



Page 2 | NATIONAL
Tariff Blackmail Cannot Intimidate China: Global Times Editorial

Why The United States Cannot Win The Trade War Against China?

In international politics and economy, those countries have remained successful that with principles, justice, and cooperation have...

Page 3 | ECONOMY

Afghanistan's Fig Exports Surge Amidst Challenges



Kabul
 24° / 10°

Herat
 35° / 15°



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Complaints of Afghan Refugees Rise Over Mistreatment in Iran, Pakistan

With the continued detention and forced deportation of Afghan refugees from neighboring countries, a number of Afghan migrants in Pakistan and Iran report facing various challenges in these countries.

They have criticized the Pakistani police for mistreatment and claim that their belongings are being confiscated, with only a small portion returned to them.

According to the refugees, the short deadline set for deportation has caused severe financial losses, as many were unable to wrap up... **P3**



Herat Industrial Park Blaze Causes Over \$10 Million in Damage

A massive fire in Herat's industrial park has caused over \$10 million in damages.

According to local officials, the fire started at a carton manufacturing factory and, after nearly 24 hours, is still burning intensely.

Bashir Ahmad Wahidyar, the press officer at the Herat Fire Department, stated: "Initially, we managed to save the machinery of the factory, which was worth hundreds of thousands of dollars in investment, from the flames. Due to the presence of food and organic materials, the fire spread rapidly. We were only able to contain it within the premises of the company and prevent it from spreading to other parts of the industrial park."

Hamidullah Khadem, the head of Herat's Chamber of Industries and Mines, said: "The fire is still ongoing, and all firefighting forces—from the police command to the industrial park and factories with firefighting equipment—have been engaged since yesterday." The lack... **P2**

Trump Ends Protected Status for Thousands of Afghans, Cameroonians



The Trump administration has terminated temporary deportation protections for thousands of Afghans and Cameroonians in the U.S., a U.S. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said on Friday, building on Trump's far-reaching immigration crackdown.

An estimated 14,600 Afghans eligible for Temporary Protected Status will now lose it in May. Some 7,900 Cameroonians had access to the status but will lose it in June under the termination, Reuters

reported.

U.S. President Donald Trump, a Republican, took office in January pledging to deport record numbers of migrants in the U.S. illegally. At the same time, he has swiftly moved to strip migrants of temporary legal protections, expanding the pool of possible deportees.

Trump has criticized high levels of illegal immigration under Democratic former President Joe Biden and said Biden programs offering legal status overstepped the bounds of the law.

The TPS program is available to people whose home countries experience a natural disaster, armed conflict or other extraordinary event. The status lasts 6-18 months, can be renewed by the Homeland Security secretary, and offers deportation protection and access to work permits.

Trump tried to end most TPS enrollment during his 2017-2021 presidency but was thwarted by federal courts. A U.S. district judge in late March blocked his attempt at ending the status for

Venezuelans, saying that officials' characterization of the migrants as criminals "smacks of racism."

The U.S. evacuated more than 82,000 Afghans from Afghanistan after the Islamic Emirate's takeover in 2021, including more than 70,000 who entered the U.S. with temporary "parole," which allowed legal entry for a period of two years. The Temporary Protected Status offered another avenue of protection. DHS said in 2023 that it was warranted due to armed conflict and insurgency in Afghanistan.

Advocates have said in recent days that migrants who entered the U.S. via a Biden-era app known as CBP One, including Afghans, have been receiving notices revoking their temporary parole and giving them seven days to leave the country.

McLaughlin confirmed this week that the department had revoked some migrants' parole, saying DHS was "exercising its discretionary authority." She did not provide the number of revocations.

"Affected aliens are urged to voluntarily self-deport using the CBP Home App," she said in a statement.

The notices mirror messages sent in error last week to Ukrainians.

Islamic Emirate Seeks Agriculture Ties in Uzbekistan Visit

A high-ranking delegation from the Islamic Emirate, led by Ataullah Omari, acting minister of agriculture, irrigation, and livestock, has traveled to Uzbekistan.

According to the ministry's spokesperson, the purpose of the visit is to discuss climate change and its impact on the water resources of the Amu River basin, as well as to expand cooperation in the areas of agriculture, irrigation, livestock, and food security with Uzbek officials. Ghulam Mohammad Kazem Shahamat, spokesperson for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation... **P3**



No American Military Presence in Bagram: US Defense Official



A US defense official has said that reports of the United States taking over the Bagram Air Base and flying a transport plane to the town are "not true" and that "there is no US military presence in Bagram," AFP reported.

CIA Director of Public Affairs Liz Lyons also denied the claims that

the agency's deputy Michael Ellis has traveled to Bagram.

"Reports that CIA Deputy Director Michael Ellis was at Bagram Air Base are false," she said in a statement on Friday. The Islamic Emirate's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has also rejected reports that US military planes have been landing

at Bagram Air Base. He said the IEA will not allow this to happen. Bagram Airfield, located about 40 kms north-east of Kabul, was the main base for US and NATO forces in Afghanistan during the 20-year war. Foreign troops pulled out of the base in July 2021 and handed it over to the former Afghan government.

Herat Industrial...

of firefighting resources in Herat's industrial park is considered a major challenge. Local officials emphasize the need to equip the park with advanced fire control systems to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Mohammad Asif Mirzada, a board member of the National Chamber of Industries and Mines, said: "The firefighting facilities in the industrial park are extremely limited. I urge the government, the public, and investors in this park to provide the necessary firefighting equipment and take this issue seriously."

So far, the cause of the fire remains unknown.

U.S. Military...

strikes were aimed at deterring the group from launching attacks against Israeli and U.S. naval assets in the Red Sea. The Houthis, who control much of northern Yemen, said they would halt their operations if Israel ends its offensive in Gaza and permits the delivery of critical humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip.

First...

the implantation and the medicine can be steadily released in the body for over six months, effectively preventing missed or forgotten doses. Most patients require only a single implantation, said the report.

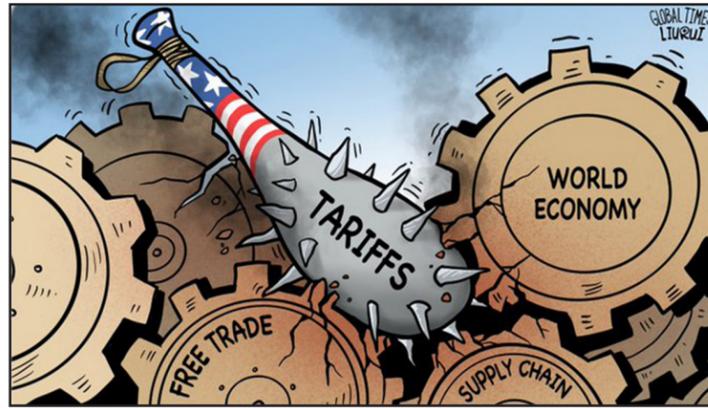
By: Global Times

Tariff Blackmail Cannot Intimidate China: Global Times Editorial

The US government, under the guise of "reciprocity," has announced tariff hikes on all its trade partners, including China, provoking widespread outrage in the international community. The Chinese government's position on opposing the US abuse of tariffs emphasizes that the US has used tariffs as a tool for extreme pressure and to pursue selfish interests. Previously, China announced a series of countermeasures, and the international community has clearly seen China's firm determination and will to defend its sovereignty, security, development, and to uphold international fairness and justice. Tariff blackmail will not intimidate China, nor will it undermine justice. China does not provoke trouble, nor is it intimidated by trouble. Pressuring and threatening are not the right way in dealing with China.

China's firm stance on striking countermeasures stems from the fact that the US' reason for tariff hikes is utterly unfounded. Under the guise of addressing "unfair foreign trade practices," the US has slapped high tariffs on its global trade partners. In reality, this is nothing more than protectionism and unilateral bullying - political blackmail wrapped in the cloak of economic means. Such actions blatantly violate the core rules of the World Trade Organization and trample on China's legitimate rights in global trade, as well as its long-standing efforts to open up. The so-called "reciprocal tariffs" have caused enormous damage to the world trade system and global supply chains, and they will pose a serious drag on global economic growth.

China is an ancient civilization known for its traditions of etiquette and respect. The Chinese people value



sincerity and trust as the foundation of their relationships. However, standing firm in the face of pressure and threats is equally a defining trait of the Chinese spirit. Looking back at history, China stood tall even in times of poverty and weakness - much less will it ever yield to hegemony today. Compared to the US government's initiation of a trade war with China in 2017, today we have a much stronger capacity to withstand pressure, richer experience in handling struggles, and comprehensive preparations to face challenges. China's industrial system and technological autonomy have significantly improved, its domestic market and economic structure continue to optimize, and its multilateral cooperation and trade partnerships have become more diverse. These factors give China greater confidence in the face of risks. As Bloomberg put it, "China has already trade-war-proofed its economy."

More importantly, China stands on the side of morality and historical righteousness. The US' latest round of tariff hikes targets more than 180 countries and regions around the world, including even the United Nations-designated "least developed countries." Some commentators have

noted that such high tariffs will deal a devastating blow to vulnerable nations with narrow economic structures and heavy reliance on exports. China's decisive countermeasures against the erroneous practices of the US not only defend its own interests but also actively uphold a fair and free world trading system.

China's countermeasures are not a call to confrontation, but a declaration to defend fairness. Amid the US repeatedly wielding the tariff stick, China has consistently responded with reason, strength, and restraint. Behind this calm and composed approach lies China's firm understanding that the key is to focus on doing its own things well. No matter how the US cracks down on or pressures it, China remains steadfast in its development and progress. More importantly, China is committed to the path of international fairness and justice, and is willing to contribute certainty to global progress through its own development. This reflects the great vision of the Chinese nation, embodying the value pursuit of promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The trade volume between China and the US is enormous. The high tariffs

imposed by the US will inevitably impact the Chinese economy in the short term. China has ultimately made a "difficult but correct" decision. This confidence stems not only from China's economic strength but also from the fact that countries globally are participating in economic globalization and benefiting from it, as well as from the depth and breadth of economic and trade cooperation between China and the US.

After the US announced "reciprocal tariffs," Gavin Newsom, the governor of California, the largest manufacturing base in the US, immediately stated, "California is not Washington," and that his administration will pursue its own "strategic trade relationships" with international trade partners. This demonstrates that the global trade system, based on industrial chain division of labor and mutual benefit among countries, possesses a robust vitality that cannot be shaken by any political decision lacking realistic logic. No one can stop China's development, and China-US economic and trade cooperation aligns with the will of the people. The trend toward economic globalization is an inevitable direction. Time will ultimately prove that the tide of history is unstoppable, moving forward relentlessly, and the Chinese people possess sufficient wisdom and strength to meet challenges, both today and in the future. China will continue to firmly stand on the right side of history and on the side of human civilization's progress, working together with the international community to contribute greater strength to humanity's peace and development. At the same time, we also urge Washington to immediately stop unilateral tariff measures and to resolve trade differences in an equal, respectful, and reciprocal manner.

Editorial

Why The United States Cannot Win The Trade War Against China?

In international politics and economy, those countries that have remained successful that with principles, justice, and cooperation have interacted. But the United States, which itself the leader of the global economy considers, in recent years from these principles clearly has violated and against China a one-sided, pressurizing and unfair trade war has started. This war, which at a high level a political shape has, with legal legitimacy and international trade norms no kind of match has.

The United States tries through tariffs, sanctions, and blocking of Chinese technology, its rival from progress to stop. But this behavior not only against international laws is, but to the concept of economic justice also a serious threat brings. The countries of the world such a policy cannot tolerate in which a powerful country wants that the progress of a rival by force to stop, without considering international rules.

President Donald Trump, who the founder of this war is, through slogans, emotional speeches and one-sided decisions tries to show to the American people that supposedly the economic

dominance of China is stopping. But between his actions and words always a deep contradiction exists. He neither in the values of a free market believes, nor in competition based on principles. Rather, this war he has turned into a tool for internal political campaigns, inciting emotions, and controlling public opinion.

In reality, this war against China is not just a political project, but by America an attempt is to hide its own decline. Because America can no longer tolerate that a new power like China in economy, innovation, technology, and international politics shoulder to shoulder with it stands. Therefore, instead of fair competition, it has chosen a policy full of blockages, restrictions, and prejudice.

China, on the contrary, through patience, prudence, and wisdom tries to present to the global market a trustworthy and principle-based cooperation. Through new markets, regional agreements, and big projects of the "Belt and Road", China has proven that economic power should not be a tool of pressure, but a way of connection, understanding and mutual development. Despite America's

pressure, China not only has not backed down, but with increasing global support is moving forward. America's current policy, which from the spirit of political monopoly and economic selfishness originates, gives this message to the world that this country no longer the principle of partnership, trust, and mutual benefit recognizes. This thinking, if it continues, not only to America will bring economic loss, but global trust will also weaken.

In reality, this war which against justice, equality, and fair competition has started, a failed and regressive effort is. The world is tired now from such behavior where only the interest of one power is protected. The global economy is the shared legacy of all nations, and no country has the right that the rights of others underfoot to step.

If America wants that in the world an influential, respected and trustworthy economic partner remain, it should from the policy of force, economic discrimination and political pressure give up. Because the future is of partnership, justice and joint solutions - not of monopoly, sanctions and injustice.

By: Ma Tong

US Tariffs Based on Flawed Logic, Will Backfire With The US Suffering Most: Former WTO Chief Pascal Lamy

Pascal Lamy, former director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), warned that the US administration's tariff policies are built on "completely mistaken" diagnosis of its domestic economy, which will backfire by fueling US inflation and pushing its interest rates higher.

In a recent exclusive interview with the Global Times, Lamy, current Vice President of the Paris Peace Forum, said that the US protectionism will fail to achieve the aim of bringing manufacturing back to the country and cutting its trade deficit. He also predicted that most international trade will "remain largely unaffected."

Since taking office in January 2025, the new US administration has rolled out a series of tariff hikes targeting major trading partners such as China, Canada, Mexico, and the European Union (EU). This push peaked on Wednesday US time with broad new tariffs slapped on nearly all imported goods—a baseline 10 percent duty across the board and steeper rates for certain countries. The US move has triggered fierce backlash

from its trade partners while sending global markets on a tailspin.

Flawed self-diagnosis Lamy argued that the sweeping tariffs adopted by the Trump administration won't work because they are built on a flawed assumption and completely mistaken diagnosis that the US economy is in bad shape—a key justification for the tariffs, and wrongly blames global trade for its domestic woes. "That is incorrect, and it's the US society that's struggling, which is a domestic issue with little connection to international trade," Lamy said.

The persistent US trade deficit—hovering at 3 to 4 percent of the US' GDP for three decades—stems from a structural imbalance between high consumption and lower production in the US economy itself, a gap easily financed by the dollar's status as the world's reserve currency, he explained. Similarly, he considers that the Chinese trade surplus is the result of an imbalance between high production and low consumption.

Lamy rejected the US framing... **P3**

Afghanistan's Fig Exports Surge Amidst Challenges

Afghanistan exported nearly 33,000 tons of figs last year, marking a significant increase in the country's dried fruit exports. According to Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the fig exports for the solar year 1403 totaled 32,814 tons, valued at over \$165 million. The primary markets for these exports included India, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Oman, Qatar, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the Netherlands.



Despite this positive growth, the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, along with the Dried Fruit Exporters Union, highlighted

several challenges that hinder further expansion in the sector. Key issues include banking difficulties, visa acquisition challenges, and the lack of standard processing facilities. Mirzaman Popal, head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment, emphasized the need for improvements in processing and packaging within the country. He urged foreign donors to collaborate with Afghan traders and investors in enhancing the packaging sector to boost exports. Khalid Rahmani, spokesman for the Kabul Dried Fruit Exporters Union, echoed these sentiments, stating that resolving trader issues related to space and visas could significantly enhance the export capacity of Afghan dried fruits, particularly figs.

Complaints of Afghan...

their business and work activities in such a limited time. Malak Shinwari, another Afghan refugee in Pakistan, said: "In Punjab, Karachi, and Sindh provinces, Afghan refugees are truly facing serious problems. Police raid their homes, seize their belongings, and return only a small part." Atiqullah Mansoor, also a refugee in Pakistan, stated: "The short-term deadline imposed by the Pakistani government has inflicted severe economic damage on Afghan refugees, as they couldn't organize and wind up their business and work activities in time." Afghan refugees in Iran also say that the Iranian police deport them in a harsh and disrespectful manner. Habibullah, an Afghan refugee in Iran, said: "The Iranian government has implemented strict measures, and people are now working secretly and informally." Enayat Alokozai, another Afghan refugee in Iran, said: "Unfortunately, neither the Afghan government nor international organizations have been able to reach an appropriate and convincing solution for the Afghan refugee situation in Iran or come to any agreement with the Iranian government."

Islamic Emirate...

and Livestock, stated: "The aim of this visit is to exchange views on climate change and its impact on the Amu River basin's water resources, to strengthen cooperation in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, livestock, food security, capacity building, and other related issues between the two countries." Meanwhile, some economic experts consider this visit important for strengthening ties between Kabul and Tashkent, especially in modernizing and developing Afghanistan's agricultural sector.

Mir Shakir Yaqubi, an economic analyst, said: "This visit is considered important for enhancing economic and trade relations, provided it is accompanied by programs and mechanisms that can attract support from countries like Uzbekistan in the agricultural development of Afghanistan." Mohammad Karim Azimi, another economic expert, said: "This step is a positive move for the growth of Afghanistan's economy, particularly in increasing the country's export capacity. We hope the Islamic Emirate, in cooperation with the private sector, continues such visits.

US Tariffs...

of its major trade partners as the culprits "exporting too much" and "stealing prosperity" from the US. "That doesn't make any sense," he said.

Globalization has sped up market openings and competition in many sectors. It has hit the US society harder not because the US deindustrialization has been worse than elsewhere, but because the country lacks a proper social security system to match its economic size and per-capita income, Lamy said. Limited global impact

The US government on Wednesday announced so-called "reciprocal tariffs" on imports from about 90 countries and regions. These new tariffs aim to "erase a trade deficit between the US and other countries," ranging from China to the EU, which face rates of 34 percent and 20 percent, respectively, among others, according to reports from multiple US media outlets.

The US has already imposed tariffs on aluminum and steel imports and has increased duties on goods from China under the pretext of the fentanyl issue.

The former WTO chief downplayed the tariffs' potential to reshape global trade, noting that the US accounts for just 15 percent of the world's imports.

"The rest of the international trading system - 85 percent of global imports, involving trade between countries like China, India, Mexico, and Canada - can

remain largely unaffected," he said. Lamy cautioned that the US itself stands to suffer the most. "If the US triggers a trade war, it will primarily hurt the US economy by raising prices, driving inflation, and likely pushing up interest rates," he said, adding that this fallout could also trigger pushback from the US financial market and the public.

However, Lamy pointed to the risk: If the US economy suffers, it could "drag down the world economy" due to the US dollar's dominance and its financial markets, which have an outsized influence beyond their share of world trade.

"The combination of potential interest rate hikes from these trade measures and high debt levels in many nations is a very dangerous mix," Lamy warned. Shifting trade winds

The former WTO chief called on the involved parties to be open to fair and balanced negotiations, but predicting "If this fails, the affected economies like EU and China will retaliate to create a fair balance of power." If the US persists with levying more duties, Lamy foresees a global trade shift. Countries and investors may pivot away from the US, seeking opportunities in other markets like Latin America or Africa in the future.

The tariff disputes will delay investments, inevitably slowing the world economy. But overall, the global trend of looking to markets beyond the US will

Iran, US Hold...

he said on Air Force One. Trump made a surprise announcement on Monday that Washington and Tehran would begin talks in Oman, a Gulf state that has mediated between the West and the Islamic Republic before. It has brokered the release of several foreign citizens and dual nationals held by Iran, read the report.

Saturday's exchanges were indirect and mediated by Oman, as Iran had wanted, rather than face-to-face, as Trump had demanded. Each delegation had its separate room and exchanged messages via Oman's foreign minister, according to Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei. Araqchi

said his delegation had a brief encounter with its U.S. counterpart headed by Witkoff, after they exited the talks.

"After the end of more than 2-1/2 hours of indirect talks, the heads of the Iranian and American delegations spoke for a few minutes in the presence of the Omani foreign minister as they left the talks. It (the encounter) was based on our political etiquette," Araqchi said. "The current focus of the talks will be de-escalating regional tensions, prisoner exchanges and limited agreements to ease sanctions (against Iran) in exchange for controlling Iran's nuclear programme," an Omani source told Reuters. Baghaei denied this account but did not specify what was false. At

the same time, Iran and allied groups have been weakened by the military offensives Israel has launched across the region, including air strikes in Iran, during its war with Hamas after the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel from Gaza in October 2023, Reuters reported. Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's ambassador to international bodies in Vienna, called the statements issued by both sides after the talks "encouraging". Tehran approached the talks warily, sceptical they could yield a deal and suspicious of Trump, who has repeatedly threatened to bomb Iran if it does not halt its accelerating uranium enrichment programme - regarded by the West as a possible pathway to

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Iran, US Hold 'Positive' Talks in Oman, Agree to Resume Next Week

Iran and the U.S. said they held "positive" and "constructive" talks in Oman on Saturday and agreed to reconvene next week in a dialogue meant to address Tehran's escalating nuclear programme, with President Donald Trump threatening military action if there is no deal, Reuters reported.

"I think we are very close to a basis for negotiations and if we can conclude this basis next week, we'll have gone a long way and will be able to start real discussions based on that," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told state television. Araqchi said the talks – the first between Iran and a Trump administration, including his 2017-2021 first term – took place in a "productive, calm and positive atmosphere". "Both sides have agreed to continue the talks ... probably next Saturday," Araqchi added.



"Iran and the U.S. side want an agreement in the short term. We do not want talks for (the sake of) talks."

The White House called the talks involving Trump's Middle East envoy Steven Witkoff, U.S. Ambassador to Oman Ana Escrogima and Araqchi "very positive and constructive."

"These issues are very complicated, and Special Envoy Witkoff's direct communication today was a step forward in achieving a mutually beneficial outcome," it said in a statement. "The sides agreed to meet again next Saturday."

Asked about the talks, Trump told reporters on Saturday night: "I think they're going OK."

"Nothing matters until you get it done, so I don't like talking about it, but it's going OK. The Iran situation is going pretty good, I think... P3

A look at the world

First Implantation Surgery of 'Sobriety Chip' Conducted in E.China's Anhui

A special "sobriety chip" has recently been successfully implanted into an alcoholic's body in East China's Anhui Province for the first time, significantly reducing the patient's craving for alcohol and offering a more effective solution for quitting drinking. The implantation surgery was performed on a male patient surnamed Li at the Yingdong branch of Fuyang City Third People's Hospital on Tuesday, Chinanews.com reported. The 40-something man has struggled with anti-alcohol for more than 20 years. Excessive drinking caused him to have a temper and frequent arguments with his family, binging significant distress to the whole family. Li's alcohol dependence has temporarily relieved with the intervention of a multidisciplinary team, including the substance dependence department at the hospital, in recent years. However, he relapsed each time after returning home after treatment. Li has been hospitalized nine times due to his frequent relapses. After the hospital introduced the new "sobriety chip" therapy, Li proactively discussed it with his family and decided to try the treatment. The "sobriety chip" is not an electronic device, but rather the sustained release naltrexone hydrochloride, a prescription medication used to treat alcohol disorder. It is implanted into the alcoholic's body through minimally invasive surgery to help him suppress the psychological craving for alcohol, reducing the risk of relapse. Li's surgery was carried out under local anesthesia after a careful and thorough evaluation on the morning of April 8, said the report. Through a small incision of one centimeter long in the subcutaneous fat layer of Li's lower abdomen, the doctors at the hospital implanted 10 naltrexone hydrochloride pills, each about the size of a soybean. The procedure of the operation took less than five minutes. The medicine takes effect within four hours after... P2



U.S. Military Conducts Fresh Airstrikes on Yemen

The U.S. military carried out 10 airstrikes across northern Yemen late Saturday night, targeting multiple locations, Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported.

The strikes reportedly hit Al-Salem district in northern Saada province, Al-Munira district in western Hodeidah province, and the Vocational Institute in Al-Sawma'ah



district of central Al-Bayda province.

No casualties have been reported so far. On Friday, the U.S. Central Command said on X that its operations against Houthis are continuing.

The United States resumed its air campaign against Houthi forces on March 15, stating that the... P2

Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Qatar Demand Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza



The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Qatar jointly called for an urgent ceasefire in Gaza during coordinated statements on Saturday.

Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan emphasized: "A ceasefire must be established immediately in Gaza, and humanitarian aid should not be conditional upon a ceasefire." He pressured Israel to ensure aid reaches Gazans and praised ongoing peace efforts by Qatar, Egypt, and the U.S., while firmly stating that "the displacement of Palestinians is unacceptable under any justification."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty concurred, stressing that Egypt and Qatar are "working daily to extend the truce and facilitate prisoner exchanges," which he said would lay the groundwork for Gaza's reconstruction.

Qatar's Foreign Minister separately affirmed in Antalya that his country's "position in support of Palestine remains firm," adding that "humanitarian aid must not be exploited as a political tool."

Egyptian FM Abdelatty further noted in another meeting that the January 19 agreement must be upheld, and its second phase should commence without delay.

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