

# China's Envoy To Visit Middle East

## Why In The News?

- China's Special Envoy On **The Middle East Issue, Zhai Jun**, Will Visit The Region Next Week Over The **Ongoing Israel-Hamas Conflict**, State Media Agency CGTN Reported On Sunday (October 15).
- Zhai Said He Will "Further Strengthen Coordination With All Parties In The Direction Of A **Ceasefire**, The Protection Of Civilians, De-escalation And The Promotion Of **Peace Talks**."

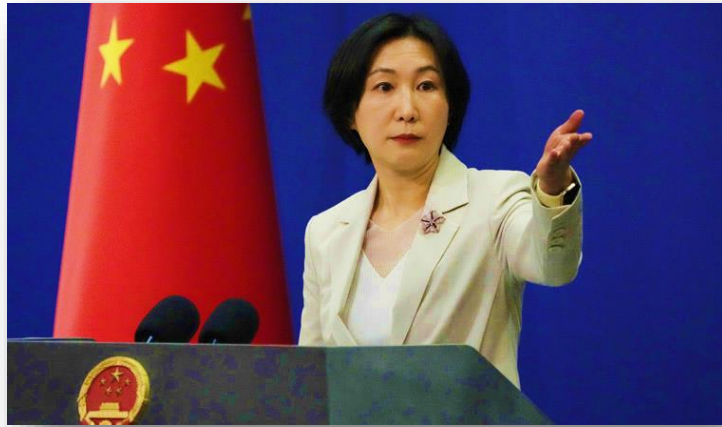


CGTN

## China's Stand On Hamas Attack On Israel

- A Few Days After Palestinian Militant Group Hamas Attacked Israel On October 7, Leading To The Deaths Of Over 1,400 Israelis So Far, **China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning Condemned Acts** That "Harm Civilians" Without Mentioning Hamas.
- On October 15, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi Told Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud Over A Phone Call That "**Israel's Actions Have Gone Beyond Self-defense** And It Should Heed The Call Of The International Community". Israel's Counterattacks Have Resulted In The **Deaths Of More Than 2,200 Palestinians**.
- Wang Yi Noted In His Phone Call With The Saudi Minister That "China Believes That The Historical Injustices Against Palestine Have Lasted For More Than Half A Century And Cannot Go On" And That "China Stands Ready To Work With Saudi Arabia And Other Arab Countries To Continue Supporting The **Palestinians' Just Cause Of Restoring Their National Rights**".

EXAMS



## Why China Is Showing Love Towards Palestine?

- By Echoing The Arab World's Support For Palestine, China Is Looking To Secure The **Support Of Its Allies** In The Region And Add To The **Criticism Of Western Powers' Involvement**.
- The Recent Attempts At **Normalization Of Relations Between Israel And Other Arab Nations**, Often Brokered By The US, Have Also Drawn Criticism In China, Emphasizing Them In Relation To Hamas's Motivations For The Attack.
- At The Same Time, **China Is Positioning Itself As An Alternative To The US** As A Key Player In The Region Through Diplomatic Engagement. In 2023, It Brokered A Normalization Agreement Between Regional Arch-rivals **Iran And Saudi Arabia** In March.
- **Chinese President Xi Jinping Hosted Palestinian Authority (PA) Leader Mahmoud Abbas** In June 2023. China Recognises PA, Which Operates From And Governs Some Areas In The West Bank, As The Representative Of The Palestinian People.



## Is China Against Israel?

- But That Is Not To Say That China Is Against Ties With Israel, Which It **Recognised In 1992**. According To An Article In The South China Morning Post, China Has Grown To Become Israel's **Second-Largest Trading Partner**, Only Behind The United States.
- This Was Aided By The **China-Israel Innovative Comprehensive Partnership Being Established In 2017**, As It Called For Increasing Cooperation In Fields Such As Science, Technology, Agriculture, Clean Energy And Finance. And Despite US Hopes For Israel To Reduce The Scale Of This Relationship, It Has Continued.
- At The Same Time, The Two Countries Are Often At Odds **China Has Criticised Israel's Role In Palestine**, While **Israel Has Condemned Chinese Human Rights Abuses In The Uyghur Muslim** Inhabited Region Of Xinjiang.

