

BY INVITATION

From Ceasefire to Coexistence:  
The Gulf's Role in Building  
Lasting Peace



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As ceasefire negotiations continue between Israel and Hamas to end the war, the eyes of the world once again turn to the Gulf. The region's leadership has proven that diplomacy, rooted in faith and moral conviction, can achieve what decades of conflict could not. Today, that same leadership is vital to transforming a temporary truce into a foundation for lasting peace.

Gulf countries – Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates – have already shown the world that reconciliation is possible when nations choose dialogue over division. The Abraham Accords were not only a diplomatic breakthrough, but a moral one. They proved that peace with Israel does not mean abandoning the Palestinian people, and that normalization can coexist with compassion, justice, and faith.

I have spent much of my life working to strengthen ties between Jews and Muslims, the children of Abraham who share a common faith and destiny. Through my work with leaders from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Morocco, Jordan, and beyond, I have witnessed a quiet but profound transformation. The Gulf has become a beacon of coexistence, reminding the world that peace built on mutual respect can reverberate far beyond politics.

Bahrain's leadership has been central to that transformation. Under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahrain has established itself as a champion of interfaith understanding. His vision made Bahrain one of the first Arab nations to combat extremism and publicly embrace peace with Israel as a step toward a stronger, more inclusive Middle East. His Majesty's commitment to dialogue and tolerance has inspired others to follow suit.

Now, as the guns fall silent, the opportunity before us is clear. The Gulf can help transform this ceasefire into the beginning of a new regional reality, one where a Palestinian state and the State of Israel exist side by side in security and dignity. The key is to expand the spirit of cooperation that Bahrain and its partners have already built.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman captured this vision when he said, "I believe the Palestinians and the Israelis have the right to have their own land. But we have to have a peace agreement to assure the stability for everyone and to have normal relations."

Those words reflect the growing understanding that peace is not weakness but wisdom, and that coexistence is the only path to a secure and prosperous future.

True peace requires more than treaties. It demands trust. The Gulf has earned that trust through its moral consistency and its courage to lead with faith. The progress made through the Abraham Accords must now serve as a roadmap for reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians.

History will remember this moment not for its ceasefire, but for whether the region's leaders turned it into lasting coexistence. Bahrain and its neighbors have already shown the world what is possible when faith guides diplomacy. Now, they can show the world what peace truly looks like.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

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Israel hits another Gaza target  
after deadliest night since truce

AFP | Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

Israel said it struck an arms dump in Gaza yesterday, hours after the deadliest night of bombing since the start of a US-brokered truce, warning it would continue to operate to take out perceived threats.

The military announced it had carried out a precision strike on a site in the Beit Lahia area of northern Gaza where it said weapons were being stockpiled for "an imminent terror attack".

Israeli troops, it said, would remain deployed in "accordance with the ceasefire agreement and will continue to operate to remove any immediate threat".

Hamas-run Gaza's civil defence agency told AFP that one Palestinian was killed in the latest strike -- and that 104 -- including 46 children and 24 women -- had died in the previous night's bombardment.

The Israeli military launched a wave of bombing after one of its soldiers was killed in Gaza on Tuesday. By mid-morning on Wednesday it said it had begun "renewed enforcement of the ceasefire".

Both US President Donald Trump and regional mediator Qatar said they expected the ceasefire to hold, but inside Gaza displaced families were losing hope.

"We had just started to breathe again, trying to rebuild our lives, when the bombardment came back," said 31-year-old Khadija al-Husni, a displaced mother living with her children under canvas at a school in Al-Shati refugee camp.

"It's a crime. Either there is a truce or a war -- it can't be both. The children couldn't sleep; they thought the war was over."

'We're exhausted'

United Nations rights chief Volker Turk said the report of so many dead was appalling and urged all sides not to let peace "slip from our grasp", echoing calls from Britain, Germany and the European Union for the parties to recommit to the ceasefire.

In the central city of Deir el-Balah, in a tent near Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, 40-year-old Jalal Abbas was close to despair and accused the Israelis of using false pretexts to resume their campaign.

"The problem is that Trump gives them cover to kill civilians because they misled him with false information," he told AFP.

"We want an end to the war and the escalation. We're exhausted and on the verge of collapse."

The Israeli military said that its strikes had targeted 30 senior Hamas, with Defence Minister Israel Katz maintaining "dozens of Hamas commanders were neutralised".

Israel said it launched the wave of strikes after reservist Master Sergeant Yona Efraim Feldbaum, 37, was killed in Rafah when his engineering vehicle was hit by enemy fire.

Hostage handover delayed  
Hamas said its fighters had "no



Palestinian Sanaa Al-Safadi (L) mourns over the body of her son Abdul Rahman, 15, who was killed in overnight Israeli strikes, at the Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City



Palestinian Mahmud Shakshek (R) is comforted by a relative as he mourns over the bodies of his children, Fadi (R) and Sarah, who were killed in overnight Israeli strikes, at the Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City

Mediator Qatar expects Gaza ceasefire  
to last despite 'violation': PM

New York, United States

Mediator Qatar said yesterday it expected a US-backed ceasefire to hold in Gaza despite a "violation" as Israel carried out strikes in response to Palestinian fire.

"Fortunately I think the main parties -- both of them -- are acknowledging that the ceasefire should hold and they should stick to the agreement," Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told the Council on Foreign Relations on a visit to

New York.

Taking a cautious tone, Al Thani did not accuse Israel of violating the ceasefire and pointed to the attack on Israeli soldiers.

"That's basically a violation by the Palestinian party," Al Thani said, while noting that Hamas has said it was not communicating with the group that carried out the attack.

"Yesterday's event was honestly something that is very disappointing and frustrating for us to see," Al Thani said.

"We are trying to contain it

and we mobilized right away after this in full coordination with the United States. And we have seen that the US also is committed to the deal, so the ceasefire still holds as of now."

Al Thani called the attack -- in which a Qatari security guard became the first citizen of a Gulf Arab monarchy killed by an Israeli airstrike -- not only "a shock but a game-changer for all the region."

"I think that the attack itself has shown the US that there are all the red lines being crossed in the region," he said.

connection to the shooting incident in Rafah" and reaffirmed its commitment to the US-backed ceasefire.

It also delayed handing over what it said was the remains of a deceased hostage, and that any "escalation will hinder the search, excavation and recovery of the bodies".

After the start of this month's ceasefire it returned the 20 surviving captives still in its custody and began the process of returning 28 bodies of deceased hostages.

But a row over the slow return of these last remains has threatened to derail the ceasefire plan -- agreed between Israel and

Hamas and backed by Trump's US administration and regional mediators Egypt, Turkey and Qatar.

Israel accuses Hamas of reneging on the deal by not returning them fast enough, but the Palestinian group says it will take time to locate remains buried in Gaza's ruins.