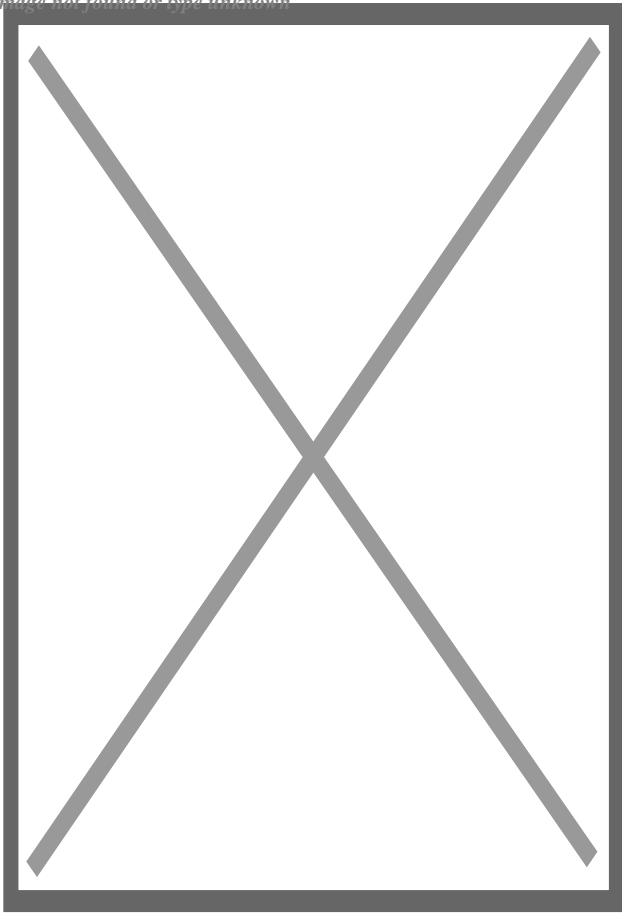


CELAC urges UN to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza

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Tegucigalpa, March 17 (RHC)-- The president of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, whose country holds the pro tempore presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), asked the United Nations (UN) on Saturday for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, while denouncing the complicity of the US with the genocide committed by Israel against the Palestinian people.

In a letter sent to the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, the head of state pointed out that the serious humanitarian crisis facing Gaza is due to Israel's military aggression, whose siege and murder of thousands of women, children and the elderly constitute the "most criminal genocide in the XXI century".

She recalled that the U.S. has vetoed all initiatives deployed by the UN to achieve a ceasefire and for Tel Aviv to stop its indiscriminate bombardments, which so far left 31,553 Palestinians killed, 73,546 wounded and a figure of over 7,000 under the rubble...

In this regard, she urged to "condemn terrorism in any form, order an immediate ceasefire and recognize, without reservation, the existence of the Palestinian State with all the prerogatives and obligations of any country in the world." And the Honduran president called on the UN to urgently open safe humanitarian corridors to bring food, water, medicine and health services to civilians.

Xiomara Castro expressed that the nations that are part of the UN "cannot fail the peoples of the world and those who seem committed to drag us into a global cataclysm must be subjected to condemnation by the Assembly." She said that "civilization, as we have known it up to now, is ceasing to exist, and is bowing down to barbarism and genocide".

The Honduran president concluded her message by pointing out that "if ever, after the holocaust of the Second World War, the UN had to act as guarantor of the existence of humanity, this is the moment, this is your moment".

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