

Israel/US rewrite UN Gaza plan

Israel does not want peace in Gaza. At every step it has added new demands to the agreed UN plan, knowing Hamas cannot accept them. While over 40,000 Palestinians have died so far, the US and UK arm Israel as it dictates a message to Gaza which simply means “unconditional surrender”.

Even Israel's negotiating team has balked as Netanyahu throws spanners. According to Israeli TV Channel 12, Shin Bet (internal security) head Ronen Bar told Netanyahu *“I feel that the prime minister does not want the proposal that is on the table. If that is the case, tell us.”* Mossad boss David Barnea said *“There's a deal. If we procrastinate, we could miss the opportunity. We must take it.”* Army chiefs agreed. Netanyahu told them *“You are weak. You don't know how to run a tough negotiation.”*

On 20 Aug Einav Zangauker, whose son Matan Zangauker was kidnapped from Kibbutz Nir Oz on 7 October, claimed Barnea had told her that a hostage deal would not be possible *“in the current political constellation.”*

Mati Dancyg, whose father died in captivity, accused the government of *“choosing to abandon the hostages in order to survive.”*

Netanyahu's sole aim is to stay in power and out of prison. Settler leaders Smotrich (Finance Minister) and Ben-Gvir (National Security Minister) threaten to bring down the coalition if the war ends without the complete destruction of Palestinian resistance.



Over 100 people were killed at the al-Tabi'in school-turned-shelter for displaced Palestinians in Gaza City on 10 Aug. The Israeli air strike used bombs made by US firm Boeing. Photo: Omar Al-Qattaa/AFP

The current talks based on US Secretary of State Blinken's “bridging plan” agreed with Israel, involve changes which rewrite the UN plan and leave Israel in charge of Gaza.

Egypt, Rafah, Philadelphi corridor

When Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, control of the southern Gaza border crossing at Rafah was handed to Egypt and the Palestinian Authority. After Hamas took over in Gaza in 2007, Egypt had effective control of the border and kept it mainly closed. On 6 May 2024 Israel invaded Rafah, seized the crossing and the Philadelphi corridor, a narrow strip along the entire southern border.

UN Security Council Resolution 2735 drafted by the US, agreed 10 June and accepted by Hamas, specifies in Phase 1 **“withdrawal of Israeli forces from the populated areas in Gaza”**, and **“a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza”** in Phase 2. On 20 August, Netanyahu declared the IDF would stay in the Philadelphi corridor *“for the foreseeable future”*, defying the UN plan.

Netzarim Corridor

The Netzarim Corridor is a 4km wide military zone established by the IDF during the current invasion. It divides northern from southern Gaza. As with Philadelphi, Netanyahu told hostage relatives that Israel won't leave Netzarim *“under any circumstances”*. Splitting Gaza would suit the far-right settler movement, who issued a map in January for resettlement north of Netzarim. ►