

## China challenging US influence in Middle East

New Delhi, Feb 1 (IANS) The International Court of Justice has asked Israel to take measures to prevent any acts that would constitute a genocide in Gaza. China supported the UN court's interim and non-binding ruling in the case brought by South Africa. Israel has rejected the latter's allegations.

Feb. 1, 2024

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"China has taken a pro-Palestine, anti-Israel stance," Galia Lavi, an Israeli expert on China at the Institute for National Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv, said.

China reiterated support for the two-state solution and called for a cease-fire and the freeing of hostages, without mentioning Hamas, in its "position paper" on the war, late last year.

"China has misunderstood the Arab world and the conflict. Arab countries have condemned Hamas either by taking its name or condemning its actions," Lavi said.

[...]

"China is talking a lot about the war but the humanitarian aid it is giving Gaza is \$4 million. In comparison, Japan has pledged \$65 million and the US \$100 million," Lavi said.

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