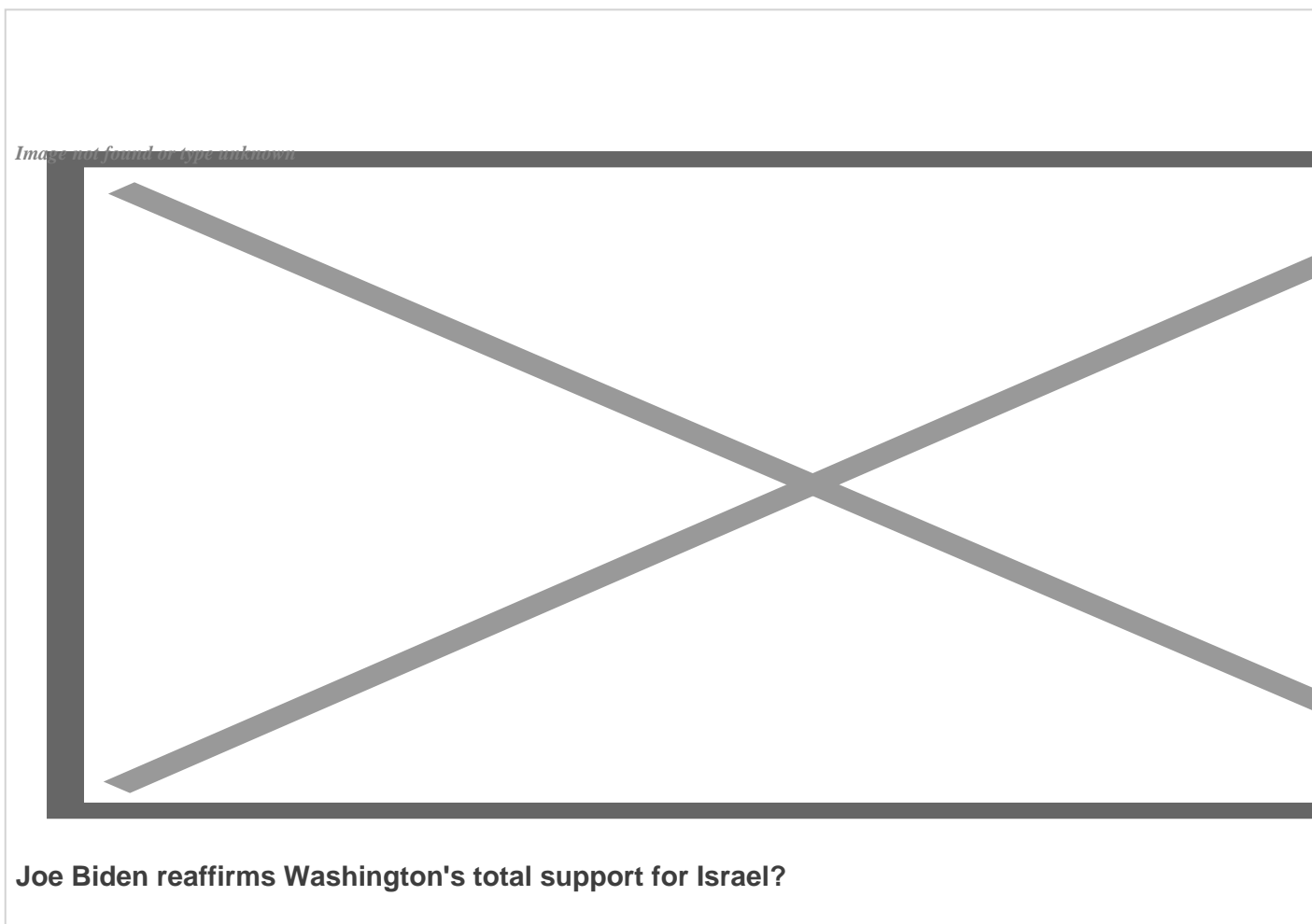


Joe Biden reaffirms Washington's total support for Israel



Washington, May 21 (RHC)-- U.S. President Joe Biden has once again reaffirmed Washington's total support for Israel and pledged to help it replenish its so-called Iron Dome system.

This came on Thursday, the same day the Israeli "security cabinet" unanimously approved what the regime identified as "Egypt's proposal" for a ceasefire amid continued avalanche of retaliatory attacks from the Gaza Strip in response to Tel Aviv's escalation.

The latest escalation was triggered earlier this month by the Israeli regime forces who forced Palestinian families to vacate their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem, followed by violent onslaught on worshippers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

After the Palestinian resistance movement retaliated, the occupying regime fired a barrage of missiles targeting civilian areas in the besieged territory, including high-rise buildings housing residential apartments and media houses. The Israeli attacks have killed hundreds in Gaza and scores of others in the West Bank.

In the meantime, the Biden administration has been resisting pressure at home to take a tougher stance over Israeli regime's relentless attacks on Palestinian civilians, with people taking to streets and many lawmakers issuing statements in favor of Palestinians.

He had also largely dismissed calls within the Democratic Party to push for a cease-fire and had, at the same time, angered Republicans, who argued he was not sufficiently backing Israel.

Last week, he expressed his firm support for Israel's airstrikes in response to Hamas rockets, however, on Wednesday, he spoke with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to press Israel to immediately begin "significant de-escalation." Netanyahu, however, publicly rebuffed Biden and said: "I am determined to continue this operation until its goal is achieved."

On Thursday, Biden again said: "the United States fully supports Israel's right to defend itself against" Hamas' retaliatory strikes, even though an overwhelming evidence points to Israeli regime's disproportionate attacks on Palestine.

The U.S. president also said he had assured Netanyahu "of my full support to replenish Israel's Iron Dome system." His administration has also recently approved the sale of \$735 million in precision-guided weapons to the Israeli regime.

The proposed weapons sale is related to Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMS) that transforms so-called "dumb" bombs into precision-guided missiles, which the Israel regime has reportedly used on several occasions in the past.

Also on Monday, the US government, for the third time, blocked a joint statement from the UN Security Council, which called for an immediate ceasefire and cessation of murderous attacks by the Israeli regime in Palestine.

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