



### China, Uruguay lift bilateral relations

The two sides announced to upgrade ties to comprehensive strategic partnership on Wednesday, and agreed to deepen cooperation in a range of aspects **3**

### The two Michaels affair is only one of Western lies

If Canada can so lie about the two Michaels like this, with every Western utterance about China, we should ask "Why should the world believe a word they say?" **7**

### Leading experts hail China's Global AI Governance Initiative

The world is entering a golden era of opportunity for international cooperation and the governance of AI. China's Global AI Governance Initiative is a positive response to AI risks and opportunities **8-9**

### ► Preparing to welcome heroes



This photo taken on November 22, 2023 shows Chinese national flags hung on both sides of Shenyang's Youth Street for the return of the remains of Chinese soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War in downtown Shenyang, Northeast China's Liaoning Province. (See story on Page 4) Photo: VCG

### China warns US, Philippines not to harm its sovereignty, rights

By Yang Sheng and Liu Xuanzun

China on Wednesday warned the US and the Philippines that their recent joint naval patrols near Chinese territorial waters should not harm China's sovereignty and maritime interests, with analysts saying the military activities by Washington and Manila showed the two countries have no sincerity to ease tension.

Chinese military experts said the vessels and aircrafts that are participating in the patrol showed poor combat capability and lack of effective collaborative capacity between the Filipino and US navies, and tactically, they are unable to bring a significant challenge to China's advantage in law enforcement and national defense over relevant regions.

In fact, the analysts noted, the US intends to use the Philippines to complicate regional issues even further, while other regional countries choose to solve disputes with China by negotiation. The US also wants to strengthen its military presence around the Taiwan Straits to provoke China over the Taiwan question.

#### Warning sent

Mao Ning, a spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, when asked about the latest military acts by the US and the Philippines, told a routine daily press conference on Wednesday that "the Chinese side has made clear about the stance toward the Philippines and the US," saying that the patrol should not harm China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests.

The militaries of the Philippines and the US

**2**  
Joint

### ► 4-day cease-fire 'a positive sign, not enough to change broader situation'

## Israel-Hamas temporary truce welcomed; more efforts urged

By Chen Qingqing

The two sides in the Israel-Hamas conflict have agreed to a four-day cease-fire in the Gaza Strip and the release of at least 50 hostages held in Gaza. China welcomed the development on Wednesday, in the hope that the agreement will alleviate the humanitarian crisis and push forward the de-escalation of the

situation as soon as possible.

Chinese observers said this positive sign could indicate a temporary cooling down of the situation, which was achieved due to multiple factors including mounting pressure that both Israel and Hamas have been facing, the latest UN Security Council resolution adopted under China's rotating presidency, the strong voice of

the Global South through the latest BRICS extraordinary virtual summit, and the active mediation of the Arab world.

Israel and Hamas agreed to a Qatar-mediated deal for a four-day truce in Gaza and the release of 50 captives held in the enclave in exchange for 150 Palestinians imprisoned in Israel, according to media reports. Women and children will

be released.

We welcome the temporary cease-fire agreement reached by the relevant parties, hoping it will help to alleviate the humanitarian crisis, and push for de-escalating the conflict, and easing tensions, Mao Ning, a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said at a press briefing on Wednesday.

**2**  
Pause





**A soldier patrols as humanitarian aid is unloaded at Egypt's al-Arish Airport on November 22, 2023, ahead of being transported to the Rafah border area with the Gaza Strip. Israel and Hamas announced a deal on November 22, allowing at least 50 hostages to be freed for the release of about 150 Palestinian prisoners from Israel, while offering besieged Gaza residents a four-day truce after weeks of devastating war.** Photo: VCG

## Pause 'a window of opportunity' for intl community to mediate

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### Signs of 'de-escalation'

The truce came after leaders from the BRICS countries gathered in an unprecedented virtual meeting on Tuesday night, calling for a sustained truce in the Israel-Hamas war. Although the four-day cease-fire does not mean the end of the war, some observers considered it as a positive development achieved through the joint efforts of various parties.

Officials from Qatar, which has been mediating secret negotiations, as well as the US, Israel and Hamas have for days been saying a deal was imminent, Reuters reported.

Hamas is believed to be holding more than 200 hostages captive, who were taken when its fighters surged into Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 people, Reuters said, citing Israeli tallies.

A statement from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said 50 women and children will be released over four days, during which there will be a pause in fighting, according to media reports.

And for every additional 10 hostages released, the pause would be extended by another day, it said, without mentioning the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange, according to the Reuters report.

"There are signs of de-escalation in the Israel-Palestine conflict, which is a positive indication," Sun Degang, director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Fudan University, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

With China serving as the rotating president of the UN Security Council, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2712 on November 15, calling for the immediate release of hostages. "Now we've seen concrete results

achieved after the implementation of the resolution," Sun said.

As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza continued to unfold, Israel has been facing mounting pressure both domestically and internationally to end its offensive in Gaza. However, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel will continue its war against Hamas, even if a temporary cease-fire is reached with the Islamic militant group to release hostages, local media reported.

"We wouldn't say this four-day truce would be a major turning point in the Israel-Hamas conflict but it's more like a short-term buffer as both Hamas militants and Israel have been facing external pressure," Zhu Yongbiao, director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies at Lanzhou University, told the Global Times.

At present, a temporary cease-fire is undoubtedly conducive to easing the overall situation and may create favorable conditions for further peace talks in the future. However, it likely will not change the broader situation significantly, Zhu said.

### Window of opportunity

Still, the four-day truce could serve as "a window of opportunity" for the global community to continue mediating to see if there's any chance to extend it, some experts said.

Xi said during the BRICS virtual summit on Tuesday that China calls for early convening of an international peace conference that is more authoritative to build international consensus for peace and work toward an early solution to the question of Palestine that is comprehensive, just and sustainable.

"There was a quartet mechanism involving the US, the EU, Russia and the UN, but it has become paralyzed

and has not been operational for a considerable length of time," Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

Establishing a more authoritative international mechanism likely will still need to be centered around the UN, Liu said. "With signs of improvement in the China-US relations, it's more likely that major countries will play a more constructive role to push forward possible consensus at the level of the UN Security Council," he added.

After senior diplomats from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Palestine and Indonesia visited China from Monday to Tuesday, they will also visit the US, the UK and France, which was mandated by the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh on November 11.

Although the truce was agreed through the mediation of countries like Qatar, it cannot be made with the participation of only one or two parties, some experts said, noting that the participation of the various forces led to the current situation including the efforts of other Arab and Islamic countries.

However, given the divided stances among countries in the Middle East such as Iran and Turkey, in addition to the conflicts inside Palestine, for example, between Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organization, it is still difficult to ease the mistrust and hatred in the short term, casting a shadow over hopes for resolving the conflict in the long term, experts said.

"Israel is facing its own domestic political struggle, which means both sides in the Palestine-Israel conflict need a period of adjustment," Liu said.

## Joint patrol nothing meaningful but bluffing; attempt harbors ill motive

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launched joint patrols on Tuesday in waters near the island of Taiwan, officials of Manila said, Reuters reported, saying that this could be a move to "fan further tension with China."

Security engagements between Washington and Manila have soared this year, including a decision to almost double the number of Philippine bases the American military can access, some of which are facing the island of Taiwan, and their largest-ever joint military drill in April, according to the report.

Xu Liping, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said "When the US wants to use its ally to present its military hegemony in the relevant waters, the Philippines is trying to use the US military presence to back its illegal claim over the South China Sea, and Manila also wants Washington to provide more military assistance."

"China will be calm in handling the situation. We urge the US and the Philippines to keep their promise, and the US should implement the consensus recently reached by the heads of state of both sides in San Francisco, rather than creating new frictions. We also urge the Philippines to abide by the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and not to complicate and escalate the tension," Xu noted.

Zhang Junshe, a Chinese naval expert, told the Global Times that "currently, all other relevant parties of the South China Sea issue support and agree to solve disputes with China via negotiation and coordination, and they don't want other non-regional forces to get involved to make the situation more complicated and intense."

The Philippines' attempt to seek the external force's support to serve its selfish demand will worsen the South China Sea situation and harm regional peace and stability, so Manila's acts won't be welcomed by other regional countries, Zhang noted.

### Useless bluffing

Chen Xiangmiao, director of the World Navy Research Center at the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, told the Global Times on Wednesday that the joint patrol enables the US to show a certain level of diplomatic support, attempts to deter China and attract other countries like Japan and Australia to join similar activities in the future.

But judging from the participating forces, the joint patrol is more of a diplomatic show with limited military significance, Chen said.

While the P-8A patrol aircraft can contribute to the US' situational awareness by conducting reconnaissance on Chinese submarine and surface vessel activities, the littoral combat ship is only useful in close-in reconnaissance operations with diplomatic and political aims, and not suitable for combat operations, Chen said, noting the Philippine' warships and warplanes are not operationally significant in the South China Sea.

Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military expert, voiced a similar opinion, as he told the Global Times on Wednesday that the US did not send very capable forces to the joint patrol, and the Philippine forces' capabilities are limited.

But the US is encouraging the Philippines to use its less capable military forces to spearhead provocative activities in sensitive air and maritime regions in the South China Sea and around the island of Taiwan, Wei said. "This harbors an ulterior motive."

