

Gaza Ceasefire or War?



Palestinians across the world are celebrating the long-overdue Gaza ceasefire deal, set to begin before President Trump is sworn in. The bombs should stop, for 6 weeks at least.

The deal matches Biden's plan last May. Hamas accepted it from the outset, the UN Security Council agreed in June. Hamas agreed again on 2 July. Netanyahu overturned his own negotiators to sabotage the deal. Biden had the power to force it through by cutting off arms to Israel. **He did nothing.**

Now the same deal is back. Ironically Donald Trump appears to have made the difference!

Details of the plan

A Phase One of 42 days will see the bombs stopping and aid flooding in, with Palestinians able to return to Northern Gaza. Civilian captives will return to Israel and many Palestinians taken hostage after 7 October 2023 will be freed in exchange. But Israeli forces will remain inside Gaza along its borders and the 'Netzarim' corridor that cuts Gaza in half. Drones and quadcopters will still fly, though less frequently.

Talks are to begin on Day 16, leading to a Phase Two that involves a full ceasefire and Israeli withdrawal from all of Gaza. No one knows what will happen if they stall, or fail.

There are no guarantees to stop Israel resuming the war after Phase 1, as settler leader Smotrich demands.

Phase Three provides for reconstruction. Over 70% of Gaza homes are destroyed and all essential services are out of action.

For the future

Plenty can go wrong. But for now, Netanyahu has lost. The deal agreed with Hamas was trumpeted worldwide before the Israeli cabinet met to discuss it. The war aim, to eliminate Hamas, failed. The settler fanatics will not recolonise Gaza. For now, at least.

We will not forget the atrocities of the last 15 months or the blood on the hands of US and UK politicians as Israeli genocide unfolded.

We will continue the campaign to end the siege of Gaza and restore basic living conditions to a traumatised but defiant population. We will also continue to campaign for justice in the rest of Palestine.

The supply of arms to Israel must cease. Palestinians will decide how they want to go forward to determine their future.