



Israel commits war crimes under US protection: Corrigan

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A political commentator says the Tel Aviv regime commits war crimes against Palestinians as the US protects Israel at the United Nations Security Council.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked a delegation of US lawmakers who were visiting Tel Aviv to help his regime dodge war crime charges related to Israel's current aggression on the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu reportedly met with members of US Congress on Wednesday, asking them to ensure that Palestinians' strategy of going to the International Criminal Court (ICC) does not succeed.

The development came as Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad al-Malki met with ICC officials in The Hague earlier this week to file a complaint detailing war crimes committed by the Israeli army over the past few weeks in Palestine.

Legal experts say the complaint is valid although the Palestinian Authority (PA) has yet to sign up to The Hague-based ICC. Palestine is a non-member observer state at the United Nations and its ICC membership has been delayed only because of political quarrels.

"The Palestinians went to the International Criminal Court some time ago but they didn't have status because they weren't classified as a state. But recently the United Nations has upgraded the status of Palestine to almost the state level and it's my opinion that this would now allow Palestine to apply for the membership of the International Court and also to pursue human rights charges and war crime charges against Israel," Edward Corrigan, journalist and international lawyer, told Press TV in a phone interview on Thursday.

The Tel Aviv regime's aerial and ground assaults against Palestinians in Gaza were

“premeditated” and “very clearly constitute a war crime,” Corrigan said.

“The whole siege of Gaza, which has been in existence since 2007, when Hamas was first elected democratically by the Palestinians, was in fact a collective punishment on the entire population of Gaza, we’re talking about 1.7-1.8 million people,” Corrigan said.

Corrigan also referred to a recent article by former US President Jimmy Carter and Ireland's former President Mary Robinson in which they called on the UN Security Council to vote for a resolution that would “mandate an end to the siege” on the Gaza Strip but said Israel is committing war crimes as “the United States has protected Israel at the Security Council.”

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