

U.S. vetoes Security Council resolution calling for immediate Gaza cease-fire

Dec. 9 (UPI) — The United States has vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling on Israeli to implement an immediate humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza, producing a backlash from Arab states.

The resolution, introduced two days after U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres invoked the rarely-used Article 99 of the United Nations Charter, called for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza to “avert a humanitarian catastrophe that could have ramifications for peace and security in the region and beyond.”

The push came after intense ground fighting between Israeli Defense Force and Hamas militants continued Friday in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, where the IDF has encountered some of the toughest Hamas resistance yet and Palestinian health officials said the civilian death toll in the conflict has risen to more than 17,000.

The 15-member Security Council, however, failed to adopt the cease-fire resolution late on Friday due to a veto cast by the United States — the only vote against it. The resolution was supported by 13 council members, including three permanent members (China, France and Russia), with another permanent member (Britain) abstaining.

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