

Islamic Jihad says ceasefire with Israel must be inclusive and permanent



Ramallah, February 8 (RHC)-- Palestine's Islamic Jihad says a ceasefire deal with the Israeli regime must be inclusive and permanent. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement says it will only agree to a ceasefire deal with Israel that can be permanent and meets all major conditions set by the Palestinians.

Senior Islamic Jihad official Khaled al-Batash said on Wednesday that resistance groups in Gaza will only accept a ceasefire that forces Israel to fully withdraw from the territory, four months after it started brutal aggression against its people.

"The condition set by Palestine's resistance for a ceasefire with the Zionist regime is that it must be inclusive and permanent," Batash said.

He also proposed that a major condition for a potential deal to go through would be to transfer pre-fabricated homes to Gaza to house Palestinians displaced by the Israeli war.

The official said that the United States, Egypt, Qatar and probably Russia and Turkey could be the guarantors of a ceasefire between the Gaza-based resistance groups and the Israeli regime. The Israeli regime said earlier on Wednesday that it had received an official response from Gaza's ruling Hamas movement to conditions and terms of a ceasefire deal proposed by Egypt and Qatar.

Reuters news agency also said in a report that the ceasefire would see Hamas release the rest of the Israeli captives it took in a blitz into the occupied territories in early October in three stages and within 45 days in return for the freedom of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails.

It said the deal will also include the reconstruction of Gaza, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territory and the exchange of dead bodies between the Palestinians and Israel.

Mohammad al-Hindi, another senior Islamic Jihad official, said on Wednesday that except for some minor changes, the proposed ceasefire covers almost all demands set by the group and Hamas for Israel to accept, including a halt to aggression, military withdrawal, aid delivery, end of blockade, reconstruction and prisoner exchange.

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