# Protesters in Tel Aviv demand hostage release in Gaza conflict, Netanyahu considers partial cease-fire



On Saturday, protesters in Tel Aviv demanded the release of hostages held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, criticizing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s handling of the ongoing conflict. Netanyahu, in a Sunday interview with Israeli Channel 14, stated he would consider a partial cease-fire to secure the release of some hostages but remained committed to continuing operations to eliminate Hamas.

Netanyahu's remarks have led to tensions with the U.S., especially as President Joe Biden outlined a three-phase cease-fire plan. This plan involves exchanging Palestinian prisoners for hostages and an eventual full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. However, Hamas insists on a permanent cease-fire and complete Israeli withdrawal before any release of hostages.

Meanwhile, the conflict's humanitarian toll has been severe, with over 37,000 Palestinians killed according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Additionally, there are increasing concerns over a potential escalation along Israel’s northern border with Hezbollah, threatening a broader regional conflict.

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant's recent discussions in Washington also touched on border tensions with Lebanon, highlighting the complex dynamics and stakes of potential new fronts in the conflict.