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On May 6, 2024, Israel initiated a military operation against Hamas in Rafah, Gaza, leading to the closure of the southern border crossing with Egypt. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned that recent progress in delivering humanitarian aid is at risk due to the intensified fighting. The United Nations reported that 600,000 people have fled Rafah since the offensive began.

Josep Borrell, the EU’s top diplomat, demanded an immediate end to the operation, stating that prolonging it would strain EU-Israel relations. Meanwhile, Egypt has halted aid deliveries through the Kerem Shalom crossing, pressuring Israel to cease operations in Rafah.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced criticism from Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for not having a post-war governance plan for Gaza. Netanyahu emphasized that any discussion on governance would be futile until Hamas is defeated.

Israeli forces have expanded their military operations, resulting in further internal displacement within Gaza. An estimated 550,000 people have left their homes, deepening the humanitarian crisis. The Gaza Health Ministry reported over 35,000 deaths, with many residents facing severe shortages in medical supplies and facilities.

Senator Tammy Duckworth is advocating for the evacuation of Dr. Adam Hamawy and other aid workers trapped in Gaza, with efforts underway to secure their safe passage.

The ongoing conflict has severely impacted Gaza’s healthcare system, complicating the delivery of aid and evacuation of injured civilians. As international pressure mounts, both Israel and Egypt face criticism over their roles in blocking humanitarian efforts.