# Tensions Escalate in Israel-Gaza Conflict Amidst US Weapon Controversy



**Summary of Key Developments in the Israel-Gaza Conflict**

In Gaza and Tel Aviv, tensions remain high as the Israel-Gaza conflict continues to escalate. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has accused the U.S. of withholding weapons, which he claims has slowed Israel’s offensive in Rafah, southern Gaza. Secretary of State Antony Blinken responded, noting delays in the delivery of heavy bombs due to concerns over civilian casualties.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz announced that a decision regarding an all-out war with Hezbollah is imminent. Meanwhile, U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein emphasized efforts to avoid further escalation along the Lebanon-Israel border. Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati urged an end to Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty.

The UN reported difficulties in distributing aid in Gaza due to lawlessness, despite Israel pausing military activity during the day. Israeli airstrikes on Tuesday resulted in at least 17 Palestinian deaths in refugee camps. UN human rights chief Volker Türk highlighted the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and Gaza, citing significant civilian casualties.

Environmental concerns have arisen, with the UN noting severe pollution in Gaza due to ongoing conflict. An article spotlighted the dire living conditions of displaced Gazans in Khan Younis, suffering from health hazards posed by accumulating rubbish.

Israel's military operations in Rafah aim to dismantle Hamas’s strongholds, with significant progress reported. The conflict has resulted in substantial casualties on both sides and ongoing humanitarian challenges.

Efforts to increase humanitarian aid via a U.S.-built temporary pier have faced setbacks due to operational difficulties. Protests in Jerusalem against Prime Minister Netanyahu’s government highlight the rising domestic political turmoil.