

Gaza Ceasefire is Overdue, But it is Not the Final Solution

Introduction

Over the past week, efforts to end the Israel–Gaza war have intensified. United States (US) President Donald Trump has met several regional leaders, and the US announced a 20-point plan to halt the conflict. While the plan may not be perfect, it presents a vital opportunity to end one of the most brutal wars in the history of the Palestinian struggle—and this is what the world urgently seeks. Although the proposal still faces many challenges and uncertainties remain, there appears to be no viable alternative at present to stop the bombardment, mass displacement, and starvation of the people in Gaza.

The most crucial question now is whether both Hamas and Israel will accept the plan as it is, or whether they will attach conditions that could prolong negotiations and jeopardise this opportunity for peace.

It is evident that Hamas is not fully satisfied with the proposal. However, it no longer has strong allies to shield it. Even Qatar and Türkiye have agreed to the plan and are supporting it, actively participating in the negotiations alongside Egypt. Further, Iran is no longer in a position to assist after losing much of its supportive military capability.¹

The Challenges

Ceasefire agreements are rarely concluded easily, as each side clings to its own interpretations and continues to introduce new conditions and demands for guarantees.

Hamas is expected to object to the entry of Israeli forces into areas it once controlled, as well as to its exclusion from civilian governance in Gaza — particularly the stipulation that the Palestinian Authority assume responsibility for municipal, health, education, judicial, and civil security services. Eventually, Hamas may agree to lay down its weapons, and its commanders may depart for Algeria or Türkiye, as has been suggested. However, this process is likely to take time.

The nature of guarantees offered to Hamas also remain unclear, including whether Israel will refrain from pursuing or assassinating Hamas members in the coming years.

Although Hamas's response to the roadmap appears positive, particularly with regard to the release of captives in exchange for Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, "Hamas is very keen to reach an agreement to end the war and immediately begin the prisoner exchange process in accordance with the field conditions", a senior Hamas official said on condition of anonymity.²

Prime Minister (PM) Netanyahu, too, has his objections. The agreement deprives Israel of the promise made to control Gaza and prevents the displacement of its residents. Even those permitted to leave voluntarily are guaranteed the right to return, according to a clause in Tony Blair's plan, and their properties cannot be confiscated.³ Moreover, Israel—which believes it had

tightened the noose around Hamas—must now halt its operations and release approximately 2,000 Palestinians in exchange for the remaining hostages, both living and deceased.

This may not be the victory Netanyahu had planned for and it may have political implications. But on 04 Oct, he stated that he instructed negotiators to go to Egypt “To finalise the technical details”.⁴ Hence, there remains strong hope that the end of the war is nearing.

The Negotiations

As per reports, Hamas insisted that “It is essential for Israel to halt military operations across all areas of the Gaza Strip, cease all air, reconnaissance, and drone activity, and withdraw from inside Gaza City”.⁵

“In parallel with the cessation of Israeli military activity, Hamas and the resistance factions will also halt their military operations and actions”.⁶

According to Trump’s plan, Israel is expected to release 250 Palestinian prisoners serving life sentences, along with more than 1,700 detainees from the Gaza Strip who were arrested after 07 Oct 2023, when Hamas attacked Israel and triggered the ongoing war. The attack resulted in the deaths of 1,219 people—mostly civilians—according to official Israeli figures. However, Israel’s retaliatory offensive has killed at least 67,139 Palestinians, according to Health Ministry figures in the Hamas-run territory that the United Nations considers reliable.⁷

Hamas has also insisted it should have a say in the territory’s future while Trump’s roadmap stipulates that Hamas and other factions will “Not have any role in the governance of Gaza”,⁸ while also calling for a halt to hostilities, the release of hostages within 72 hours, a gradual Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Hamas’s disarmament.

Further, Trump warned he would “Not tolerate delay” from Hamas, urging the group to move quickly toward a deal “Or else all bets will be off”.⁹

Trump said on Truth Social, “Israel had agreed to an initial line of withdrawal in Gaza and that this had been shared with Hamas. When Hamas confirms, the ceasefire will be immediately effective, the hostages and prisoner exchange will begin, and we will create the conditions for the next phase of withdrawal”. He also posted a map of the proposed line.¹⁰

On 05 Oct, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio described the release of hostages held by Hamas as only the first phase. He stated that the details of what follows still need to be worked out and clarified that the war in Gaza has ‘Not Yet’ ended. He said Hamas had ‘Basically’ agreed to President Trump’s proposal and the framework for releasing the hostages, while meetings were underway to coordinate the logistics of that.¹¹

He said the US would know ‘Very Quickly’ whether Hamas was serious or not during the current technical talks to coordinate the release of the hostages. He described the second phase of the long-term future of Gaza as ‘Even Harder’. “What happens after Israel pulls back to the yellow line, and potentially beyond that, as this thing develops? How do you create this

Palestinian technocratic leadership that's not Hamas?" Rubio said. "How do you disarm any sort of terrorist groups that are going to be building tunnels and conducting attacks against Israel? How do you get them to demobilize? All that work, that's going to be hard, but that's critical, because without that, you're not going to have lasting peace," he added.¹²

Meanwhile, PM Netanyahu said, "In the coming days, we will be able to bring back all our hostages during the Sukkot holidays", referring to the week-long Jewish festival that begins on 06 Oct.¹³

But despite Trump calling on Israel to halt its bombings, Israel has continued to carry out strikes on Gaza.

Analysis of the Plan

Apparently, the peace plan for Gaza was devised in close contact with Israel in a way that would make it possible for PM Netanyahu to accept, while Hamas claims it was only given the plan on its publication.

To Palestinians, the document appears to emphasise Israel's security interests after the Gaza war.

The Arab world has been invited to contribute personnel and funding to a plan that offers no real vision for addressing the Palestinian right to self-determination—the root cause of over 80 years of conflict in the region. There is also a growing perception that Israel's highly controversial conduct during the Gaza war may now be overlooked in the rush to secure peace.

The positive is that President Trump has abandoned his vision of making Gaza a riviera. The advantage is that the plan has the backing of virtually all major regional governments and the major Islamic states of the world, other than Iran. The European Union and its members also support it. PM Modi said, "We welcome President Trump's leadership as peace efforts in Gaza make decisive progress. Indications of the release of hostages mark a significant step forward", adding that India would continue to "Strongly support all efforts towards a durable and just peace".¹⁴

Regional backing lends the initiative significant credibility, especially with the promise of substantial financial support required for Gaza's rapid reconstruction and development.

However, unlike traditional United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations—which typically take months to establish mandates, define powers, set up command structures, outline accountability and human rights safeguards, and design security mechanisms—this mission will not be conducted by or placed under direct UN control, even if endorsed by the UN Security Council. Instead, President Trump will oversee the effort as the Chairman of a proposed 'Board of Peace', supported by international political figures such as Tony Blair. This structure represents a completely new and unprecedented model—one for which no existing template applies.

While some Arab countries appear willing to contribute military contingents, their deployment in the required numbers will take time. Coordination, command, and control of such a multinational mission will pose formidable challenges. Until a replacement force is ready, the Israeli Defence Forces will continue to patrol Gaza to avoid a security vacuum.

The plan also calls for Hamas to dissolve itself both as a military organisation and as a governing authority. However, demobilisation, disarmament, and reintegration of its fighters will take time, even though rapid action is expected—and the plan offers no clear roadmap apart from a vague reference to ‘Independent Monitors’. Moreover, even if disarmed, Hamas will not simply disappear as a political force.

Civilian governance presents another major challenge. As seen in Iraq after the 2003 conflict, removing local administrative structures without a viable replacement can have destabilising consequences.

The proposal envisions the gradual formation and deployment of a newly trained, ‘Untainted’ police and security force—but developing such an institution typically takes months, if not years. In the interim, international stabilisation forces would have to assume security responsibilities.

There is also ambiguity regarding the relationship between the top-level Board of Peace and local governance structures. The plan mentions the creation of a ‘Committee’ comprising Palestinian and international experts. However, assembling and operationalising such a body within days or weeks seems highly challenging.

These inevitable delays could undermine the credibility of any new authority before it fully takes shape.

Conclusion

Gaza is in ruins, and the success of any peace plan will depend on how quickly public services are restored. While a ceasefire is necessary, it is not enough—the deeper issues of Palestinian self-determination and a two-state solution must also be addressed to ensure lasting peace and dignity for its people.

Talks in Sharm El-Sheikh, attended by key international envoys including Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, are seen as a crucial opportunity to end the long conflict. For the world, this may be a real chance for a sustainable ceasefire, and for the people of Gaza, a hope that the suffering may finally end.

Endnotes

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⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

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¹⁰ ANI, “Give up Gaza or Face Complete Obliteration: Donald Trump Warns Hamas”, *The Economic Times*, 06 Oct 2025, accessed 06 Oct 2025, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/global-trends/give-up-gaza-or-face-complete-obliteration-donald-trump-warns-hamas/articleshow/124330167.cms?from=mdr>

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¹⁴ Shubhajit Roy, “PM Modi Hails Trump’s Gaza Peace Efforts, Calls It Decisive Progress”, *The Indian Express*, 04 Oct 2025, accessed 05 Oct 2025, <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/pm-modi-hails-trumps-gaza-peace-efforts-as-hamas-agrees-to-return-israeli-hostages-10286724/>

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