# Israeli Minister Benny Gantz Resigns, Impacting Wartime Strategy and Political Landscape



On Sunday, June 9, Israeli Minister Benny Gantz resigned from his position in the government, along with fellow party member Gadi Eisenkot. Both are key figures in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's war cabinet and have been strong proponents of a cease-fire and hostage release deal recently presented to the U.N. Security Council by U.S. President Joe Biden as Resolution 2735. Their resignations occur at a delicate moment as the Biden administration attempts to mediate the agreement, which has yet to be accepted by Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar in Gaza.

The Israeli war cabinet was formed in response to significant national emergencies, including the severe terrorist attack on October 7. Major opposition leader Yair Lapid offered to join the cabinet on the condition that two far-right ministers, Betzalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, be excluded. Netanyahu refused, leading to Gantz joining the cabinet through a "mini" war cabinet arrangement that excluded the far-right ministers.

Gantz and Eisenkot's departure from the emergency cabinet signals potential shifts in Israeli politics and policy. Gantz and Gallant had pushed Netanyahu for a defined strategy for Gaza post-Hamas, which was not forthcoming. Gantz's public criticism and conditions for remaining in the government were not met by Netanyahu, driving his resignation.

Their resignations create political implications, as elections are not expected soon and Netanyahu’s coalition still holds a clear majority in the Knesset. Their departure might incite further calls for a change in leadership or a shift in political alliances, though immediate elections remain unlikely.

Additionally, the Gaza war and Israel's strategy have affected regional dynamics. The UAE, a signatory of the Abraham Accords in 2020, faces criticism for maintaining relations with Israel amid the conflict. While the UAE had initially positioned itself as a mediator and aid provider in Gaza, the ongoing violence has strained its regional and domestic standing.

In summary, the resignations of Gantz and Eisenkot disrupt the Israeli government’s wartime strategy and may influence broader political and diplomatic landscapes, with potential ramifications for ongoing conflicts and regional alliances.