

*Iran condemns Israeli massacre of Gaza refugees, calls for urgent international action to stop genocide*

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**Palestinians mourns over the covered bodies of their relatives, killed in an Israeli strike the previous night, at Al-Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza City on December 15, 2024. (Photo> AP)**

Tehran, December 16 (RHC)-- The Iranian Foreign Ministry has called for “urgent” international measures aimed at stopping the Israeli regime’s ongoing war of genocide on the Gaza Strip.

Speaking on Monday, spokesman Esmail Baghaei put the continued inaction of international institutions, including the United Nations Security Council, in the face of the genocide down to the United States’ full-blown support for the regime.

He, however, denounced the inertia as “shameful,” calling for urgent action by the international community to stop the war and prosecute and punish Israeli officials for their perpetration of heinous crimes.

The spokesman recalled the arrest warrants that were issued by the International Criminal Court against Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the regime’s former minister for military affairs Yoav Gallant last month over war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He pointed out the responsibility of the states that were party to the court’s statute to implement the warrants, while underlining the duty of all states under the international law to ensure respect for the international humanitarian law and prohibition of genocide.

The official referred to the regime's disregard for the tribunal’s orders aimed at stopping the genocide and perpetration of acts that were contrary to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. He emphasized the need for the international community to take the necessary measures to make the regime’s ongoing violations “costly” and to compel it to implement the judgments of the judicial arm of the United Nations.

Baghaei also considered the regime to be guilty of two more crimes under the jurisdiction of the court, namely the crime of genocide and the crime of aggression.

He, meanwhile, singled out for strong criticism the Israeli military’s continued savage attacks on the tents belonging to Palestinian refugees in Gaza, including those set up at the Nuseirat refugee camp in the central part of the coastal sliver, which recently led to the death and injury of dozens of innocent people, including children.

Around 45,000 have been killed, with women and children accounting for 70 percent of the fatalities, since last October, when the regime brought the entire Palestinian territory under the brutal military onslaught in response to a retaliatory operation staged by its resistance movements.

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