

Foreign Policy Institute - Ankara

Author - Peder Sjöman

Brief analysis - Despite the agreement of the UN Security Council, will Israel under Netanyahu's leadership cease its actions?

### *Voting in the Security Council*

For the first time since the war began between Israel & Hamas, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has adopted a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire and the release of all remaining hostages. The immediate humanitarian ceasefire is supposed to be applied during Ramadan, until April 9. Which should act as a first step, towards a "permanent" end to the current war. This occurs subsequent to 14 Yes votes and the U.S. choosing to abstain in the UNSC, following vetoed it several times in previous votes. White House spokesperson, John Kirby expressed himself as follows after the vote: "Our vote does not, and I repeat that does not represent a shift in our policy," and "Nothing has changed about our policy. Nothing" (Reuters, 2024). The Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu has responded harshly and described the U.S.'s choice to abstain as a "clear retreat" and has chosen not to send a high-level delegation to Washington as planned. Mr. Kirby mentioned their stance, that their foreign policy hasn't changed. On paper, on the other hand, it is a clear marking and change in comparison to how the tone and votes have looked on previous occasions. Regardless of what the White House claims, it indicates a *sharp criticism* towards Israel.

### *What's the procedure moving forward?*

The attacks that Israel has been carrying out, over the course since October 7, I do believe will continue despite the vote in the Security Council. Netanyahu has been clear on numerous occasions, stating that they will not cease until all the hostages are safe and Hamas is destroyed. Additionally, I believe Netanyahu feels abandoned and above all betrayed by their closest ally, the U.S. by not vetoing, which could possibly have the opposite effect on Israel, that they continue to engage in combat and will carry out bombings more heavily than they have done in the recent past.

However, in the resolution, Hamas is forced to immediately and unconditionally release the hostages. This part included, I have a hard time seeing it happen. So the question remains if

the truce talks in Qatar's capital, Doha, and Egypt's capital, Cairo, will continue for the foreseeable future to host the quiet diplomacy dialogues, I believe they will.

*Written on 26th of March, 2024*

References:

Reuters. "UN Security Council demands immediate Gaza ceasefire after US abstains"

Published on March 26, 2024, available at:

<<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-security-council-demands-immediate-ceasfire-gaza-2024-03-25/>> {Accessed March 26, 2024}