



### **Commentary and Critique**

Volume 1, April 2024

# Recent Communication Between the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran, and Saudi Arabia: A Commentary

Chelsea H. Bowie a

<sup>a</sup> Academy of Public Policy and Economics, Hong Kong Office, Hong Kong

#### **Abstract**

Recent diplomatic dialogues between the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and counterparts in Iran and Saudi Arabia underscore mutual consensus and China's emerging role in the Middle East. China vehemently condemned the attack on Iran's embassy in Syria, extending support to Iran. Saudi Arabia, in alignment with China, emphasized trust in China's capacity to positively influence Middle Eastern affairs. The Middle East's convergence of viewpoints, particularly with Saudi Arabia, places substantial pressure on Israel. Israel is urged to halt air defense and foster coexistence with Iran to avoid further instability. China's peace overtures await substantive action from the United States, with potential repercussions for Israel's stability. Ultimately, Israel's acceptance of China's peace initiative is crucial for regional stability.

Keywords: Diplomatic dialogues; Regional stability; China's role; Middle East dynamics

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently engaged in telephone conversations with the foreign ministries of Iran and Saudi Arabia, emphasizing mutual consensus between the parties.

## 1. Condemnation of Attack on Iranian Embassy

Concerning Iran, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned and firmly opposed the recent attack on the Iranian embassy premises in Syria, viewing it as a serious violation of international law that is unacceptable. Despite differences in operational approaches, China expressed deep sympathy, drawing on its own experiences with similar incidents. The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed understanding and support to Iran.

China took note of Iran's statement characterizing its actions as limited and deemed them as acts of self-defense in response to the embassy attack.

#### 2. Saudi Arabia's Position and Trust in China

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister expressed that Saudi Arabia's position on the current situation in the Middle East is highly consistent with China's. Saudi Arabia looks forward to China playing an active and important role in the Middle East and is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China to

promote immediate unconditional ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and initiate the implementation of the "two-state solution" to promote stability in the Middle East. More radical opinions have been expressed, suggesting that if not for religious constraints, the Saudi Foreign Minister might even publicly endorse communism and join the Chinese Communist Party.

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized its trust in China and believes that China can play a positive role in addressing Middle Eastern issues.

### 3. Current Situation in the Middle East

Currently, the situation in the Middle East is relatively clear. Among the strong nations in the region such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Israel, Iran, and Egypt, Saudi Arabia shares China's stance, while Iran maintains close relations with China and maintains good relations with Russia. Turkey's position is influenced by its relations with both Russia and NATO.

By strengthening unity with Saudi Arabia and other countries, the divergence in the Middle East has been reduced, and the possibility of stability has been further enhanced. At present, even in voting, the Middle East presents a four-to-one situation, putting great pressure on Israel.

#### 4. Call for Israeli Action and Peaceful Solution

Given the current situation, the Israeli government should realize the importance of early cessation of air defense and reaching coexistence with Iran. Air defense measures should not become a permanent solution. The people of Israel should return to normal life. In the current situation, Israel should realize that continued air defense will lead to social instability. Therefore, Israel should abandon retaliation.

China is willing to provide a peaceful solution and has communicated with the United States by telephone. However, as the United States has not taken any practical action, China has not made any substantive response. If Israel does not accept the peace plan, it may face greater pressure and challenges.

## 5. Potential Developments and Considerations

The next development may be the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip, leaving behind a small number of troops as a gesture. If Israel continues its actions, it will face greater casualties.

If the United States fails to resolve its geopolitical interests, the intervention of Houthi forces may spread to the Indian Ocean. At that time, there may be only one option, whether to choose or not, which is actually no choice. After all, regardless of who is elected in the United States, they will have to face the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

The cost is something the United States needs to consider on its own.

Only by accepting China's peace plan can Israel maintain stability. If not, it will bear the consequences on its own

## References

No References