



### [Israel Plans for a Full-Scale Attack on Gaza with U.S. President Trump's Endorsement](#)

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has pushed plans for a full military takeover and occupation of Gaza despite widespread global condemnation and even domestic pushback. The United Nations and human rights organizations have warned that the major military escalation would represent yet another Israeli violation of international law and worsen the already dire humanitarian conditions in the territory – which have increasingly garnered outrage and denunciation in recent weeks. Notably absent from the host of entities voicing explicit opposition to the plan, however, has been U.S. President Trump, whose tacit endorsement deserves criticism as well for enabling it. The undeniable leverage that Trump and the United States has over Israel was highlighted earlier this week when a group of around 600 retired Israeli officials issued a joint letter to the American president urging him to pressure Netanyahu to end the calamitous war. Yet, the continued failure to do so has paved the way for the Israeli government to consider a disturbing new expansion of its war crimes and unlawful actions in Gaza, with cabinet ministers approving the plan yesterday.

Even as President Trump has said that it is up to Netanyahu if he wants to occupy Gaza, the plan has drawn fierce opposition both internationally and from many domestically within Israel, including military officials and the families of hostages held by Hamas. The latter have called for mass protests and stated that the Israeli prime minister is blatantly prolonging and expanding the war efforts, largely motivated by a desire to ensure his political survival and appease far-right coalition partners. Additionally, members of the Israeli military establishment themselves have expressed objections to the plan. All of this comes as a growing number of Israeli human rights groups, academics, and authors have become increasingly critical of Israel's War on Gaza as well, with more and more labeling what is taking place there as a genocide. Furthermore, opinion polls in Israel have consistently shown that a large majority are in favor of ending the conflict. At the global level, in response to the recently pushed through plan, UN human rights officials have stated that the implementation of this must be immediately halted. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer condemned Israel's decision as wrong, while the German government announced that it will not approve any exports of military equipment to Israel that could be used in Gaza until further notice. Observers have outlined that Germany's move is significant, as it comes from one of Israel's closest allies in Europe and its second largest international provider of arms after the United States.

Any additional escalation in Israeli military attacks on Gaza would heighten civilian suffering and deteriorate the already inadequate humanitarian response. Under the current conditions, incoming aid into Gaza meets less than 15 percent of basic needs, and this would only worsen as a result of a full-scale military assault on the entire enclave. Equally as troubling is the fact that the takeover plan involves the occupation of cities and forcible removal of civilians, which analysts contend is intended to fragment Gaza's territorial and social fabric through military action. Most of the approximately 2 million residents of Gaza have been repeatedly displaced during the course of the 22-month long conflict, and the plan would see Israeli forces move into the areas where these civilians are now concentrated and have sought refuge from the violence. One of these is Gaza City, with Israeli officials openly admitting that the takeover plan there is designed to force its nearly 1 million people to leave by depriving them of access to food and other essential supplies.

While many around the world and inside Israel express their outrage at the Gaza takeover plan, the Trump administration's lack of concern is alarming. As experts have been quick to point out, it is clear that the United States possesses an enormous amount of leverage over Israel, and that the Netanyahu government would certainly not initiate such a widely condemned move in the absence of some sort of consent or tacit support from American officials. This makes the Trump administration's inaction and indifference all the more problematic considering that it has the means to prevent these types of continued violations and obstacles to peace from materializing. The universal acknowledgement of the deplorable humanitarian conditions that Israel's actions have created in Gaza should be enough alone to compel all political entities, particularly those with great clout on the world stage, to stand in the way of any further harmful transgressions.