

Bahrain kick off final qualifiers' lead-up

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Leaders posing for a group picture ahead of an emergency meeting of the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in Riyadh yesterday

Stop 'aggression'

Bahrain, Arab and Gulf states reject Israel's claims of 'self-defence'; urge immediate halt to war

Saudi slams 'double standards' in world's response
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia yesterday denounced what it described as "double standards" in the world's response to the Israel-Hamas war, saying Israel was getting a pass on violations of international law.

"We are watching and observing the double standards and we are reassessing based on this the credibility of international systems. If there is no commitment binding everyone to these foundations, it is difficult to speak of these foundations as unifying foundations," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan told a press conference following a summit in the capital Riyadh.

Israel warns Hezbollah that Beirut could face similar fate to Gaza
Jerusalem, Undefined

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant yesterday warned Hezbollah that launching a war would result in widespread destruction in Lebanon similar to that in Gaza, where Israel battled Hamas militants.

"If it (Hezbollah) makes this kind of mistake here, the ones who will pay the price will be first and foremost Lebanese citizens," Gallant told soldiers on Israel's northern border in remarks relayed by his office.

"What we're doing in Gaza, we can also do in Beirut."



HRH Prince Salman during a meeting with Palestine President yesterday



HRH Prince Salman during talks with Jordan King yesterday

● **HRH said the war violates International resolutions and conventions**

● **Prince Salman called on Israel to "stop forced displacement of civilians"**

● **Urges to resume peace process towards a two-state solution**

● **Gaza health ministry says Israeli fighting has killed more than 11,000 people, also mostly civilians and thousands of them children**

● **Reports said gun battles and intense bombardment around Al-Shifa hospital**

TDT | Manama

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday called for immediate end to Gaza siege with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister asking Israel to steer away from "collective punishment" in the strip.

Addressing the summit of Arab leaders which condemned Israeli forces' "barbaric" actions



Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on X, formerly Twitter, that "the attacks against Al-Shifa Hospital have dramatically intensified. Our staff at the hospital have reported a catastrophic situation inside."

The final declaration yesterday rejected Israeli claims that it is acting in "self-defence" and demanded that the United Nations Security Council adopt "a decisive and binding resolution" to halt Israel's "aggression".

Hezbollah's chief Hassan Nasrallah said the group was using new weapons in its attacks against Israel

in Gaza, on behalf of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH said Bahrain stands with the people of Palestine in this "dire humanitarian situation" in Gaza.

The summit took place against a backdrop of widespread anger in the Middle East and beyond over Israel's aerial and ground offensive in Gaza, which has killed more than 11,000 people, mostly civilians and many of them children, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

The final declaration on yesterday's summit rejected Israeli claims that it is acting in "self-defence" and demanded that the United Nations Security Council adopt "a decisive and binding resolution" to halt Israel's "aggression". It also dismissed out of hand any future political resolution to the conflict that would keep Gaza separate from the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

In his address, Prince Salman termed Israeli attacks on Gaza as a violation of international resolutions and conventions that threatens the path towards a just and comprehensive peace process. Urging immediate international intervention for truce, HRH called on Israel to "stop forced displacement of civilians" that dethrones the regional

“The international community must urgently bring forth a humanitarian truce that will lift the siege, stop the forced displacement of civilians, and steer away from the policy of collective punishment that risks serious repercussions both for the Palestinian people and regional security”
HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

Addressing Arab, Muslim leaders at the summit, HRH stressed the need for establishing an emergency and independent international committee to supervise the safety of the Palestinian people.

The committee, HRH said, should impartially investigate the escalating violence, pursue the release of all prisoners and detainees on both sides, and determine the extent of the damage.

The Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted that efforts must also be focused on re-building and re-focus on a

comprehensive peace process that brings a new era of regional security and stability.

His Royal Highness reiterated Arab nations' support for re-summing a comprehensive peace process towards a two-state solution that guarantees Palestinian people rights to an independent state based on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

HRH concluded by expressing his gratitude and appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its leadership, and for its sincere efforts and unwavering support for the Palestinian cause and regional peace.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told the summit he "holds the occupation (Israeli) authorities responsible for the crimes committed against the Palestinian people."

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, on his first trip to Saudi Arabia since the two countries mended ties in March, said Islamic nations should designate the Israeli army a "terrorist organisation" for its conduct in Gaza.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said no Middle Eastern country should engage in any "political process" with Israel, including developing economic relations, until a lasting ceasefire is reached. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said "it is a shame that Western countries, which always talk about human rights and freedoms, remain silent in the face of the ongoing massacres in Palestine".

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