



[President Biden Unveils Gaza War Ceasefire Proposal Which Mirrors Past Ones](#)

U.S. President Joe Biden addressed the American public last Friday, providing what he called “A roadmap to an enduring ceasefire.” The three-part proposal comes on the heels of Israel’s universally criticized military operation in Rafah, further emphasizing the need for an end to the conflict. In his remarks, Biden outlined the plan, stating that phase one would last six weeks and entailed a complete ceasefire during which the Israeli military would withdraw from the populated areas of Gaza, hostages would be released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, and there would be a major uptick in the daily delivery of humanitarian aid. While all of this is taking place, Israel and Hamas are supposed to be engaging in negotiations that lead to phase two. During the second phase, all of the remaining hostages would be released, and all Israeli forces would be permanently withdrawn from Gaza. This would then all lead to the third and final phase, whereby the reconstruction of the Palestinian enclave would take place.

The Biden proposal is very similar to a past one that was agreed to by Hamas back in late April, which to some analysts suggested that the United States was signaling to Israel the importance of halting the conflict. The previous plan also called for the suspension of military operations, the release of hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, and anywhere between five to six hundred trucks loaded with humanitarian aid during phase one. Phase two was to then consist of the release of remaining hostages and a full withdrawal of all Israeli troops, while phase three included a Gaza reconstruction plan and assurances from Hamas. The two proposals are extremely similar and hold many of the same features, prompting many to question why the previous iteration was rejected by Israel.

While the plan is viewed as a step in the right direction, critics were quick to point out the flaws and inaccuracies of Biden’s portrayal of the plan. An Israeli official claimed that the plan was not made by Israel as the president suggested, but rather, had been given to the government and received amendments not included in Biden’s presentation of it. These mystery amendments are a cause of concern for many human rights and anti-war activists. Merely less than a week ago, Israel’s National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi made comments that he was expecting another seven months of war, and that Israel was intent on trying to completely destroy the military and governmental capabilities of Hamas. Impartial experts have consistently highlighted how this is unrealistic, and seems to be a ploy used by defenders of the war to try and justify its indefinite continuation – all regrettably at the expense of innocent civilians in Gaza. If Israeli officials are allowed to perpetuate the destructive and widely condemned war, one can only imagine and dread the myriad of further human rights violations that would occur.

Following the news that more than 3,500 children are at risk of dying due to shortages of food and medicine, the international community now stands at a crossroads of how to move forward. An array of countries and global officials have spoken out about the need to implement a lasting ceasefire to end the conflict. They have pointed to how the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is extremely dire, with hospitals overwhelmed and essential supplies running dangerously low. Thus, the United Nations and various humanitarian organizations have called for immediate action to prevent further loss of life. The political implications for President Biden are also significant, as perception regarding his mishandling of the conflict is already a major point of concern. A continued failure to put an end to the war could influence the Biden administration’s standing not only domestically ahead of the

upcoming 2024 presidential election, but also internationally among entities that are watching the United States' response and efforts.

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza will only worsen the longer that time passes without an all-out end or at least a halt to the conflict. Over 35,000 people have been killed in Gaza, a disturbing number of which have been children. The loss of innocent civilian life on such a massive scale continues to highlight the urgent need for not only a peaceful resolution, but a sustainable one. The path ahead will be filled with challenges, from ensuring the safe and efficient delivery of humanitarian aid to navigating the complex political landscape in the region. However, what is currently needed above all is a cessation of hostilities and a commitment from the parties involved to fully honor that.