# Israeli Prime Minister Faces Pressure Over Cease-Fire Plan Amid Coalition Tensions



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is facing political challenges from his far-right coalition partners amid ongoing hostilities between Israel and Hamas. In a closed-door meeting on June 3, 2024, Netanyahu discussed a White House-proposed cease-fire plan with lawmakers. The proposal, supported by President Joe Biden, includes a 42-day pause in fighting and outlines steps for a permanent cessation of hostilities and the release of hostages held by Hamas.

Far-right members of the coalition, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, threatened to withdraw from the government if the cease-fire plan is adopted without guaranteeing Hamas's complete destruction. Netanyahu reiterated that no cease-fire would be agreed upon unless Hamas's capabilities were fully dismantled.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military confirmed the deaths of four additional hostages, including Nadav Popplewell, a British-Israeli man, and three others over 80 years old who appeared in Hamas's video. Popplewell, taken hostage alongside his mother on October 7, was reportedly killed while in captivity.

Furthermore, the situation in Gaza remains dire, with extensive damage reported in the Jabalia refugee camp following Israeli military operations. Residents returning to the camp described widespread destruction and a severe lack of essential services. The humanitarian crisis persists, with international organizations calling for immediate aid and support.

The hostilities have resulted in significant casualties, with more than 36,000 people reported dead in Gaza according to the Hamas-run health ministry, following retaliatory strikes by Israel. Negotiations and international pressure continue as efforts to reach a cease-fire and address humanitarian needs unfold.