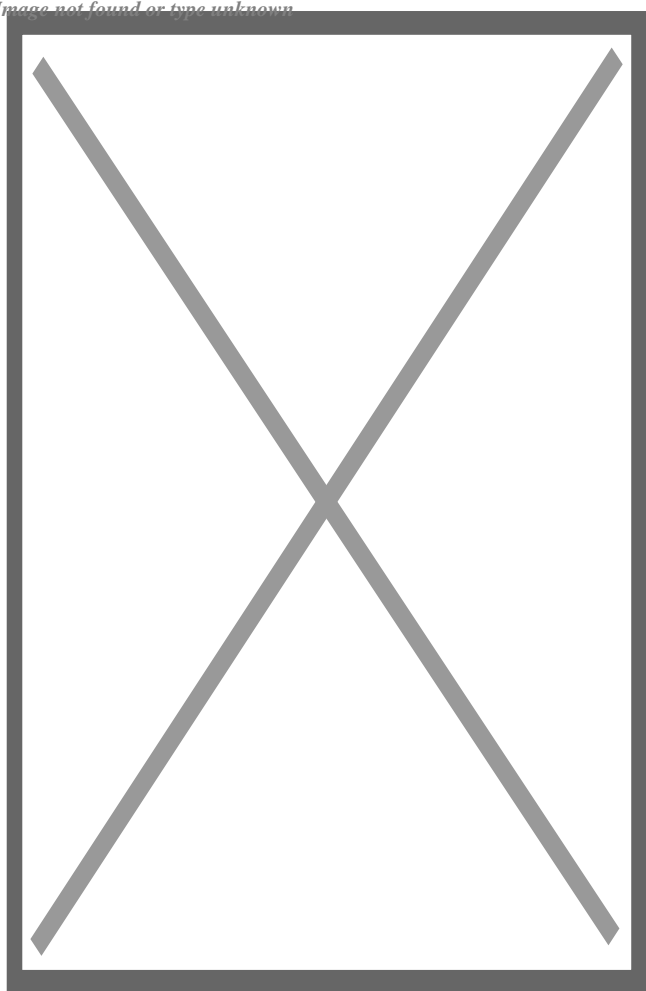


Iran says United Nations and Security Council held hostage by U.S. and Israel

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Tehran, March 22 (RHC)-- Iran says the United States and Israel have taken the United Nations and its Security Council hostage, urging the international community to immediately free the two world bodies. In a post on his X account on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said the world is witnessing the continuation of Israel's "barbarism and brutality" in the Gaza Strip.

After 167 consecutive days of Israel's war against the Gaza Strip, international bodies are still refraining from taking an action and have only announced their positions and views, he added. He emphasized that those who keep silent and support Israel's brutality should be ashamed of themselves.

Pointing to the tragic news about the raid on Gaza's al-Shifa Hospital for the fourth consecutive day, the Iranian spokesperson said the Israeli occupation forces blew up a specialized building in the medical complex and completely destroyed it.

History is unable to narrate such blatant and reckless brutality and ferocity in front of the eyes of the world community, Kan'ani pointed out.

Israel's raid on al-Shifa hospital spilled into a fourth day as reports emerged that the occupying army had blown up buildings inside the medical compound and ordered people sheltering inside to leave, including hundreds of sick and displaced families.

More than 140 people have been killed in fighting in and around Gaza's largest hospital over the past four days.

More than half of medical facilities in the besieged Palestinian territory are now either totally out of order or partially destroyed. Hamas says those killed by Israel in the raid on the hospital were patients, medical workers and displaced civilians.

Israel has imposed a siege on al-Shifa hospital since its forces started a raid on the medical complex on March 18.

Al-Shifa has sheltered thousands of Palestinians who fled Israel's hostilities in northern parts of the territory.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said Thursday that at least 31,988 people have been killed in the territory during more than five months of Israel's genocidal war against the people of Palestine in Gaza.

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