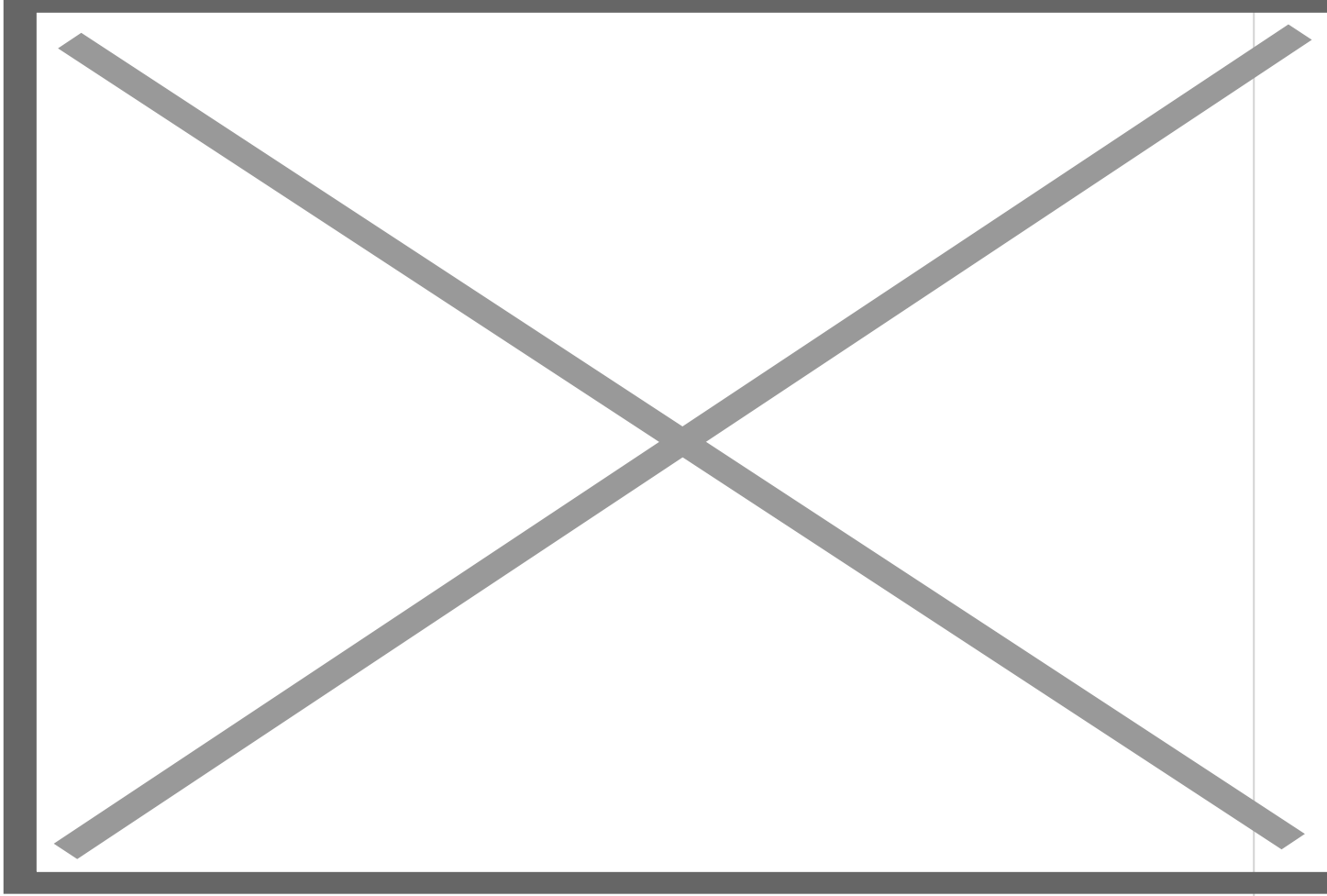


Israeli prime minister dissolves regime's war cabinet after departure of key officials

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (r) with Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich [AFP]

Tel Aviv, June 17 (RHC)-- Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has dissolved the regime's war cabinet after it was rattled by resignations of key officials. The move targeting the six-member cabinet

was taken on Monday. It was widely expected after the departure of cabinet member Benny Gantz.

Gantz quit the cabinet more than a week ago, while accusing the prime minister of mismanaging the regime's genocidal war against the Gaza Strip.

Nationalist-religious Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who have demanded Israel must continue its bombardment of Gaza despite calls for some restraint from allies including the United States, had called for a new war cabinet to be formed featuring coalition party leaders. However, Netanyahu has reportedly turned them down.

At least 37,337 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed so far in the war that has sparked numerous international calls on the regime to end the brutal military onslaught.

According to Gantz, Netanyahu has failed to devise either a war strategy or a post-war plan. His departure coincided with the resignation of Gadi Eisenkot, war cabinet observer.

Eisenkot has also denounced Netanyahu for selling "illusory slogans" about the possibility of "total victory" by the regime against Hamas, the resistance movement that rules Gaza.

Reacting to the duo's resignation, Hamas said last week that their departure lays bare the collapse of the regime's political system. Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for the Gaza-based resistance movement, said Gantz and Eisenkot made the decision to leave the incumbent Israeli administration before its eventual breakdown.

"There is no end in sight to the resignation of the Zionist regime's political and military figures. This points to the downfall of the regime's political system," the Hamas official said.

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