# President Biden Backs Israeli Cease-Fire Proposal for Ending Gaza Conflict



### Biden Endorses Israeli Cease-Fire Proposal to End Gaza Conflict

On May 31, 2024, President Joe Biden endorsed a new three-phase cease-fire proposal from the Israeli government aimed at ending the ongoing war in Gaza. Speaking from the State Dining Room at the White House, Biden declared that the time had come to end the conflict, which has resulted in the deaths of thousands of Palestinians.

Biden's proposal includes a roadmap to an "enduring cease-fire," intending to facilitate the release of hostages held by Hamas and halt the fighting. The plan has been transmitted to Hamas through Qatar. President Biden emphasized that Hamas is no longer capable of executing attacks similar to the October 7 assault and described the current moment as decisive.

The Israeli proposal, as outlined by Biden, consists of three phases:
1. A six-week cease-fire, withdrawal of Israeli forces from populated areas in Gaza, and the release of elderly and female hostages in exchange for Palestinian detainees.
2. The release of remaining Israeli hostages, ending all hostilities, and complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.
3. The exchange of remains, clearing of rubble, and a three- to five-year reconstruction period supported by international funding.

Despite Biden's call for Hamas to accept the deal to end the war and alleviate Palestinian suffering, the political landscape remains complicated. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed a desire to continue operations until all military objectives in Gaza are met. Hamas has signaled willingness to consider a cease-fire contingent on Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and other conditions.

The conflict has led to significant casualties and destruction, exacerbating humanitarian crises in Gaza. With over 36,000 Palestinians reported dead, global condemnation has mounted, with the International Court of Justice recently ruling that Israel must halt its offensive in Rafah.

Biden’s remarks have come amid mounting domestic and international pressure to address the conflict, especially as he gears up for the November election. The protracted conflict has broader geopolitical implications, affecting both Israeli domestic politics and the international standing of its government.