

Poll shows only one in nine Israelis back resuming war on Gaza



Destroyed buildings are pictured in Gaza, amid Israel's war on the Gaza Strip, on June 25, 2024.

(File photo by Reuters)

Tel Aviv, March 7 (RHC)-- An overwhelming majority of Israelis support proceeding to the second stage of the ceasefire agreement and reject the Israeli prime minister's policy of resuming war against the besieged Gaza Strip.

Almost half of the respondents to Isabel's KAN News poll recently published felt that Israel should further advance negotiations on phase two of the ceasefire and captive release agreements with the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas.

Only 9% supported resuming military operations even at the cost of leaving the remaining Israeli captives in Hamas custody. About 34% of respondents supported the framework pushed by the US, which included extending the ceasefire and releasing half the remaining captives at the start. 13% responded that they were undecided.

Israel has blocked humanitarian aid entering Gaza, leading to fears of food shortages in the besieged Palestinian strip.

Rights groups have warned about the devastating consequences of the blockade of Gaza with the UN World Food Program (WFP) saying that its food stockpile will only last two weeks.

The Tel Aviv regime says Hamas must agree to extend phase one of the ceasefire, reneging on the agreed-upon deal between the two sides.

Israel's Channel 12 television earlier reported that the regime's army plans to resume the Gaza war in the next 10 days.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump, a great benefactor of Israel, has issued what he calls "a last warning" to Hamas to release all Israeli captives held in Gaza. Hamas has repeated that the resistance group will not accept the extension and stressed that the process should now proceed to the second phase.

Hamas says no Israeli captives will be freed without a ceasefire deal, dismissing Trump's threats against the resistance movement as worthless.

Senior spokesman, Sami Abu Zuhri pointed out that if any threats are to be made, they should be directed at those who refuse to implement the ceasefire deal. He said Hamas remains committed to the agreement and is determined to continue on this path. He underscored that the threats not only fail to intimidate them but also further complicate the situation.

Hamas had also earlier said that Trump's threats will only encourage the Israeli regime to not abide by the ceasefire agreement.

The reactions came after Trump threatened that there will be 'Hell to pay' if Hamas refuses to release all the remaining captives immediately.

The Palestinian resistance groups have gradually been releasing captives since the first phase of a ceasefire began on January 19.

Political commentator Leila Hatoum in an exclusive interview with Press TV on Thursday said the Israeli regime was not after peace with Hamas in Gaza. She said the regime is only buying time to receive its needed arms from the U.S. to resume its genocide in Gaza.

Observers say Israel has failed to achieve any of its stated goals during aggression against the besieged Palestinian territory.

In an opinion piece for Ynet last month, the architect of the Israeli regime's so-called "Generals' Plan" to depopulate northern Gaza described the entity's 16-month-long war in the besieged Gaza Strip as an "absolute failure."

A retired major general and the plan's creator Giora Eiland said that Israel had failed to achieve its aims in the blockaded Palestinian region. Eiland acknowledges that Hamas has not only prevented Israel from achieving its goals but has also secured its own.

He further stressed that the Hamas movement had, conversely, "achieved all of its goals, chief among them: continuing its rule in Gaza."

The plan sought to tighten the regime's siege against the area, cut off humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians inside, and label those who remained there as combatants so it could target and kill them after declaring the area a "closed military zone."

Rights groups saw the original plan as part of a long-term project of ethnic cleansing that would result in the reestablishment of Jewish settlements in the blockaded Palestinian region.

[SOURCE: PRESS TV and REUTERS NEWS AGENCY]

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