



Israel Shatters Hopes of the Ceasefire Deal Resuming with Its Heinous Assault on Gaza

Israel resumed its indiscriminate bombardment of Gaza this week, killing more than 400 people in overnight attacks on Tuesday alone – including hundreds of children. The reprehensible renewed Israeli assault was initiated in consultation with the Trump administration, and has upended the Gaza ceasefire deal and shattered the hopes of progressing into its second phase. While movement to the second phase of the agreement was meant to take place back on March 1st and would have paved the way for an end to the war and the release of all remaining hostages still being held in Gaza, Israel has made it clear that it has no intent on doing so. For their part, Hamas has contended that the deal should continue to stage two – as initially agreed upon when the deal was implemented in mid-January. Journalists have [documented](#) how the latest Israeli airstrikes have been launched against residential buildings and makeshift schools where civilians are taking shelter, adding to the outrage among rights groups and human rights activists. The Hostages and Missing Persons Families Forum which was established by the families of the captives following the October 7th Hamas attack also expressed their shock and anger regarding the Israeli government’s deliberate disruption of the ceasefire deal process.

For many analysts, there are undoubtedly political factors at play when it comes to why Israel has chosen to resume its deplorable hostilities in Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s actions have been criticized as a blatant effort to ensure his political survival. As has been pointed out, if the Netanyahu government genuinely prioritized bringing the remaining hostages back above all other considerations, then there would have been agreement on initiating the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire deal which was designed and agreed upon to do just that. However, instead, Netanyahu understands that ending the war will result in the collapse of his coalition government and thus leave him exposed to finally face the serious criminal charges that await him, both domestically and internationally. As such, the resumption of violence in Gaza has become a political tool to try and maintain the fragile coalition government that would otherwise fall apart if the Gaza War is ended. Extremist far-right ministers like Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir have threatened to derail the coalition government if the war does not continue, and it is apparent that Netanyahu is willing to do anything to retain power at all costs.

From the very beginning of the ceasefire deal’s implementation in mid-January, Israeli officials had a noncommittal attitude towards the agreement’s second phase and an ultimate permanent cessation of hostilities. This is precisely why there was so much doubt regarding the likelihood of the deal moving beyond the first phase. Talks regarding negotiating the start of the second phase were continuously delayed and unproductive. As the first phase reached its conclusion in early March, Israel refused to initiate stage two and instead tried to propose an extension of the first phase – which was understandably rejected because it would not have included an Israeli commitment to withdraw all of its forces from Gaza and end the war.

Following Israel’s renewed assault on Gaza earlier this week, protestors have taken to the streets to condemn the Netanyahu government and its actions. Thousands have called out Netanyahu for prioritizing his own political survival over the return of hostages and an end to the devastating violence. Anti-war demonstrations have also emerged in cities across the United States in opposition to the Trump administration’s endorsement of the Israeli government’s latest military actions. Israeli forces have resumed ground operations in Gaza during the preceding

days, prompting Hamas to announce the firing of rockets at Tel Aviv for the first time in months, as observers fear the threat of continued escalations moving forward.