# Netanyahu outlines ongoing Gaza conflict strategy, hints at potential escalation with Hizbollah



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has outlined plans for an ongoing conflict in Gaza during an interview on the rightwing Channel 14 on Sunday. Speaking for the first time in Hebrew since October 7, Netanyahu announced no permanent ceasefire will be implemented to secure the return of hostages, and hinted at potential escalation with Hizbollah in Lebanon.

Netanyahu’s comments suggested the “intensive phase” of the Gaza military campaign, currently focused on Rafah, would conclude soon, followed by indefinite lower intensity operations. This ongoing conflict strategy has faced criticism from allies and neighbors who are seeking a diplomatic resolution. Netanyahu's stance may undermine ceasefire-brokered efforts led by the US, Qatar, and Egypt.

Netanyahu dismissed the Palestinian Authority’s role in Gaza's postwar administration, insisting on local governance by Palestinians with the support of Arab governments. He also stressed ongoing preparations for potential multi-front engagements, particularly on Israel's northern border with Hizbollah.

The families of the hostages have strongly condemned Netanyahu’s call for continued warfare, arguing it abdicates the state's moral obligation to secure their return. Talks of a full-blown conflict with Hizbollah also loom, as both firepower and rhetoric between the two groups have intensified.

Despite rising tensions, Netanyahu confirmed a planned address to the US Congress on July 24, aiming to present Israel’s stance on the conflict.