# Israeli Military Spokesman Questions Eradication of Hamas, Prompting Government Response



**Israeli Military Spokesman’s Remarks on Hamas Draw Government Rebuttal**

Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari has cast doubt on the Israeli government's ability to eradicate Hamas, despite this being a central objective of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s administration. Hagari, speaking to Israel's Channel 13 on Wednesday, suggested that completely destroying Hamas was unrealistic.

In response, Netanyahu's office reiterated that the Israeli security cabinet is committed to dismantling Hamas’s military and governance capabilities in Gaza. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) later clarified Hagari’s statement, stressing commitment to the government’s war goals and interpreting his comments as referring to Hamas as an enduring ideology rather than an organization.

The remarks underscore growing tensions between Israel’s government and military. Netanyahu faces increased pressure domestically and internationally, particularly from the United States, to outline a strategy for Gaza’s future governance post-conflict.

Israel initiated its campaign against Gaza following the October 7 attack by Hamas, which resulted in over 1,200 deaths and approximately 250 hostages being taken. Despite the conflict's toll, with over 37,100 reported deaths in Gaza, concerns persist about the efficacy of Israel’s military objectives.

Internal disagreements were highlighted recently when the IDF announced a daily "tactical pause" for humanitarian aid distribution in Gaza's south, which initially was opposed by Netanyahu but later approved by Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

Additionally, Netanyahu publicly criticized the Biden administration over delays in weapon deliveries and noted a significant slowdown in crucial military support, asserting that timely aid is vital to both the Gaza conflict and preventing a potential wider war with Hezbollah in Lebanon. This criticism has intensified diplomatic strains between Israel and the US, compounded by mutual pressures within their respective political landscapes.