

EIR Daily Alert Service

P.O. BOX 17390, WASHINGTON, DC 20041-0390

- China to the United States: Time To Hold an International Peace Conference
- Both Russia and China on Diplomatic Offensive To Prevent New War in Middle East
- Zelenskyy's Road Show to Israel Canceled
- RFK Jr. Warns, If We Don't Support Israel, 'China Could Blackmail the World'
- U.S. Set To Send Troops to the Middle East
- Netanyahu to Knesset: Wipe Out Hamas, the 'New Nazis,' Led by Iran
- Putin Expresses Appreciation for Chinese Efforts To Mediate Ukraine Crisis
- Putin Underlines Importance of BRI and Role of Xi in China Interview
- Ukraine Finance Minister Sees 'Weakness' Amongst Western Partners
- FAO Reports \$3.8 Trillion Losses in World Agriculture from Disasters over 30 Years, Evades Principle of Infrastructure
- Demonstrations Growing Worldwide for Mideast Ceasefire, End to Genocide, Freedom for Palestine
- Daniel Barenboim Demonstrates How Israelis and Palestinians Must Find 'Our Common Humanity'

EDITORIAL

China to the United States: Time To Hold an International Peace Conference

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—Without intervention, the Palestinian-Israeli situation is a cockpit for World War III. The strategic situation of Southwest Asia is one of incredible danger, now escalating in a way that the spillover can ignite a global conflagration.

Over the weekend, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, on a call with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, stressed that the major nations must now support an international conference on the crisis situation. The United States has been informed.

This peace conference proposal goes back to last June when Chinese President Xi Jinping presented the need for an international peace conference to be held on the Israel-Palestine conflict. That proposal is now back on the agenda, with life-and-death urgency.

The proposal was raised by China with Brazil last week. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Oct. 13, that Wang Yi is coordinating on the peace conference proposal with officials from Brazil. Note that Brazil is the rotating chair of the UN Security Council this month. Wang conferred Oct. 12 with Brazilian President Lula da Silva's Chief Foreign Policy Advisor Celso Amorim, about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Wang told Amorim, "China calls for an international peace conference with greater authority and impact as soon as possible to galvanize a more broad-based international consensus with the two-state solution serving as its basis, and to formulate a timetable and roadmap to that end." Wang Yi added that the UN has both the responsibility and an obligation "to pay its due role on the Palestinian question."

The on-the-ground situation for the 2.3 million people of the Gaza Strip amounts to conditions knowably leading to mass death. An estimated 1 million people are displaced within Gaza; among those are more than

500,000 who tried to leave the north for the south. The World Health Organization has issued a statement calling Israel's order for people to evacuate from the north to the south, a "death sentence." This affected 22 hospitals, many of whose 2,000 patients were too ill to be moved. There is no water nor sanitation for hundreds of thousands of people. Electricity is mostly down. Food scarcity is acute.

On the military side, the IDF hit Gaza at 250 sites on Sunday, Oct. 15, and continued strikes today, including in southern Gaza, where northern Gaza residents were told by Israel to move. Hamas rockets continue into Israel intermittently. Israel has massed forces on two fronts—the Gaza border and the border with Lebanon, facing Hezbollah. Israel has evacuated 28 villages along its northern border.

The USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier battle group remains in the Eastern Mediterranean. On Oct. 13, the USS Dwight Eisenhower departed from Port of Norfolk, Virginia, to go to the Mediterranean, to bring additional forces to what U.S. military declare as "deterrence." Frigates from Italy and Britain have been ordered to join the American forces. The dramatic aspect of this massed force, as noted by many military experts, is that just a wing of drones could cause major damage to the fleet, before the planes could even take off.

Veteran U.S. intelligence analyst [Ray McGovern](#) sent out a stinging X message Sunday on the maritime madness: "Into the valley of death sailed the 10,000 aboard aircraft carriers Ford and Eisenhower—sitting ducks for swarming drones and other weaponry not dreamed of by those who made short work of the Charge of the Light Brigade. Perhaps Blinken/Nuland/Austin want that? Or are they just dumb?"

Secretary Blinken was back in Israel today, after a swing around six Arab nations since his first emergency visit to Israel last week. But with not only no solution, but furtherance of the crisis. Likewise EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen made a visit. Pres. Biden will go to Israel Wednesday, according to a breaking report tonight. German President Olaf

Scholz said today he may visit soon. Their litany: “Israel has the responsibility and obligation to do whatever it wants to protect itself.”

In contrast, the role of the International Peace Coalition (IPC), only five months in operation, is critical to galvanize decisive action internationally to intervene for security in all respects, for all nations. On Friday, Oct. 20, will be the second open (online) IPC meeting of world figures and network leaders for peace, after the first such dialogue last Friday.

There will be a world-important platform for thinking, proposals and collaboration on the emergency in Southwest Asia at the [Belt and Road Initiative 10th anniversary forum](#) in China Oct. 17-18. Already today, many heads of state arrived and important bilateral meetings took place, including that of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Among the thousands of people attending, delegations will represent 140 countries, and 200 of the participants will be ministerial level or higher. President Xi Jinping is expected to welcome the attendees at the beginning of the sessions, and also give a major address Wednesday at the plenary.

There have been mass protests around the world this past weekend, calling for humanitarian emergency measures in Palestine, and talks towards peace in Southwest Asia. Thousands were out in cities around the world, from Los Angeles to Copenhagen. Today in Washington, D.C., people turned out at the gates of the White House to demand a stop to the obliteration of Gaza, and measures for justice and peace.

Schiller Institute founder, and co-initiator of the IPC, Helga Zepp-LaRouche conferred today with collaborators, on the focus of immediate demands. There must be an immediate end to the violence. There must be the process of a negotiated solution, which needs to take place in the context of a peace conference. To succeed, the Global Majority must play a leading role in this process. All of this is urgent, and can be understood as the first step towards a world-scale security and development architecture.

- Watch [Harley's Updates](#) with Harley Schlanger on Tuesday, October 17, 2023: Every weekday morning on The LaRouche Organization, Schlanger will give you the strategic briefing you need to start your day.

STRATEGIC WAR DANGER

Both Russia and China on Diplomatic Offensive To Prevent New War in Middle East

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—President Putin was on the phone today with leaders of Egypt, Israel, Iran, Palestine, Syria, and other Arab states to discuss the worsening situation in the region. He expressed concern that this situation could lead to a larger war and said that Russia was ready to work together with constructive partners to quickly bring a stop to hostilities. He also urged measures to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe. Putin also was clear that the present crisis developed because of the stagnation in moving forward on the two-state solution. Before leaving for Beijing, he called Prime Minister Netanyahu to tell him about his conversations with the leaders.

China also has entered the fray with Wang Yi declaring that the Israelis go far beyond measures to defend Israel. The Chinese envoy to the Middle East, Zhai Jun, met with diplomats from the Arab countries and from the League of Arab States in Beijing on October 15 at their request. He also stressed that the crux of the problem lay in the lack of movement on a two-state solution. The Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on October 16 that Zhai Jun would now be traveling to the Middle East for discussion there.

Zelensky's Road Show to Israel Canceled

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—Cold water has been poured upon the campaign of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to make a public relations visit to Israel. Israel's major news portal [Ynet reported today](#), citing undisclosed sources, that Zelensky had been told that "it's not the right time." Zelensky's office had made an official request to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office, as reported by [Axios](#) on Oct. 11 and the *Times of Israel* on Oct. 13.

Zelenskyy’s campaign involved an Oct. 10 statement on France 2: “If international attention shifts away from Ukraine, one way or another, it will have consequences. The fate of Ukraine depends on the unity of the rest of the world.” This lined up with the drive in Washington to tie the stalled aid to Ukraine to new fresh aid to Israel. On Oct. 11, Zelenskyy announced his intention to visit Israel to show “solidarity” was reported by Axios, which added that the trip would boost “international support for Israel’s counteroffensive against Hamas in Gaza.” At NATO headquarters in Brussels that day, he offered: “My recommendation to the leaders to go to Israel and support [the] people.... It’s very important; unity is more important than being alone.”

RFK Jr. Warns, If We Don’t Support Israel, ‘China Could Blackmail the World’

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—At an Oct. 13 campaign stop in Miami, independent Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. set out his views on the present crisis in Southwest Asia. His remarks were totally over the top, not only fully backing Israel but putting forth the whole Establishment line that China and the BRICS are the major threat to the U.S. Not surprisingly, his comments have caused a commotion among some of his own supporters, who don’t share that view.

“Iran and China are one organism at this point,” the candidate told his audience. “And they now—because of BRICS—they now control, and because of Iran’s control of Venezuela, they control 90% of the oil supply in the world. If Israel was not there, China could blackmail the entire world with our energy supply, and that is the most disastrous foreign policy outcome.... We have an absolutely critical, existential strategic interest for being in Israel, for supporting them.”

“Israel has a legal right to be there. It is not an occupying force ... the Jews have continuously occupied it for 3,700 years....”

Michael Tracey has tweeted a video pulling together Kennedy’s comments on the subject.

U.S. Set To Send Troops to the Middle East

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—Various media report that the U.S. is now selecting 2,000 U.S. troops to be deployed to the Middle East. They refer to reports that first came from the *Wall Street Journal* which in turn cites unnamed Pentagon sources. The troops will perform advisory and medical support missions, officials said. It is noted that they consist of representatives of the entire United States Army and are not intended to participate in combat operations. The troops are reportedly now located in both the Middle East and beyond, including in Europe.

The *New York Times* reported today that American authorities are doubling fire power in the region ostensibly to prevent a larger, regional war.

Netanyahu to Knesset: Wipe Out Hamas, the ‘New Nazis,’ Led by Iran

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke to the opening of the winter session of the Knesset today, announcing: “This is a time of decisive struggle against those who are trying to destroy us. Our goal is victory, complete victory over Hamas, eliminating once and for all its power and the threat it poses to Israel.” He said that Hamas was the same as the Islamic State (ISIS) and was a “new version of Nazism.” He called on the “entire civilized world” to join the fight, and that “just like the whole world united to defeat the Nazis and ISIS, it must now unite to defeat Hamas.”

He also threatened Lebanon: “I also have a message for Hezbollah: Do not test us in the north, do not repeat the mistake you once made, because now the price you will have to pay will be much higher.” He claimed that Hezbollah, based in Lebanon, and Hamas were “part of the axis of evil,” and both were led by Iran.

Unfortunately, after Netanyahu characterized the conflict as “a war between light and dark forces, between humanity and animalism,” President Isaac Herzog weighed in, dangerously seconding Netanyahu’s “holier than thou” approach: “Everyone talks about complexity, but this

moment is not a complex moment. There is absolute good here and there is absolute evil here. There is light here and there is darkness here,” as reported by the *Times of Israel*.

Putin Expresses Appreciation for Chinese Efforts To Mediate Ukraine Crisis

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—In a [lengthy interview](#) today with China Media Group, Russian President Vladimir Putin reiterated the reasons for the present conflict in Ukraine.

“Let me remind you that, when Ukraine gained independence—or proclaimed its independence—it was the Declaration of Independence that served as the fundamental document laying the basis for Ukrainian independence. The main principle enshrined in this Declaration of Independence was that Ukraine is a neutral state.

“Yet in 2008, for no good reason—there was no crisis in sight—they announced that they would welcome Ukraine in NATO. Why? Still no one understands. And thus, year by year, they would heighten the tensions. Then, finally, the 2014 crisis hit, the hostilities broke out. This took the escalation to a new level. Therefore, the start of the special military operation was not the start of a war, but an attempt to end it.”

With regard to [China’s Feb. 24, 2023 proposals](#) for negotiating peace with Ukraine, Putin said, “We highly value those proposals. I think they are absolutely realistic and could lay the foundation for peace arrangements. But, unfortunately, the opposing side does not want to enter into any negotiations. In fact, the President of Ukraine has even issued a decree prohibiting everyone—including himself—to conduct any negotiations with us. How can we conduct negotiations if they are not willing to and even issued a regulation prohibiting such negotiations?”

NEW STRATEGIC & ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE

Putin Underlines Importance of BRI and Role of Xi in China Interview

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—Prior to his trip to China, Russian President Vladimir Putin gave an interview to Wang Guan of China Media Group. In today's interview, President Putin praised the Belt and Road Initiative and President Xi Jinping's call for a community of shared interest. "I think it was very timely and is developing well, because the focal point of this idea is an attempt to unite the capabilities of many countries to achieve common development goals. Today, in one way or another, President Xi Jinping's ideas have involved you know, how many? Some 147 countries, two-thirds of the world's population. So I think this is already a success, this is a good, correct and technologically organized initiative that is developing."

Putin observed that Xi's concept of a community of shared interests first appeared during an event that Xi was attending in Moscow:

"Thank you for bringing this up. As far as I understand, these ideas were first formulated in general terms in about 2013 during President Xi Jinping's visit to Moscow, where he spoke at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations [MGIMO] and brought this up for the first time.

"Of course, this is a global approach to human history. For sure, everything is interconnected. And today, with the formation of a multipolar world, these ideas have become even more relevant. He spoke about it in 2013, and today these ideas are actually being realized. This is extremely important."

Putin also remarked that Russia-China relations have been developing quite rapidly over the last 20 years:

"Relations between Russia and China—you know, I am telling you what immediately comes to my mind after you asked your question—have not been shaped to suit the current global environment; nor are they the result of short-term political opportunism. Russian-Chinese relations have been shaped for 20 years in a careful, phased-out manner. At each step, the Russian and Chinese sides have both guided themselves by their own

national interests as they understood them. While encouraging the other side to take the next step, both have always taken into account each other's opinions and interests. We have always tried to reach a compromise, even on complicated issues inherited from the old days.”

Putin said that the trade relations would reach the level of \$200 billion that the two countries had agreed upon. This would include the usual energy supplies provided by Russia and agricultural products, as well as agricultural equipment, which is exported to help China in its own farm production. Putin indicated that Russia was also assisting China in its nuclear power development, particularly with the development of fast breeder reactors:

“The amount of coal and electricity supplied is increasing and we continue to build nuclear units. And not only to build units at two plants, but we are working on a fast neutron reactor, which will provide us with an entirely new way of building relations in this high-tech energy sector as it creates conditions for a closed cycle and, in fact, there will be virtually no waste.”

The Russian President responded to a question about the role of the BRICS and its expansion at the South Africa summit in August:

“First of all, I want to say that the expansion itself was quite uneasy. It was a challenging, I would even say difficult dialogue. But largely due to the efforts of our chairperson, the President of the Republic of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa (I want to emphasize his role once again), we managed to come to this consensus and to reach an agreement.

“What is at the core of the expansion process? This process is based on objective reality. The multipolar world is creating itself, as a matter of fact. We can speed up this process or someone can try to slow it down and maybe even achieve some kind of reduction in the pace of building a multipolar world. Anyway, its creation is inevitable. It is happening on its own because of the growing potential of many countries, including, not least, the growing potential of the People's Republic of China.”

Putin shared the following thoughts with respect to China's President Xi Jinping:

“It is good that you recalled his speech at MGIMO in 2013 and I connected it with the Belt and Road Initiative. I will repeat it for the third time, but it is very important: he is a leader who does not make momentary decisions on the basis of some current situation, but he assesses the situation, analyzes it and looks into the future. This is very important. This is exactly what distinguishes a world leader from people whom we call ‘time servers,’ who are there for a brief moment just to show off on the international stage, and then they are gone.

“Of course, President Xi Jinping is absolutely different. He is attentive to detail, cool-headed, business-minded and a reliable partner—that is what I wanted to underline. If we agree on something, we can be sure that both sides will keep their end of the bargain.”

COLLAPSING IMPERIAL SYSTEM

Ukraine Finance Minister Sees ‘Weakness’ Amongst Western Partners

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—Ukraine's Finance Minister Sergey Marchenko, on the sidelines of the recent IMF/World Bank meetings in Marrakech, [admitted to Reuters](#) that securing financial support from Ukraine's Western backers has become more difficult. He said that Kiev is having to make “twice the effort right now to convince our partners to provide us with support,” compared to meetings six months ago. “I see a lot of tiredness, I see a lot of weakness among our partners, they would like to forget about the war but the war is still ongoing, full-scale.”

Without any reference to the West's disappointment over the vaunted counteroffensive, Marchenko referred to elections in the U.S. and Europe as creating problems, as “a geopolitical shift and internal political context in different countries” was decreasing the previous attitude towards Ukraine. Of some note, he indicated that disruptions in the entire global

economy were a factor, though he blamed it on the Gaza conflict as a trigger for the disruption to oil and shipping.

Marchenko did find some hope in a statement from the G7 central bank governors and finance ministers on Oct. 12 that they were considering following Belgium's recent action, of seizing funds generated by Russian assets that Western countries have frozen, and using those as aid to Ukraine. The previous negative repercussions from the illegal freezing of the assets does not seem to be factored into the calculations of these G7 financial strategists.

On Oct. 15, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov cited Marchenko's observation (on "twice the effort" being needed to get support) in an appearance on Rossiya-1 TV, to contend that "everyone is fed up" with Zelenskyy.

Besides Marchenko's comment, Lavrov cited the example of Romania's refusal to allow Zelenskyy to address the nation's parliament during his state visit last week. At the time, Romanian Sen. Diana Sosoaca, who had the honor of being on Ukraine's infamous Myrotvorets hit list, had led the fight against an address by Zelenskyy, calling him "an arrogant and unconscionable traitor, including to his own country.... March out of our country, godless man!"

FAO Reports \$3.8 Trillion Losses in World Agriculture from Disasters over 30 Years, Evades Principle of Infrastructure

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Oct. 13 released a new report, "[The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security 2023: Avoiding and Reducing Losses through Investment in Resilience](#)," which estimates that, as stated in the [UN News release](#), "Over the last 30 years, an estimated \$3.8 trillion worth of crops and livestock production has been lost due to disaster events, corresponding to an average loss of \$123 billion per year or 5% of annual global agricultural gross domestic product (GDP)...."

The FAO defined disasters as “serious disruptions to the functioning of a community or society,” and pointed out that the worst hit are lower and lower middle-income countries. The research made estimates for the volume of commodities lost, for example, “losses in cereals amounted to an average of 69 million tons per year in the last three decades....”

The so-called action points from the study steer clear of promoting defenses against natural disasters by building infrastructure, and steer very clear from identifying geopolitics as behind the stoking of perpetual conflicts. Instead, the report outlines “three key priorities for action: improving data and information on the impacts of disasters on all subsectors of agriculture—crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and forestry; developing and mainstreaming multisectoral and multi-hazard disaster risk reduction approaches into policy and programming at all levels; and enhancing investments in resilience that provide benefits in reducing disaster risk in agriculture and improve agricultural production and livelihoods.”

Demonstrations Growing Worldwide for Mideast Ceasefire, End to Genocide, Freedom for Palestine

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—“From Morocco to Türkiye, Australia to Italy, Norway to Scotland, Ireland to London to multiple U.S. cities and beyond, millions all around the world are marching in solidarity with Gaza. Israeli propaganda has failed,” Sarah @sahouraxo, self-described as an independent Lebanese geopolitical commentator wrote on X on Sunday night, Oct. 15. She posted photos showing clearly large crowds in Amsterdam, Brussels, Madrid and Pakistan.

The scale and scope of the rallies broke the news of their existence into even some Establishment media. Spain’s *Público* reported that 30,000 rallied in Madrid. “Tens of thousands” had marched in London, Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen, London’s *The Guardian* admitted Oct. 14.

Jeremy Corbyn, former head of Britain’s Labour Party, addressed the London rally: “It is a day of solidarity and it is a day of hope. There are

many who say that nobody should be here today because they'll be condoning terrible things. None of us are here to condone killing. None of us are here to condone occupation. If you believe in international law, if you believe in human rights, then you must condemn what is happening now in Gaza by the Israeli army." Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East followed with a statement on Oct. 15 calling Israel's air strikes, siege and forcible ejection of people in north Gaza "collective punishment of the Palestinian people." (British Broadcasting Corp., which over the weekend smeared the demonstrators as supporting Hamas, on Oct. 16 felt it advisable to cover their arse by broadcasting a 20-second "apology" for that reportage as "poorly phrased and a misleading description.")

Demonstrations were held in cities across the U.S. over the weekend, ranging from hundreds to thousands of people calling for an end to the siege of Gaza and freeing Palestine. ABC News, for example, reported that "a sea of people" came out in Chicago on Sunday (the police estimate of 2,000 seeming low to the reporter) to protest Gaza being turned from "an open air prison into an open air morgue," and the *Los Angeles Times* gave a figure of "several thousand" protesters marching in that city, so that at one point the southbound lanes of the nearby 405 Freeway were briefly shut down.

Today, new demonstrations were reported in Texas (Dallas, Houston and San Antonio), and for the second day in a row in front of the White House in Washington, D.C. Today's demonstration was organized by the Jewish organization, "If Not Now," whose stated aim is "organizing our community to end U.S. support for Israel's apartheid system and demand equality, justice, and a thriving future for all." Some 1,500 to 2,000 Jewish non-violent activists from the group blocked the entrances to the White House for hours, with chants, singing, and signs of "No to War," "No to apartheid," "Stop Genocide in Gaza," "Two wrongs do not make a right." Over 50 were arrested today, they report, but added: "We need you with us tomorrow and all the days after."

HISTORY AND CULTURE

Daniel Barenboim Demonstrates How Israelis and Palestinians Must Find ‘Our Common Humanity’

Oct. 16, 2023 (EIRNS)—In an opinion piece published Oct. 15 in *The Guardian* and other European dailies, Classical pianist and conductor [Daniel Barenboim](#), conductor and co-founder with Palestinian-American intellectual Edward Said of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, wrote very movingly about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, rising above the immediate horror of the current situation to address the need to find “our common humanity.”

The orchestra was founded in 1999 to bring together young Palestinian and Israeli musicians. The founding of the Barenboim-Said Academy in 2016 in Berlin continues the mission of educating a generation of young musicians from Southwest Asia, North Africa and around the world.

Barenboim wrote that “in our orchestra, Israelis and Palestinians found common ground. Our hearts are broken by this conflict.” We “must, want and will continue to believe in our shared humanity. Music is one way to bring us closer together.” The Israeli-Palestinian conflict “is not a political conflict between two states over borders, water, oil or other resources. It is a deeply human conflict between two peoples who have known suffering and persecution,” he stressed

To those attracted to extremism, “we have to offer other perspectives ... those who find a home there are usually people who are completely without prospects, who are desperate, who devote themselves to murderous ideologies. Education and information are equally essential.” The mere fact that Arab and Israeli musicians share a podium at every concert “is of immense value,” he argued. Over the years, there have sometimes been heated discussions among orchestra members, by which “we have learned to better understand the supposed other, to approach them and to find common ground. ... We start and end all discussion, no matter how controversial, with the fundamental understanding that we are all equal human beings, who deserve peace, freedom and happiness.”