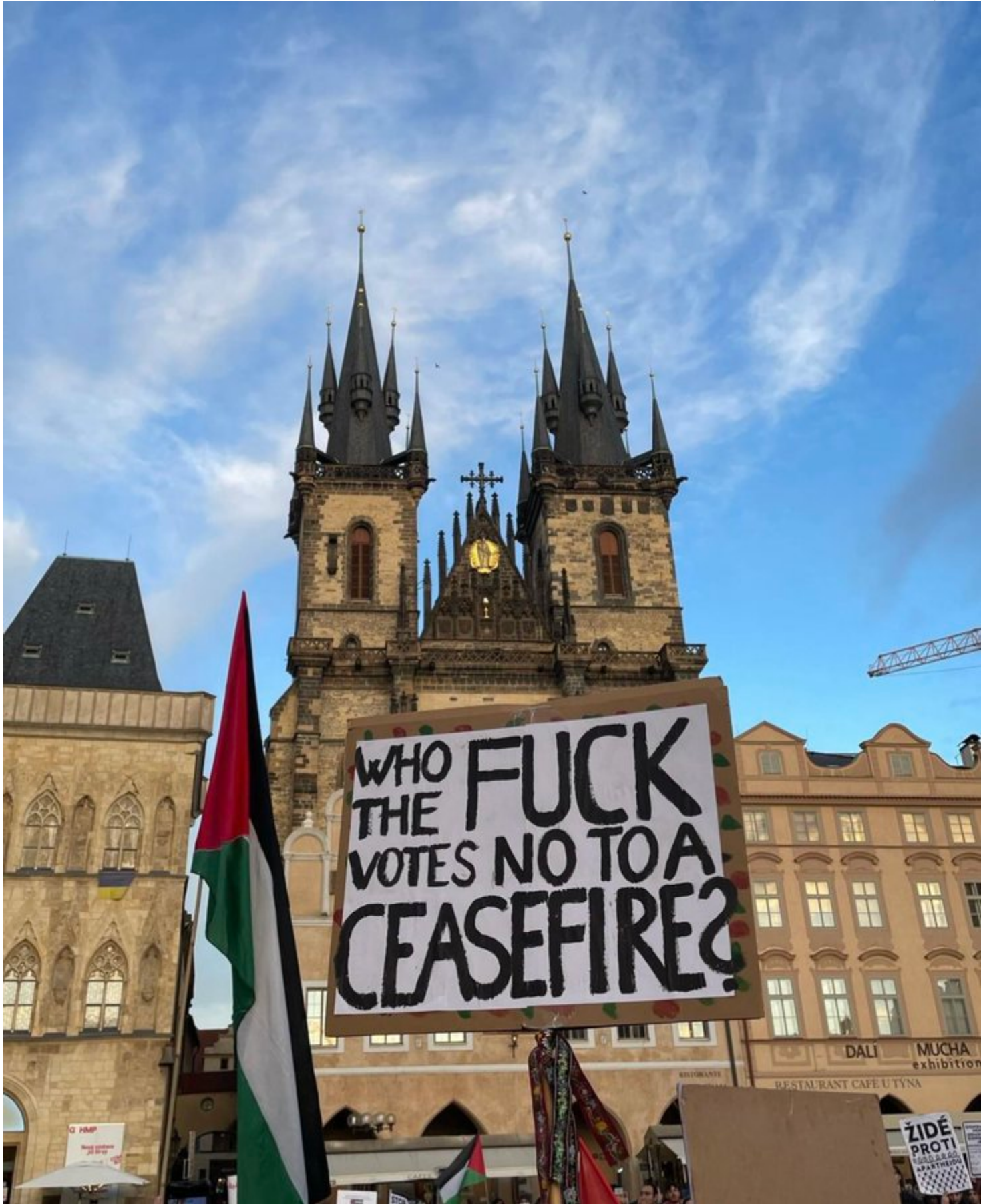


*U.S. vetoes UN Security Council
resolution demanding Gaza
ceasefire for fourth time; all
other countries vote in favor*



United Nations, November 20 (RHC)-- The United States has vetoed a resolution at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) demanding an “immediate, unconditional and permanent” ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, as Israel’s bombardment of the Palestinian territory continues.

The U.S. voted down the measure on Wednesday, while the 14 other members of the council voted in favor.

While the resolution called for the release of captives held in Gaza, Washington had voiced opposition to its demand for an “unconditional” ceasefire.

This is the fourth time that U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration has vetoed a resolution calling for an end to the war in Gaza since Israel’s bloody genocidal aggression began in October of last year.

To date, nearly 44,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli bombardment of Gaza, which has also plunged the coastal territory into a humanitarian crisis.

Biden – a staunch supporter of Israel – has faced widespread condemnation from rights advocates for his administration’s stance, including its refusal to condition its assistance to the top U.S. ally amid the war.

The U.S. provides Israel with at least \$3.8 billion in military aid annually, and the Biden administration has authorised \$14 billion in further assistance to the country since genocide against Gaza began.

Beth Miller, political director at the U.S.-based advocacy group Jewish Voice for Peace, called the US veto on Wednesday “pathetic” and said the Biden administration’s legacy will be the genocide in Gaza.

“That fact that they continue to parrot over and over again that they’re ‘working tirelessly’ for a ceasefire while simultaneously blocking efforts to reach a ceasefire and sending lethal weapons to the Israeli government ... is a sick joke,” Miller told Al Jazeera.

Reporting from UN headquarters in New York, Al Jazeera’s Gabriel Elizondo said “clearly the United States is on an island by itself.” “It’s worth repeating that this draft resolution was the product of weeks of negotiations,” Elizondo reported, adding that there is “clear frustration among the Security Council that there’s been inaction on Gaza.”

Majed Bamyia, the State of Palestine’s deputy UN envoy, stressed during Wednesday morning’s Security Council session that a ceasefire would allow all lives to be saved. “This was true a year ago; this is even more true today. A ceasefire doesn’t resolve everything but it is the first step towards resolving anything,” Bamyia said.

“The world should not grow accustomed to the death of Palestinians, to seeing Palestinian children starving, to seeing mothers carrying their children from one place to another, forcibly displaced,” he said. “The fact we are Palestinians does not make that less shocking or less outrageous. Maybe for some we have the wrong nationality, the wrong faith, the wrong skin colour — but we are humans and we should be treated as such.”

Bamyia added that the world is watching an “attempt to annihilate a nation” while the tools “designed to respond to these situations are not being used”. “Are Palestinian lives not worth saving, or does Israel have a licence to kill? Can this council only adopt resolutions and then witness their blatant breach? This self-inflicted powerlessness has to stop.”

Amar Bendjama, Algeria’s UN envoy, also voiced frustration on Wednesday over the US blocking the resolution. “There were significant concessions during negotiations, yet one member chose to block any action — any action — from this council,” Bendjama told the council.

“Today’s message is clear, to the Israeli occupying power first: ‘You may continue your genocide, you may continue your collective punishment of the Palestinian people with complete impunity. In this chamber, you enjoy immunity’.”

<https://www.radiohc.cu/en/noticias/internacionales/370170-us-vetoes-un-security-council-resolution-demanding-gaza-ceasefire-for-fourth-time-all-other-countries-vote-in-favor>



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