# Ongoing Israel-Gaza Conflict: Developments, Diplomacy, and Increased Tensions



### Current Developments in the Israel-Gaza Conflict and Broader Middle East Situation

**Gaza and Tel Aviv** - As of 10:30 am local time, various critical developments have occurred related to the Israel-Gaza conflict and broader Middle East dynamics.

**Hamas Hostage Situation**:

* Statement by Hamas: Osama Hamdan, Hamas political bureau member, stated on CNN that the exact number of surviving hostages, out of the 120 held in Gaza, remains uncertain. Any release agreement would require a permanent ceasefire and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.
* Ceasefire Concerns: Hamdan indicated that recent US-backed proposals didn't meet Hamas's conditions, particularly concerning ceasefire duration.

**Israeli Military Activities**:

* Rafah Assault: Israeli tanks have entered western Rafah, accompanied by heavy helicopter, drone, and artillery attacks, causing significant displacement among Palestinians.
* UN Warning: More than a million people are at risk of death and starvation by mid-July, according to UN projections.

**Missile Attack in Gulf of Aden**:

* Houthi Rebels: Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted the Palau-flagged Verbena cargo ship resulting in a fire and serious injuries to one crew member.

**Aid Delivery Issues in Gaza**:

* UNRWA Statement: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) highlighted frequent Israeli restrictions on aid delivery within Gaza.

**International Reactions and Statements**:

* G7 Draft Statement: The G7 has expressed concerns about the humanitarian impact of Israeli operations in Rafah and has urged Israel to avoid broad military offensives.
* US President Joe Biden: Biden remarked that Hamas's position remains a significant barrier to a truce and hostages' release, despite international endorsement of a proposed approach.

**Opinion Poll**:

* Palestinian Sentiment: Support for an armed struggle to end Israeli occupation has risen to 54% among Palestinians, with a slight increase in support for Hamas.

**Hezbollah's Involvement**:

* Rocket Salvo: Hezbollah launched its largest rocket attack at Israel since the Gaza war began, following an Israeli airstrike that killed senior Hezbollah commander Taleb Abdallah.

**International Diplomacy**:

* Collaborative Efforts: The US, France, and Israel will enhance efforts to advance a Paris-proposed roadmap to mitigate tensions between Hezbollah and Israel.

**Detentions by Houthis**:

* UN Personnel: Six UN agency heads and three humanitarian organizations appealed for the release of 17 detained UN staff members by Yemen’s Houthi rebels.

These developments reflect ongoing regional tension, humanitarian challenges, and international diplomatic efforts aiming to address the Middle East crisis.