

Palestinians reject UN vote

On 17 Nov the UN Security Council passed a resolution – introduced by the USA – by 13 votes (including UK) with Russia and China abstaining. **Palestinians took no part in developing this resolution nor the Trump twenty-point plan leading to the ceasefire.**

What the UN agreed

The plan is astonishingly vague.

- set up a '**Board of Peace**' (BoP), chaired by Trump, a transitional governance administration in Gaza whose members are not named. The BoP will supervise and support a Palestinian technocratic, apolitical committee of competent Palestinians from the Strip, whose members are not named.

- create an **International Stabilisation Force** answerable to the BoP, i.e. Trump. The ISF, whose members are not named, will oversee governance, reconstruction, and security. This would not be a UN peace keeping force but a force tasked to fight Hamas.

- a **vague reconstruction plan**, leaving a gap for the US-Israeli vision of dividing Gaza.

- a vague '**promise**' (demanded by Saudi Arabia) of a path to a **Palestinian state**, conditional on Palestinian steps to satisfy the BoP, and so requiring Israeli acceptance.



Palestinians clear rubble to search for survivors in a house destroyed by an overnight Israeli airstrike on 29 October. Omar Ashtawy (APA images)

What's Missing?

No mention of **occupation** (ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice). None of **genocide** (the international consensus). **War crimes** and the **arrest warrants** issued by the International Criminal Court for Benjamin Netanyahu and ex-defence Minister Yoav Gallant - all ignored. So are **international law** (despite Russian insistence), the 18-year **siege of Gaza**, the multiple **violations of the present ceasefire** by Israel.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) welcomed the vote. The PA has little credibility amongst Palestinians in the West Bank or Gaza. A survey in 2023 found 87 percent of Palestinians believed the PA to be corrupt, 78 percent wanted President Abbas to resign.

Palestinian Opposition

Other Palestinians opposed the UN resolution, Hamas stating:

"The resolution imposes an international guardianship mechanism on the Gaza Strip, which our people and their factions reject". Before the vote they had stated "... any international presence should be limited to border monitoring and ceasefire supervision under full UN control, rather than operating internally within Gaza."

Civil organisations, including the largest human rights organisation, Al-Haq, condemned the decision, pointing out that Palestinians have an unconditional right to self-determination:

"To seek, as a matter of supposed political compromise, to sideline international law, would be to render the UN complicit in Israel's violations, to fundamentally break the promise of the UN Charter, and to fuel only ever intensifying human carnage..."