

English Version of the Article by Prof Daisaku Higashi

(Professor at Sophia University in Tokyo)

Distributed by Kyodo News on 18 November 2025 and published in many Japanese newspapers in November 2025.

“Japan should take an initiative to create an international trust fund to support International Stabilization Forces in Gaza”

Based on the peace plan on Gaza by President Trump, UN Security Council adopted a resolution to endorse the International Stabilization Forces (ISF), which aims to monitor the ceasefire in Gaza on 17 November 2025.

The ceasefire was agreed on 10 October 2025; and the first stage of the agreement realized the release of 20 Israeli captives who are alive in Gaza by Hamas, and about 2,000 Palestine captives who were taken into the custodies by Israel were also released. The second stage, which must be critical, will begin soon.

The major components of the second stage by Trump’s peace plan is 1) a gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza; 2) disarming Hamas; 3) creating a Palestine technocrat committee that will govern daily lives in Gaza as well as the international “board of peace” that will oversee the Palestine technocrat committee; 4) dispatching International Stabilization Forces (ISF) to Gaza.

I assess whether ISF can play an effective role in monitoring the ceasefire in Gaza is critical in implementing this peace plan. If the ceasefire is maintained by dispatching ISF, it is possible to make gradual steps for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and disarming Hamas.

ISF is not UN peacekeeping operation (UN PKO). If it is UN PKO, the budget of PKO will be calculated automatically, based on the rule to pay about 1,450 USD per soldier per month, and the necessary cost of dispatching forces will be paid to the countries which will dispatch UN peacekeepers. The total cost of UN PKO will be covered by all UN member states, which will pay the agreed share of PKO budget. (For instance, Japan is currently covering 7 percent of the entire UN PKO budget, that was agreed by UN member states.)

However, there has been no discussion about how to fund ISF in Gaza, except that the cost will be covered by voluntary contributions. The possible candidates for dispatching forces, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Egypt, need to be financially supported by some international financial mechanism. It is urgent to create the financial system to support ISF.

I propose that Japan should take an initiative to create the “international trust fund to support ISF in Gaza” under some UN agency, such as UN Development Program (UNDP). Japan can pledge 30-50 million US dollars as a seed money and call for the international community “to contribute to this trust fund to show our commitments to maintain the ceasefire in Gaza, expand humanitarian assistance, and advance reconstruction in Gaza.”

I often visit Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, to deliver my lectures and conduct field research; and I perceive trust and respect by people in these regions for Japan who has been assisting “self-reliance and stability” as a peace-seeking country.

If Japan calls for the collaboration to contribute to the international trust fund to support ISF for promoting sustainable ceasefire, humanitarian assistance, and reconstruction projects in Gaza, I expect that many countries, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the Middle East, as well as countries in Europe, Canada, and Asia will contribute to this trust fund to support ISF.

I also believe that if Japan can establish this trust fund as a financial mechanism to support ISF, it will be appreciated by Palestine people in Gaza, people in the world who are hoping for sustainable peace in the Midde East, and President Trump who is currently passionate about maintaining the ceasefire in Gaza and dispatching ISF.

The peace plan for Gaza was agreed in October this year, thus it is adequate to use a complementary budget of Japan which is scheduled to be passed in the end of 2025. I am convinced that if the government of Japan can reserve some budget and call for establishing the international trust fund to support ISF, it will be a concrete policy by Japan to make some specific contribution to peacebuilding at the center of the world.

(End)

Daisaku Higashi

Dr. Daisaku Higashi was born in 1969 in Tokyo and a professor at Sophia University in Tokyo. He completed PhD in University of British Columbia in Canada. He also worked as Political Affairs Officer in UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan as well as a Minister-Counsellor in the Japanese mission to the United Nations. He specializes in mediation and peacebuilding. He keeps publishing books and articles on the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. His publication includes “How can we end the war in Ukraine” (Iwanami 2023), “Inclusivity in Mediation and Peacebuilding: UN, Neighboring States, and Global Powers” (Edward Elgar 2022) etc.

Japanese article distributed by Kyodo News on 18 Nov 2025, and published in many newspapers in November 2025 in Japan .

(This is the paper by Miyazaki Nichinichi newspaper on 19 Nov 2025.)



ひがし・だいさく
1969年、東京都生まれ。
カナダのアリティッシュ・コロニアビア博士。
国連アフガン支援国政務官や、日本の国連
代表部公使参事官などを経て現職。専門は平和争
争。専門は平和争
争。
わらせるかなど。
写真は本人
提供

上智大教授 東 大作

日本主導で部隊基金設けよ

第2段階の主な内容は
①イスラエル軍のガザから
の段階的な撤退②ハマスの
武装解除③ガザの統
一であれば、規範に合
わる段階的に実施するこ
とが可能だからだ。

ISFは、いわゆる
「国連PKO(平和維持
活動)」ではない。PKO
も、段階的に実施するこ
とが可能だからだ。

ひがし・だいさく
1969年、東京都生
まれ。カナダのアリティッシュ・コロニアビア博士。
国連アフガン支援国政務官や、日本の国連
代表部公使参事官などを経て現職。専門は平和争
争。専門は平和争
争。
わらせるかなど。
写真は本人
提供

トランプ米大統領のガザ和平案に基づき、10月に合意された停戦を監視する国際安定化部隊(I-SF)設置を許可する国連安全保障理事会決議が採択された。既に「第1段階」としてイスラム組織ハマスが拘束していた20人のイスラエル人の生存者と、イスラエル政府が拘束していた約2千人のパレスチナ人の解放は実現しており、これから最大の正念場である「第2段階」に入る。

第2段階の主な内容は①イスラエル軍のガザからの段階的な撤退②ハマスの武装解除などである。規範に合

治を担うパレスチナ人らによる実務委員会と、それを国際的に支援する「平和評議会」の創設(4

目標

ガザ 和平

せて予算が計上され、加盟国に決まった割合で請求される。集まつたPKO予算から、部隊派遣国に要員1人当たり月額22万円相当の資金が送られる。しかし、今回のI-SFでは、財政の基盤をどうつくるか何の議論もされていない。部隊派遣の候補国とみられるインドネシア、マレーシア、パキスタン、エジプトなどがISFを送ることになつても、それを国際的に支える財政基盤を構築することが必須である。

私は、日本が主導し、ISFなど国際機関に「I-SF支援のための国際トラストファンド」を設置することを提案したい。

日本が数十億円規模で最

初の拠出をしつつ、世界

全体に、「この国際ファ

ンドに拠出することで、

ガザの停戦を維持し、人道支援を続け、復興を求める意思を、国際社会全

てとして示す」と呼び

かけるのだ。

私は東南アジアや中

東アフリカなどを訪問

することが多いが、第2

次大戦終結後、平和国家

として、こうした地域の人々の「自立と安定」を支援してきた日本への信頼や評価の高さを肌で感じている。

その日本が、ガザの持

続的停戦、人道支援そ

して復興へとつなぐ上で

極めて重要なI-SFを支

援する国際ファンドへの

協力を呼びかければ、サ

ウジアラビアやカタール、アラブ首長国連邦

など中東の富

裕な国、欧州、カナダ、

アジアの国々などから広く資金が集まるはずだ。

また日本が設置を主導

し、財政的基盤をつくる

ことができれば、ガザに

生きるパレスチナ人中

東の平和を望む世界の人々、そしてガザ停戦やI-SF設置に今のところ熱心に取り組むトランプ氏からも深く感謝されるであろう。