



[Trump Elicits Condemnation for Proposing That Palestinians in Gaza Be Relocated to Egypt and Jordan](#)

President Trump recently garnered an array of criticism for suggesting that large numbers of Palestinians in Gaza be moved to neighboring countries like Egypt and Jordan. His comments, which included a reference to the idea of “cleaning out” the whole Gaza Strip, were condemned as disturbing and harmful. Analysts also pointed out their alarming resemblance to the dangerous rhetoric often espoused by Israeli extremists and bigots that promotes ethnic cleansing and the forcible relocation of Palestinians outside of Gaza. The governments of nearby nations and rights advocates were quick to strongly reject Trump’s proposal. Jordan’s foreign minister stated that their opposition to the displacement of Palestinians was “firm and will not change,” while Egypt reiterated sentiments it had expressed in the past about how it could not be part of any effort that involved the transfer of Palestinians into Sinai. Domestically, President Trump drew backlash from some of his own surrogates as well, including the chairman of Arab Americans for Trump, Bishara Bahbah, who remarked that he categorically rejected the suggestion that Palestinians in Gaza be forcefully moved. Bahbah also alluded to the fact that the reconstruction process in Gaza should not in any way be used as a guise or tool to try and push such distressing and destructive policy.

An element surrounding notions like the one put forth by Trump that is particularly problematic is the attempt to present it as a potential “temporary” plan despite decades of forcible expulsion of Palestinians and a refusal to grant them the right of return. More than 75 years after hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were violently forced to flee their generational homes, these refugees are still denied that right which is supported by international law. Thus, in light of this and Israel’s continuous violations of international law, neighboring countries like Egypt and Jordan know full well that words like “temporary” and “short-term” are just used as a ploy by Israeli right-wing extremists and their enablers to try and sell the idea of forcible displacement – when there is no intention whatsoever to have this be anything but permanent expulsion and an effort to diminish Palestinian identity and rights. As one commentator put it, “Egypt and Jordan are acutely aware that when Palestinians have been displaced by Israel in the past, whether into Jordan, Lebanon, Syria or into Gaza, not least during the war that led to the establishment of Israel in 1948, there has been no return.” Israel’s extensive track record of repeated forcible displacements and unlawful seizure of Palestinian land mean that fair-minded observers see through the pretense of purported “temporary relocation.” It should be noted that Trump is not the first U.S. president to voice receptiveness to this concept, as Former President Biden’s administration considered the idea of Gazan relocation before later dropping it as a result of Egypt and Jordan’s steadfast dismissal.

The suggestion of relocating Palestinians to nearby countries is something that has long been championed by various bigoted Israeli officials, and Trump’s comments were therefore unsurprisingly endorsed by individuals like Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezal Smotrich – the latter of whom called it a “great idea.” However, as human rights groups outlined in response to Trump’s remarks, Palestinians in Gaza have been clear that they do not intend to leave, and concurrently, countries in the region have been adamant that they will not be party to forcible displacement and ethnic cleansing. Instead, Palestinians in Gaza should be entitled to return to their homes and begin rebuilding their lives following over 15 months of devastating war. Regrettably, not only do Trump’s remarks mirror the views of extremists, but if implemented they would also serve to undermine the prospects of lasting peace and stability. Under international law, the forcible displacement of citizens and removal of people from their

land is deemed a war crime. As such, the proposition of doing so has received widespread denunciation from nearby countries in the Middle East, the United Nations, human rights activists, and the European Union, with Germany among those expressing that Palestinians must not be expelled from Gaza.

All told, around 90% of Gaza's population has been displaced since the onset of the war there back in October of 2023. A fragile ceasefire agreement has been in place since January 19th.

In recent days, President Trump doubled down on the transferring of Palestinians from Gaza and insisted on both Egypt and Jordan having to accept that. This is despite the fact that the two countries have each come out strongly against Trump's proposal, citing the injustice of forcible mass displacement in addition to their own security concerns and the likelihood that the move would escalate conflict and tensions in the region. On top of all of this, critics of the idea across the board have pointed to how it would be an egregious war crime and human rights violation.