



# Israel attack aimed to halt Gaza talks, Qatar emir tells emergency summit

Netanyahu “dreams of turning the Arab region into an Israeli sphere of influence”



(L-R) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General Jassim al-Budaiwi, Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah, Qatar's Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Oman's Deputy Prime Minister for Defense Affairs Shihab bin Tariq Al Said, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Bahrain's King's Personal Representative Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the UAE's Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, posing for a group picture during the 2025 Arab-Islamic emergency summit in Doha

● Israel's “brutal” aggression “threatens all that has been achieved”

● The emir also said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “dreams of turning the Arab region into an Israeli sphere of influence, and this is a dangerous illusion”.

● United Nations Human Rights Council said it would host an urgent debate today on Israel's air strike

AFP | Doha, Qatar

Qatar's emir accused Israel of trying to derail Gaza ceasefire efforts with its attack on Hamas in Doha, as Arab and Muslim leaders held emergency talks yesterday to discuss a unified response.

The joint Arab League and



Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman al-Thani (2nd R) receiving Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, his wife Emine Erdogan (L), and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan (R) upon their arrival in Doha

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation summit was called by Qatar to pile pressure on Israel, which has been facing mounting calls to end the wwar and humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Hamas says top officials survived last week's air strike in Doha, which killed six people

and triggered a wave of criticism, including a rebuke from US President Donald Trump.

Qatar has been a key mediator in talks to end the war in Gaza -- alongside Egypt and the United States -- and the Israeli strike came as Hamas officials were discussing a new US proposal.

“Whoever works diligently and systematically to assassinate the party with whom he is negotiating, intends to thwart the negotiations,” Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said in his opening remarks.

“Negotiations, for them, are merely part of the war.”

The emir also said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “dreams of turning the Arab region into an Israeli sphere of influence, and this is a dangerous illusion”.

A draft final statement from the summit seen by AFP warned that Israel's “brutal” aggression “threatens all that has been

achieved on the path toward establishing normal relations with Israel, including existing and future agreements”.

Israel and its main backer the United States have been trying to expand the Abraham Accords, which established ties with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco in 2020.

According to the draft statement, the nearly 60-country grouping in Doha will also emphasise “the concept of collective security... as well as the necessity of aligning together to face common challenges and threats”.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, was among those present, as were Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas.

Jordan's King Abdullah II and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also attended.

Separately, the United Nations Human Rights Council said it would host an urgent debate today on Israel's air strike in Qatar.

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QATARI EMIR SHEIKH TAMIM BIN HAMAD AL THANI SAID IN HIS OPENING REMARKS

## Rubio promises ‘unwavering support’ for Israel in Gaza goals

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday that Washington was steadfast in its support for its ally Israel's pursuit of the Gaza war and called for the eradication of Hamas.

“The people of Gaza deserve a better future, but that better future cannot begin until Hamas is eliminated,” Rubio told reporters at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

“You can count on our unwav-

ering support,” he said.

Netanyahu said Rubio's visit was a “clear message” the United States stood with Israel and praised President Donald Trump for his backing, calling him the “greatest friend that Israel has ever had”.

Rubio criticised plans by Western nations to recognise a Palestinian state, saying they “emboldened” Hamas. “They're largely symbolic... the only impact they actually have is it makes Hamas feel more emboldened,” he said.

Rubio had said he would dis-

cuss with Netanyahu Israeli plans to seize Gaza City, the territory's largest urban centre, as well as the government's talk of annexing parts of the occupied West Bank in hopes of precluding a Palestinian state.

He had also said Trump wanted the Gaza war to be “finished with” -- which would mean the release of hostages and ensuring Ha-

mas is “no longer a threat”.

But talks were made more difficult last week when the Trump administration was caught off guard

by an Israeli attack in Qatar against Hamas leaders.

“We sent a message to terrorists: You can run but you cannot hide,” Netanyahu said.

The “raid didn't fail”

Rubio said Washington would continue to tell Qatar to continue its “constructive role” as an intermediary in the Gaza war.

A US official later said Rubio will travel on Tuesday to Qatar, where Arab and Muslim leaders gathered Monday to pile pressure on Israel after the attack.



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TWEETS

01



Democracy is powered by the will of the people. It thrives when human rights & fundamental freedoms of all are upheld. On this #DemocracyDay, let's reaffirm democracy as a force for dignity, inclusion & peace – and work together to ensure it delivers for all.

@antonioguterres

02



Addressed the Combined Commanders' Conference in Kolkata. In line with this year's theme 'Year of Reforms – Transformation for the Future', discussed the steps being taken to further self-reliance in the sector and encourage modernisation.

@narendramodi

03



Romanian airspace is once again a blatant violation of EU sovereignty and a serious threat to regional security. We are working closely with Romania and all Member States to protect the EU territory. Suntem solidari cu România.

@vonderleyen

04



In response to the dengue outbreak, Samoa's frontline clinical care is grounded on simple but powerful steps, such as supporting hydration, guiding parents, and strengthening frontline health worker training.

@DrTedros

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