

SUMMARY of “Dangers of Escalation,” Maleeha Lodhi, Published in Dawn on October 23rd, 2023

The article delves into the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza, highlighting the risks of its escalation into a broader Middle East conflict. The author points out two key developments that put the U.S. role in this crisis under scrutiny. Firstly, President Joe Biden’s visit to Israel amidst the war and secondly, the U.S. veto of a UN Security Council resolution calling for a “humanitarian pause” in the hostilities. President Biden’s visit took place shortly after an Israeli strike on Al Ahli hospital in Gaza that resulted in a significant loss of life, leading to widespread international condemnation. International legal experts deemed this strike a war crime and a violation of humanitarian law. President Biden’s one-sided stance, showing unwavering support for Israel, raised concerns, and his agreement with Israel’s claims without evidence further exacerbated the situation. Jordan’s King Abdullah and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas canceled their meetings with President Biden, and a planned summit was called off following the hospital bombing. The author emphasizes that the U.S. visit was perceived as giving Israel free rein to intensify bombings, and this has led to an alarming escalation of the conflict.

Israel’s response has been to intensify its bombing campaign in Gaza and conduct multiple raids into the West Bank, leading to protests against Israel. Despite growing international calls for a ceasefire, Washington has appeared insensitive to the destabilizing consequences of its policy. The U.S. conduct in the UN Security Council meetings reinforced the impression that it was not taking measures to de-escalate the situation. The article notes that the longer the conflict persists, the higher the risk of it expanding into a regional conflict. The



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author mentions Israeli actions near Syria’s airports and the exchange of fire along the Lebanese border, which has placed pressure on Hezbollah in Lebanon to become involved. A ground invasion of Gaza could further draw in other parties, possibly leading to U.S. intervention. The author underscores the importance of an immediate ceasefire and de-escalation to prevent the risk of a wider regional conflict. This would necessitate a shift in U.S. policy towards prioritizing regional peace and justice over unconditional support for Israel.

Easy/Short SUMMARY:

The article discusses the Israel-Gaza conflict and its potential to escalate into a broader Middle East conflict. It highlights President Biden’s visit to Israel amid the war and the U.S. veto of a UN resolution calling for a humanitarian pause in the fighting. The author criticizes the U.S. stance, which is seen as one-sided support for Israel and a lack of empathy for Gaza’s suffering. Israel’s response to this support has been an intensified bombing campaign in Gaza and actions in the West Bank. The longer the conflict continues, the higher the risk of it expanding into a regional war, affecting neighboring countries. The article calls for an immediate ceasefire and de-escalation and suggests that the U.S. should prioritize regional peace and justice over unquestioning support for Israel.

SOLUTIONS of The Problem:

1. **Immediate Ceasefire:** All parties involved should agree to an immediate ceasefire to prevent the conflict from escalating further.
2. **Regional Diplomacy:** Engage in regional diplomacy involving key stakeholders to work towards a peaceful resolution.
3. **International Mediation:** Seek mediation from international organizations or countries with a history of successful conflict resolution.
4. **Humanitarian Aid:** Ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to the affected areas to address the immediate needs of the population.
5. **Address Root Causes:** Address the root causes of the conflict to prevent future escalations, which may involve political, economic, and social solutions.

IMPORTANT Facts and Figures Given in the article:

- President Biden’s visit to Israel took place amid the ongoing war.
- A UN Security Council resolution seeking a “humanitarian pause” was vetoed by the U.S.
- Israeli strikes on Al Ahli hospital in Gaza led to international condemnation.
- Israel intensified its bombing campaign in Gaza and carried out raids into the West Bank.
- The conflict poses the risk of expanding into a wider regional conflict.

IMPORTANT Facts and Figures out of the article:

- Specific numbers related to casualties, airstrikes, or diplomatic meetings were not provided in the article.

MCQs from the Article:

- 1. What led to widespread international condemnation in the Israel-Gaza conflict?**
 - A. The U.S. veto of a UN resolution
 - B. An Israeli strike on Al Ahli hospital in Gaza**
 - C. President Biden’s visit to Israel
 - D. A ground invasion of Gaza
- 2. Why did President Biden’s visit to Israel raise concerns?**
 - A. It signaled a shift in U.S. foreign policy.
 - B. It focused on humanitarian aid efforts.
 - C. It showed unwavering support for Israel.**
 - D. It called for an immediate ceasefire.
- 3. What did Jordan’s King Abdullah describe the hospital bombing as?**
 - A. A diplomatic setback
 - B. A heinous war crime**



- C. A successful summit
- D. A turning point in the crisis

4. **What is the main concern associated with the longer continuation of Israel's war on Gaza?**

- A. A potential reduction in humanitarian aid
- B. Improved diplomatic relations
- C. The higher risk of a wider conflict**
- D. The resolution of the conflict

5. **What does the article suggest as a solution to prevent further escalation in the conflict?**

- A. Increased military support for Israel
- B. Continued U.S. one-sided stance
- C. Immediate ceasefire and de-escalation**
- D. Sanctions against Gaza

VOCABULARY:

1. **Escalation** (noun) (تصعيد): The process of increasing in intensity or severity.
2. **Vetoed** (verb) (منع): To reject or prohibit a decision or proposal.
3. **Unwavering** (adjective) (ثابت): Firm, determined, and not wavering or fluctuating.
4. **Unprecedented** (adjective) (غير مسبوق): Never done or known before.
5. **Diplomatic** (adjective) (دبلوماسي): Relating to or characteristic of diplomacy, the profession, activity, or skill of managing international relations.
6. **Atrocities** (noun) (مجازر): Horrifically wicked, cruel, or brutal actions.
7. **Heinous** (adjective) (فجور): Utterly reprehensible; wicked or evil.
8. **Cessation** (noun) (انتهاء): The fact or process of ending or being brought to an end.
9. **Carte blanche** (noun) (بطاقة بيضاء): Complete freedom or authority to act as one wishes.
10. **Humanitarian Aid** (noun) (مساعدات إنسانية): Material or logistical assistance provided for humanitarian purposes, typically in response to a crisis.
11. **Conflict Resolution** (noun) (حل النزاع): The process of facilitating a



peaceful and mutually acceptable settlement of disputes.

12. **Stakeholders** (noun) (شخصيات متعلقات): Those with an interest or concern in a particular situation or issue.
13. **Diplomacy** (noun) (ممارسة العلاقات الدولية): The profession, activity, or skill of managing international relations.
14. **Deterrence** (noun) (تثبيط): The action of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.
15. **Veto** (noun) (حق النقض): The right to reject or prohibit a decision or proposal made by a law-making body.
16. **De-escalation** (noun) (تهدئة): The process of decreasing in intensity or severity.
17. **International Humanitarian Law** (noun) (القانون الدولي الإنساني): A set of rules that seek to limit the effects of armed conflict for humanitarian reasons.
18. **Crisis** (noun) (أزمة): A time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger.
19. **Blanket Support** (noun) (دعم كامل): Complete and unconditional support.
20. **Public Fury** (noun) (غضب شعبي): Widespread and intense anger or rage among the general public.

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