# Israeli government faces internal discord over military's humanitarian pause in Gaza



The Israeli government is experiencing significant internal discord following the military's announcement of an 11-hour daily pause in operations to facilitate humanitarian aid delivery in Gaza. The pause, set from 08:00 to 19:00 local time along a key route from the Kerem Shalom crossing, has sparked fierce criticism from far-right cabinet members.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has labeled the military’s plan as “unacceptable,” while National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir condemned the decision, describing it as detrimental to Israel’s war efforts against Hamas. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich echoed these sentiments, arguing that aid deliveries empower Hamas and undermine Israel’s military goals.

The humanitarian pause aims to alleviate the situation in Gaza, where continued hostilities have led to acute malnutrition and insecurity. Nevertheless, aid agency coordination remains a significant challenge. Despite these efforts, the volatile conditions in Gaza persist, presenting ongoing risks to aid convoys.

Domestically, Netanyahu faces increasing pressure. Protests in Tel Aviv saw thousands calling for a ceasefire-for-hostages deal and urging the government to prioritize the return of Israeli hostages from Gaza. Notably, opposition leader Yair Lapid accused Netanyahu of prolonging the conflict for political gain.

The broader conflict includes escalating tensions with Hezbollah in Lebanon, further complicating Israel’s military strategy. Netanyahu’s former coalition partners, Benny Gantz and Gadi Eisenkot, resigned in protest, criticizing him for allowing political motives to influence war strategies. They have called for a temporary halt to the war to facilitate a hostage deal, indicating a long-term campaign against Hamas.

The conflict in Gaza continues to cause significant casualties, with recent reports confirming the deaths of several Israeli soldiers, highlighting the ongoing human cost of the military operations.