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Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Madame Veto has blood on her hands

For the past six months, US Ambassador to the Security Council Linda Thomas-Greenfield has been trying to buy as much time as possible for the IDF to win in Palestine. One veto after another, she's hoping that the West will not suffer a third defeat in Gaza, after those in Syria and Ukraine. However, on December 22, it finally recognized the need for humanitarian aid to the civilians abandoned in this closed enclave. Finally, on March 25, she admitted that a ceasefire had to be imposed on both sides... only to immediately claim that the Council's decisions are not binding.

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Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US Permanent Representative to the Security Council.

For the past six months, the United Nations Security Council has been the scene of a confrontation between, on the one hand, supporters of US hegemony and, on the other, those who hope for a fairer world. The massacre of over 779 Israeli civilians, the taking hostage of some 200 others, the wounding of over 2,000 others, the administrative detention (equivalent to hostage-taking) of 2,870 Palestinians, the massacre of at least 30,000 Palestinian civilians and the wounding of at least 70,000 others form the backdrop to this struggle.

The "American Empire's" first reaction to the Palestinian Resistance's al-Aqsa operation and Israel's response, Operation Iron Glaive, was both awe and blind support. From Washington's point of view, it was essential not to suffer another defeat after those in Syria and Ukraine. For this reason, the US Permanent Representative to the Security Council, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, voted against any request for a ceasefire. She was instructed to give Israel time to win. She therefore vetoed draft resolution S/2023/772 on October 16, 2023. She declared: " Hamas must be held accountable for its actions. It does not represent the Palestinian people and it has done nothing to promote peace and stability, preferring chaos". That was her first lie. Whether you like it or not, Hamas was regularly elected by the Palestinians in 2006. It won a relative majority (44.45% of votes cast).

On October 18, she once again opposed the Brazilian draft resolution S/2023/773. In passing, she declared: "This draft ignored Israel's right to self-defence".

This argument was her second lie and her second veto. It was to recur frequently. But in this case, as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) confirmed in its 2004 advisory opinion, it "does not apply in the case of an occupying power".

On October 25, it presented its own draft resolution S/2023/792, which "still contains no call for a ceasefire; does not condemn indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian property in Gaza; does not denounce acts aimed at the forcible resettlement of civilians", summed up Russia's permanent representative, Vassili Nebenzia, as he vetoed the resolution.

Much more explicitly, China's permanent representative, Zhang Jun, also vetoed the text, denouncing it as "unbalanced" and "ambiguous", with "cosmetic" amendments that "mix everything up" and, if adopted, would have given the "green light" for large-scale military action by Israel and the escalation of the conflict. Worse still, he declared, it makes no reference to the root causes of the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, nor does it urge Israel to lift its blockade or abandon its evacuation order, which will only hasten the territory's "descent into hell". It deliberately sidesteps the question of Israeli occupation and the creation of a Palestinian state.

Responding to this barrage, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield vetoed the Russian draft resolution S/2023/795. Running out of arguments, she merely denounced a proposal drafted without consultation.

Exasperated by these three U.S. vetoes, on October 27 the General Assembly adopted, by 121 votes to 14 with 44 abstentions, a Jordanian resolution ES-10/21 [1]. It is entitled "Protection of civilians and compliance with legal and humanitarian obligations". The General Assembly does not have the power to "demand", only to "ask". The resolution

therefore simply "calls for an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce, leading to a cessation of hostilities". It also recommends that all parties immediately and fully comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield continues to pursue the objective of not risking an Israeli defeat, whatever the cost of a victory. She still refuses to impose a halt to the fighting, but is now concerned not to let 2.2 million Palestinians die live on the televisions and cell phones of the 121 states that voted at the General Assembly.

It wasn't until November 15 that Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield let through a Maltese proposal for a Security Council resolution, number 2712 [2]. However, she objected to the 3.text quoting the passage from the General Assembly resolution calling for "an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce, leading to a cessation of hostilities". At most, the Council "calls for urgent and prolonged humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days". Israel can therefore continue its war until victory is achieved, even at the cost of tens of thousands of deaths.

In Israel, peace advocates leaked a memo from the Minister of Intelligence, Gila Gamliel, entitled Alternatives to a political directive for the civilian population in Gaza [

On March 22, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield attempted to restore the country's image. She proposed a new resolution, S/2024/239, which she hoped to get through. The text "Considers that it is imperative to establish an immediate and durable ceasefire". Moreover, point 19 of the resolution relays the accusations against UNRWA. Finally, in its preamble, it declares " Hamas and other terrorist and armed extremist groups in Gaza do not defend the dignity or self-determination of the Palestinian people, and that Hamas has been designated a terrorist organization".

Russia and China veto. Linda Thomas-Greenfield comments: "They'd rather see us fail than see this Council succeed".

Finally, on March 25, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield gave in. Back home, the presidential election campaign had begun. The polls showed Joe Biden as the losing candidate: a large majority of his constituents could not forgive him for his successive vetoes at the United Nations. So when the 10 non-permanent members of the Council presented a new draft resolution, S/RES/2728(2024) [7], she turned a blind eye and did not veto it, although she did not approve.

The text "Demands an immediate humanitarian ceasefire during the month of Ramadan which is respected by all parties and leads to a lasting ceasefire, demands also the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages and guaranteed

humanitarian access to meet their medical and other humanitarian needs, and further humanitarian needs, and further demands that the parties respect their obligations under international law in respect of all persons held by them".

This is the tenth text put to a vote in the Council since the events of October 7. Om received 14 votes in favor, none against and one abstention (United States).

Justifying her abstention on this resolution, which she describes as "non-binding" (sic), Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield deplores the fact that some of her amendments were not retained, in particular the one calling for the addition of a condemnation of Hamas. She accused Russia and China of not wanting a lasting peace to be achieved through diplomatic means, and of using the conflict to divide the Council.

Ambassador Zhang Jun disagreed, pointing out the differences between the draft rejected three days earlier and the new text. In his view, the new text is "unequivocal" in its demand for an immediate ceasefire, whereas the previous one was "vague and ambiguous", laying down preconditions. Moreover, the latest text reflects the aspirations of the international community and enjoys the support of the Arab world. Taking a more offensive stance, he declared that it was time for the United States to stop "obstructing" the Council.

On March 26, the Council discussed the implementation of the resolution adopted two days earlier. Ambassador Vassili Nebenzia was astonished by the words of his colleague Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who had described the resolution as "non-binding". "Does this mean that the United States is disregarding Article 25 of the Charter, according to which Member States agree to carry out the decisions of the Security Council? Amar Bendjama, Permanent Representative of Algeria, adds, "Otherwise, the very existence of this body would be called into question".

Mrs Linda Thomas-Greenfield was convinced that Israel could not lose without provoking the end of Western hegemony. Her obstinacy only proved that Washington is prepared to turn a blind eye to any crime committed in its short-term interests. Above all, it will have proved that the United States scorns international law when it contravenes its policy. This is the definition of a rogue state.

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Translation

Roger Lagassé

[1] "[Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations](#)", *Voltaire Network*, 26 October 2023

[2] [“Security Council resolution calling for humanitarian pauses in Gaza”](#), *Voltaire Network*, 15 November 2023.

[3] [“Israeli Intelligence Ministry recommends expulsion of Gazans to Egypt”](#), *Voltaire Network*, 31 October 2023.

[4] « [Résolution 2720 sur l’aide humanitaire à Gaza](#) », *Réseau Voltaire*, 22 décembre 2023.

[5] [“Failure to assist a people in danger of genocide”](#), by Hassan Hamadé , Translation Roger Lagassé, *Voltaire Network*, 26 March 2024.

[6] [“The provisional measures of the International Court of Justice”](#), by Thierry Meyssan, Translation Roger Lagassé, *Voltaire Network*, 30 January 2024.

[7] [“Security Council Resolution 2728 demanding a humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza”](#), *Voltaire Network*, 25 March 2024,.