

Xi pledges more Gaza aid and talks trade at summit with Arab leaders

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and promised more humanitarian aid for people in Gaza as he opened a summit with leaders of Arab states Thursday in Beijing.

“Since last October, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has escalated drastically, throwing people into tremendous suffering,” Xi said in a speech opening the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. “War should not continue indefinitely.”

He called for an international peace conference for resolving the Israel-Hamas war and pledged 500 million yuan (\$69 million) in humanitarian aid for Gaza. He also promised to donate \$3 million to a United Nations agency that provides assistance and relief to refugees of the Israel-Hamas war.

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