# Israeli official predicts Israel-Hamas war to continue through 2024 amid escalating humanitarian crisis



A senior Israeli official, National Security Advisor Tzachi Hanegbi, predicts that the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas is likely to continue through the end of 2024. The conflict, currently in its eighth month, has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and significant international and humanitarian crises.

Hanegbi made these remarks as Israeli forces intensified their offensive in Rafah, a southern city in Gaza. Recent fighting in Rafah has caused numerous fatalities, including displaced Palestinians and three Israeli soldiers who reportedly died due to a building booby-trap. The United Nations reports that the fighting has displaced one million people, leading to dire humanitarian conditions.

Israel maintains its objective to dismantle Hamas' military capabilities and insists on retaining security control over Gaza even after the conflict ends. This stance has spurred scrutiny and criticism from international courts and allies, including the United States, which has demanded a clear postwar plan from Israel.

In recent days, Israeli strikes in the Rafah area have targeted locations claimed to be Hamas strongholds. One such strike used U.S.-made GBU-39 bombs, reportedly aimed at Hamas leaders but resulted in a deadly fire in a camp for displaced people, killing at least 45. Israel asserts that the fire may have been caused by secondary explosions of militants' weapons.

The humanitarian situation is worsening, with aid operations severely disrupted. The only functional hospital in Rafah is struggling, and many displaced people are being forced to move to other vulnerable areas. International bodies like the World Health Organization and the International Court of Justice have raised alarm over the escalating crisis and called for ceasefire and safe evacuation routes.

Despite international pressure and significant humanitarian fallout, Israeli forces continue their operations with the goal of long-term security control and disarmament of Hamas.