-sustaining cycle of destabilization.

Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN **Vasily Nebenzia** revealed on Friday that **his country has drafted a ceasefire aimed at preventing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis from unfolding in Gaza**. His full remarks to the press following that day's UNSC consultations on the Middle East can be read [here](#), but the [gist](#) is to stop the fighting at least long enough for civilians to safely evacuate. A hostage/prisoner swap could buy enough time for this, after which the peace process might restart.

Nobody should be under any illusions that this noble effort will succeed due to the near-certainty that the US will ultimately veto it out of biased solidarity with Israel, though it could nevertheless still serve to powerfully reshape global perceptions about what's on the brink of coming to pass. Ambassador Nebenzia echoed President Putin's [comparison](#) earlier that day of Israel's blockade of Gaza to the Nazis' blockade of Leningrad that [resulted in the death](#) of his older brother before he was born.

He also decried Israel's unrealistic demand for over one million civilians to flee south within 24 hours into what he described as a de-facto ghetto [along the Egyptian border](#). Although both the Ambassador [and Head of State](#) reaffirmed Israel's right to self-defense, they both believe that its response to [Hamas' terrorist attack](#) last weekend is grossly disproportionate. The innuendo is that the self-professed Jewish State

[squandered whatever support](#) it could have otherwise had among most of the global community.

If Israel's ground operation begins before civilians have safely evacuated from the conflict zone, which is extremely difficult for many of them to do amidst incessant airstrikes carried out during the newly imposed blockade of their homeland, then **an unprecedented humanitarian crisis will unfold. This worst-case scenario might be inevitable, but Russia's draft ceasefire will at least show that well-intentioned efforts were made to avert it, especially if a large number of countries co-sponsor it.**

In that event, **it'll become a matter of historical record that this tragedy was avoidable but wasn't prevented due to Western governments' support for Israel's bloodlust after Hamas' terrorist attack**, the reasons of which are speculative but can be partially attributable to geopolitics. The US and its allies regard Israel as their "unsinkable aircraft carrier" that must always be supported in security matters [despite occasional disagreements](#) because it serves to divide-and-rule the region to their benefit.

Objectively speaking, Israel's interests and those of nearby countries like Saudi Arabia are best served by continuing the normalization process that could then [unlock mutually beneficial economic opportunities](#), but that best-case scenario might become impossible if the impending humanitarian crisis unfolds. Riyadh already [reportedly](#) put its talks with Tel Aviv on ice in response to the latter's bombing of Gaza, and it could completely abandon this policy if its co-religionists there continue being slaughtered.

Israel must therefore be saved from itself in a sense since the bloodlust of its present leadership's most ideologically extreme elements threaten its aforesaid objective interests and the associated greater good of the region. The draft ceasefire put forth by Russia, whose [balanced approach](#) towards the latest Israeli-Hamas war has positioned it as the only truly neutral stakeholder in this conflict, is therefore likely the last chance to prevent West Asia from sliding back into a self-sustaining cycle of destabilization.

*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

This article was originally published on [Andrew Korybko's Newsletter](#).

Andrew Korybko is an American Moscow-based political analyst specializing in the relationship between the US strategy in Afro-Eurasia, China's One Belt One Road global vision of New Silk Road connectivity, and Hybrid Warfare. He is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

He is a regular contributor to Global Research.

Featured image: PALESTINIAN MEMBERS OF THE EZZ AL-DIN AL QASSAM BRIGADES, THE MILITARY WING OF HAMAS BURN MILITARY ARMORED VEHICLE BELONGING TO ISRAELI FORCES NEAR GAZA STRIP, GAZA ON OCTOBER 07, 2023. PHOTO BY STR APAIMAGES

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Andrew Korybko](#)

About the author:

Andrew Korybko is an American Moscow-based political analyst specializing in the relationship between the US strategy in Afro-Eurasia, China's One Belt One Road global vision of New Silk Road connectivity, and Hybrid Warfare. He is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca