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GLOBAL UP-TO-DATE

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The world around us is changing rapidly. Wars, new turn in global politics, human rights issues are occurring every day, posing new challenges and concerns. Global Up-to-Date is an initiative by Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) which will work as a hub for explaining the contemporary global issues.



The regular briefs will focus and explain the issues related to International Politics, Economy, Security, Human Rights, and Development. There will be a monthly printed version newsletter containing briefs of all the contemporary global important issues. The online version contains regular updates of the pressing issues along with the PDF version of the newsletter.

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Belarus Votes, But Lukashenko Decides

Shurat Rana Rushmi



The 2025 Belarusian presidential election played out as expected—another landslide victory for Alexander Lukashenko, another wave of international condemnation, and another step deeper into authoritarian rule. With no real opposition, an iron grip on power, and unwavering support from Russia, Lukashenko's seventh term cements his status as Europe’s longest-serving leader. But behind the façade of an electoral win lies a nation grappling with repression, forced exiles, and a shrinking space for dissent.

According to official results from the country’s Central Election Commission,Lukashenko won with 86.8% of the vote, a figure widely dismissed by critics as manipulated. The election, held on January 26, has been characterized as a "sham" by European and U.S. officials, given the suppression of independent media, imprisonment or exile of opposition figures, and a political landscape dominated by state control.Despite the presence of four other candidates, none posed a serious challenge to Lukashenko. His opponents were largely seen as handpicked to lend an appearance of democratic legitimacy to the process. Sergei Syrankov, leader of the Communist Party, openly supported Lukashenko, stating his campaign was "not instead of, but together with" the incumbent. The lack of credible opposition, combined with the government's tight control over the electoral process, rendered the election results predictable.

Since the 2020 protests that shook the regime, Belarus has been under intense political repression.More than 1,200 political prisoners, including Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bialiatski, remain behind bars. Opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who ran against Lukashenko in 2020 and now lives in exile, dismissed the latest election as "a farce."Adding to the suppression, the government removed overseas polling stations, preventing the thousands of Belarusians who fled to Poland and Lithuania from casting their votes. In a lengthy post-election speech, Lukashenko brushed aside accusations of repression, claiming that opposition figures had "chosen exile or prison"—a stark admission of the state's intolerance for dissent.His remarks echoed his longstanding narrative that his leadership ensures stability and prevents Belarus from descending into chaos, drawing unfavorable comparisons to Ukraine's ongoing conflict.

Western leaders, including EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, condemned the election as neither free nor fair. Since Lukashenko's disputed 2020 election, the U.S. and EU have refused to recognize him as Belarus' legitimate leader, which sparked nationwide protests and led to a brutal crackdown on dissent.However, Lukashenko received strong backing from his key ally, Russian President Vladimir Putin, who congratulated himon his "high political authority."The two leaders have forged ever-closer ties, with Belarus increasingly reliant on Moscow both politically and economically, especially after facilitating Russia's military actions in Ukraine.China's President Xi Jinping also extended his congratulations, reaffirming Beijing's backing for the Belarusian leader.Inside Belarus, many citizens view the situation with a mix of resignation and quiet frustration. Decades of crackdowns and propaganda have left much of the population hesitant to resist openly, while the government's narrative of "peace and order" convinces some that stability is preferable to uncertainty. Yet, opposition voices remain strong, particularly among those in exile, who continue to call for democratic reforms and an end to authoritarian governance.

As Lukashenko embarks on another five-year term, his grip on power appears firmer than ever, but challenges persist. Belarus' economic dependence on Russia has deepened, andthe capital, Minsk plays a complex role in regional geopolitics, including potential involvement in negotiations related to the Russia-Ukraine war. The question of succession remains unanswered, with no clear transition plan in sight. Despite the state's tight grip on society, opposition forces remain active abroad, working to keep the dream of a democratic Belarus alive. Lukashenko's dominance remains uncertain, but for now, Belarus continues down a path of authoritarian rule, largely isolated from the West and increasingly dependent on Russia for its survival.

Violation of The Ceasefire Agreement An Obstacle to Establishing Peace in Gaza.

Arman Miah



Photo: NAEL CHAHINE/Middle East Images/AFP via Getty Images

Since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, Israel has carried out a large-scale massacre in Gaza. A bloody ceasefire between Hamas and Israel was implemented on January 19, 2025, under various conditions. After months of negotiations mediated by Qatar, the 15-month-long war came to an end with this ceasefire agreement, with the United States and Egypt playing key roles. The cease-fire agreement will be implemented in multiple phases. In the first phase of the agreement, within six weeks, there will be a prisoner exchange, Israeli forces will withdraw from densely populated areas of Gaza, and displaced Palestinians will be allowed to return home. Additionally, aid trucks and medical supplies will be allowed to enter Gaza daily. To keep the remaining hospitals operational, 50 fuel trucks will also be sent. In the second phase, the remaining hostages held by Hamas will be released, and Israeli forces will be fully withdrawn from Gaza, aiming to establish "sustainable peace. “In the third and final phase, Gaza will be rebuilt, which could take several years. At the same time, the bodies of deceased Israeli hostages will be returned.

According to the agreement, Hamas will release 33 hostages in the first phase. Since the ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement took effect on January 19, Hamas has already freed 18 hostages, while Israel has released 383 Palestinian prisoners.

Among the 251 individuals taken hostage by Hamas on October 7, 2023, 94 remain in Gaza—60 are believed to be alive, while 34 are presumed dead. During the ceasefire period, Israel is expected to release approximately 1,900 Palestinian prisoners. On October 7, 2023, Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages to Gaza. In response, Israel launched extensive attacks on Gaza, killing 46,000 Palestinians over the past 15 months, according to Gaza's Hamas Health Ministry.

After hearing the news of the ceasefire, many Palestinians in Gaza were seen celebrating in the streets. However, Israel has repeatedly violated the ceasefire agreement. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have blocked humanitarian aid to Gaza, destroyed dozens of homes in Rafah in southern Gaza, and shot at Palestinians attempting to return home, resulting in casualties even during the ceasefire. According to the terms of the ceasefire, Israel was supposed to reduce its military presence in the Rafah region starting January 19 and withdraw completely within 50 days. However, satellite images from January 19 revealed that Israeli forces were continuing construction in the area. Even during the ceasefire, Israel destroyed 64 buildings in the As-Salam, Idari, and Tel Zareb areas of Rafah. According to Gaza's health ministry, at least 118 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli violence since the ceasefire took effect. Satellite images published by Sanad show that between January 19 and 21, Israeli forces-built sand fortifications around the Rafah crossing and established a new military post to its north. In response to these ceasefire violations, Hamas announced an "indefinite suspension" of hostage releases. This raised concerns that the first phase of the ceasefire, which began on January 19 and was supposed to last 42 days, might collapse before completion. However, both parties eventually agreed to uphold the agreement. Recently, U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to take control of Gaza and his public statements on the issue have weakened the foundation of the ceasefire agreement, creating further uncertainty in Palestine.

As a result of the Hamas-Israel war, Palestinians have suffered the most. Israel's onslaught in Gaza has forced Palestinians to pay a devastating price—some families have been entirely wiped out, while others have lost husbands, children, or parents. Many are severely injured and struggling to survive. Entire homes, schools, and hospitals have been destroyed, turning the Gaza Strip into a living hell. As far as the eye can see, only ruins remain.

Trudeau Resigns: Canada Faces Political Shake-Up

Depanjali Roy

Canada is one of the huge countries in North America, land of multicultural people and different languages. This is not needed to mention that, recently relations between Canada and India got worse focusing on the Murder of a Sikh activist in Canada. Before resolving this chaos, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced his resignation on January 6, 2025. It was very shocking for most Canadians to hear this news, however, some people found dancing in front of the parliament after the announcement of Trudeau's stepping down.



Justin Trudeau, now 53, is the eldest son of Canada's former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, who died in the year of 2000. Trudeau joined politics after having different jobs like snowboard instructor, bartender, bouncer and teacher. From 2014, he joined the Liberal Party and came to power in 2015. He had made some major changes during his rule. Justin Trudeau made some reforms in the Senate, introduced carbon tax to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, and signed trade deals with the USA. When Mr. Trudeau became Prime Minister, he was popular with young people and the middle class. His government made big changes, like forming Canada's first gender-balanced cabinet. He also introduced child tax benefits, cut middle-class taxes, and took steps to fight climate change.

After Donald Trump became U.S. President, his tough policies affected Canada. One policy was a 25% tariff on Canadian imports, which led Canada's Finance Minister, Chrystia Freeland, to resign. Losing her support, Prime Minister Trudeau also stepped down on January 6, 2025. In response, Trump arrogantly suggested on social media that Canada should become the "51st state" of the U.S. The quote was-

"If Canada merged with the U.S., there would be no Tariffs, taxes would go way down, and they would be TOTALLY SECURE from the threat of the Russian and Chinese Ships that are constantly surrounding them," Trump wrote. "Together, what a great Nation it would be!!!"

Although Trump's policy is not the only reason for Trudeau to resign but many others in Canada. After 2019 his popularity was going down because Trudeau was not delivering his promises to its people. It happened in 2017, when the US government announced crackdown on migrants, at that point Mr. Trudeau welcomed those who were fleeing persecution, terror & war … regardless of your faith". But after some time, the irregular rush of migrants made him restrict the USA- Canada border for the asylum seekers.

Housing and grocery prices rose for new communities, fueling anti-immigrant feelings. In 2015, Trudeau also promised to follow the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) advice on addressing abuse of Indigenous children at residential schools. Again, he commissioned a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) across Canada and later acknowledged the inquiry's finding that the crisis constituted "genocide." However, neither of these commitments were fulfilled during his period. Shockingly, he did exactly the opposite of their well-being. That includes purchasing a contentious oil pipeline project despite staunch opposition from Indigenous communities, in 2018. If that's not enough, in 2020, he ordered another pipeline through an unceded indigenous territory, which hampers their right of clear water. As a result, the indigenous communities started to protest, which were later taken down by the security forces with Trudeau's order.

After the end of Justin Trudeau era, mixed reactions are observed. After focusing on all the above information, it is obvious that, Mr. Trudeau was not prudent towards his promises and decisions. At first, he wanted to comfort and gain trust of the middle class, migrants/immigrants and indigenous people, but later he was not able to serve what he had promised. As the outcome, no communities are happy, housing and groceries are high at price and there is a high possibility that a next leader of Canada will be from the Conservative party.

Many reports say Pierre Poilievre, leader of Canada's Conservative Party, could be the next prime minister. Known for his blunt words, he called NDP leader Jagmeet Singh a "sellout" and Trudeau "weak" and a "wacko," which got him removed from the House of Commons in April 2024. Some compare him to Trump, and polls show him leading as Trudeau's support falls to 22 percent. The Liberal Party now needs a new candidate for the October election to stay in power.

Canada is facing a tough political and economic situation. Inflation and slow growth have frustrated people, while discrimination has risen in the once multicultural country. Many blame the influx of migrants and poor policies. Though Trudeau's government struggled, the future depends on the next leader and decisions.