# Anti-Government Groups Call for Early Elections and Captive Release in Israel



Several anti-government groups and politicians in Israel have initiated a campaign for early elections and the release of captives taken by Hamas-led groups during the October 7 attack on Israel. Protests commenced on Sunday in Tel Aviv, where thousands rallied, blocking roads and gathering at key locations such as the Defense Headquarters and Democracy Square.

The protests were organized by a coalition that included groups like Brothers in Arms, Building an Alternative, and the Pink Front. Retired General Benny Gantz and former captive Andrey Kozlov were notable participants. Kozlov advocated for a deal between Israel and Hamas to secure the release of the hostages.

The campaign has also highlighted growing discontent with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government. Netanyahu recently dissolved the war cabinet, shifting decision-making to the larger security cabinet and ad-hoc consultations, a move seen as a means to manage internal coalition dynamics without conceding to the far-right demands.

The situation has also revealed a divided Israeli public, split between support for ongoing military actions and concerns over the handling of captives and the war's overall costs. The campaign's impact and Netanyahu's political future remain uncertain amidst these tensions.