# Escalating Conflict in Gaza and Israel Threatens Regional Stability During Eid al-Adha



### Escalating Israel-Gaza Conflict During Eid al-Adha

On June 15, 2024, Palestinians in Gaza marked Eid al-Adha amid ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestinian armed groups. The fighting, now in its ninth month, has resulted in the deaths of over 37,000 people and displaced more than three-quarters of Gaza’s population, according to local health officials. This year’s Eid al-Adha has been somber, as many like Ismail Allian from the Nuseirat refugee camp grapple with loss and destruction.

In parallel, tensions between Hezbollah and Israel have also been mounting. Hezbollah has engaged in low-intensity fighting with Israel since October 2023, following their declaration of support for Hamas. Despite efforts to avoid a regional conflict, former Israeli intelligence operative Avi Melamed warns of the risk of an accidental escalation into a "devastating all-out Middle East war."

Recent combat activities have exacerbated the crisis. On Saturday, eight Israeli soldiers were killed in southern Gaza in an explosion involving an armored vehicle. Hamas claimed responsibility for firing anti-tank missiles at Israeli military vehicles in Rafah. This incident is part of Israel's broader campaign in Gaza, launched after a Hamas-led attack in October that resulted in significant Israeli casualties and hostages.

Moreover, environmental and health crises loom over Gaza. The United Nations reported extensive damage to Gaza's infrastructure, with two-thirds of roads destroyed, hampering aid distribution. Additionally, UNRWA warned of the health risks posed by accumulated waste, exacerbated by a lack of fuel for waste removal and restricted access to landfills. Cases of hepatitis A have been rising, complicating the already dire living conditions for many Gaza residents.

In policy-related developments, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant rejected a French proposal for a trilateral effort, involving the U.S. and France, to reduce Hezbollah-Israel tensions. This has sparked internal criticism within Israel's government regarding foreign policy decisions amidst the ongoing conflict.

This nine-month-long conflict shows no clear signs of resolution, impacting not only those directly involved but also drawing international concern and intervention attempts.

### Key details:

* What: Conflict and its impacts during Eid al-Adha
* Where: Gaza, Israel's northern border
* When: Ongoing since October 2023, reports updated June 15, 2024
* Who: Israel, Hamas, Hezbollah, and affected civilians

The evolving situation underscores the complex dynamics at play, involving military operations, humanitarian crises, and political maneuvers.