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On June 16, 2024, the Israeli military announced a tactical pause in daytime fighting in southern Gaza to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. The pause applies to operations along a route connecting the Kerem Shalom crossing to Salah al-Din Road, operational from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Shimon Freedman, spokesperson for COGAT, an Israeli defense body, stated that the United Nations has not yet utilized this new corridor effectively. Jens Laerke, the UN humanitarian office spokesman, attributed this to ongoing law and order issues within Gaza.

Despite Israel’s assurances of safety for aid convoys, the UN and other international organizations face significant challenges, citing extended Israeli inspection processes and ongoing conflict as major obstacles. Freedman noted that over 1,000 aid trucks remain awaiting collection at the Gaza crossing, emphasizing the need for UN engagement.

This step coincides with the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, amidst significant negotiations for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, facilitated by international mediators. Meanwhile, Israel's Defence Ministry reported a record $13 billion in defense exports for 2023, highlighting the continuation of military operations in Gaza, particularly around the city of Rafah.

Tensions persist as Israel's far-right coalition members oppose any concessions, complicating Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s balancing act between international and domestic pressures. Over 37,000 Palestinians have been killed since the conflict began on October 7, 2023, with 1,200 Israeli casualties reported from the initial Hamas attack and subsequent hostilities.