# Israeli Defense Forces declare daily 'tactical pause' along Gaza route for aid distribution



The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) announced a "tactical pause" in military activities along a specified route in southern Gaza starting on June 16, 2024. This pause will occur daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time with the aim of facilitating the distribution of humanitarian aid. The route in focus extends from Kerem Shalom Crossing to Al Bayuk and onward to the European Hospital in Khan Younis.

Gaza has been enduring a severe humanitarian crisis following eight months of Israeli military operations that began after a Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, resulting in over 37,000 Palestinian deaths according to Gaza's Ministry of Health. The conflict has also led to widespread displacement, with 75% of the population affected.

The IDF's tactical pause seeks to address the bottleneck at Kerem Shalom Crossing, the main entry point for aid into southern Gaza. The pause comes as the Muslim community in Gaza marks Eid al-Adha amid significant shortages of basic necessities, including food and medical supplies.

Despite the announced pause, heavy fighting continues in Rafah and surrounding areas, and humanitarian challenges persist. Efforts by international organizations to deliver aid face logistical hurdles, exacerbated by ongoing conflict and infrastructural damage. The UN reports over 50,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition in Gaza.

There are ongoing discussions about a potential ceasefire, with proposals being reviewed by both Israeli and Hamas leaders. However, the situation remains volatile and fluid, with Israel emphasizing that the pause is strictly for humanitarian purposes and not a sign of de-escalation in military engagements.