# Netanyahu claims Hamas Gaza chief Mohammad Sinwar killed amid mounting international outcry over Gaza strikes



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently proclaimed that Israeli air strikes likely resulted in the death of Hamas’s Gaza chief, Mohammad Sinwar. The attacks targeted the European Hospital in southern Gaza and are part of a broader military initiative in the region, which has intensified following Hamas's deadly incursion into Israel on 7 October 2023. During a press conference, Netanyahu asserted, “We eliminated tens of thousands of [Hamas] terrorists since October 7. It appears we also eliminated Mohammad Sinwar,” indicating a committed approach to eradicating key figures in Hamas's leadership.

Netanyahu’s remarks come amidst significant international scrutiny and condemnation of Israel's ongoing military operations. Critics, including leaders from Britain, France, and Canada, have labelled the actions as "abhorrent" and "monstrous," especially given the escalating civilian death toll and the dire humanitarian crisis gripping the Gaza Strip. With nearly 54,000 Palestinians reportedly killed since the conflict began, many of whom are women and children, the situation has drawn widespread outrage. Humanitarian agencies have warned that the territory is on the brink of famine, with survivors resorting to desperate measures for sustenance, as highlighted by Palestinians like Mahmoud al-Haw, who lamented the scarcity of food for his family.

In response to Israel's military tactics, which some perceive as disproportionately aggressive, the UK government has signalled a possible shift in policy. Discussing the potential sanctions against Israeli far-right ministers sympathetic to settler violence and aggressive military measures, UK Foreign Minister David Lammy has yet to impose wider punitive measures on Israel itself. This approach illustrates a notable tension within countries traditionally aligned with Israel, as they grapple with their responses amid a horrific humanitarian crisis.

Despite broad political rhetoric condemning the violence, tangible actions have been limited thus far. While the UK has paused trade discussions and imposed targeted sanctions on specific settlers, broader punitive measures against Israeli leadership remain under consideration, yet unactioned. This has led to accusations of hypocrisy, especially when juxtaposed against international calls for accountability for alleged war crimes. Such criticisms echo throughout the global community, where leaders face the dual challenge of addressing domestic political pressures while maintaining relations with both Jewish and Muslim populations.

Netanyahu's declarations have not only highlighted military successes but also brought attention to growing tensions in occupied regions such as the West Bank, where clashes have intensified. Recent altercations involving Israeli soldiers and delegations of diplomats have underscored the risks in the area and highlighted the challenging environment in which both communities navigate ongoing violence and political strife.

Simultaneously, Israel has permitted limited humanitarian aid to flow into Gaza, allowing less than 250 trucks of food through after a lengthy blockade, marking the first significant movement of supplies in over two months. Nevertheless, logistical challenges, including ongoing combat and lawlessness, have hampered effective distribution, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

The situation remains fluid as negotiations in Doha to secure the release of Israeli hostages continue to stall, reflecting the complexity of the conflict that has resulted in catastrophic loss of life and widespread displacement. The overwhelming majority of the Gaza Strip’s population now faces dire living conditions, with hospitals overwhelmed and basic necessities proved elusive due to the Israeli blockade—a strategy Israel claims aims to prevent aid from reaching Hamas.

As the international community watches, the ramifications of this conflict may ripple far beyond the borders of Israel and Gaza, prompting questions about future relations in an already fractured Middle East landscape and the possibility of drawing meaningful actions from global leaders confronting these challenges.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.ft.com/content/3a231f5a-9377-4b3d-841d-cde3c3e5660f> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/f6a2e3ce-0dfa-4194-a1d7-0c6797e40216> - The UK is considering sanctions against two of Israel's far-right ministers—Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir—due to increasing violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The potential measures, including travel bans and asset freezes, reflect growing British frustration with Israel's continued military operations and settler aggression since the start of its war with Hamas in October 2023. Foreign Minister David Lammy criticized Smotrich’s remarks about 'cleansing' Gaza and announced sanctions on three Jewish settlers. Smotrich and Ben-Gvir have controversial histories and are key figures in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s far-right coalition. The UK has recently paused trade talks with Israel, reduced military cooperation, and re-engaged with the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. It is also in talks with France and Saudi Arabia about recognizing a Palestinian state at an upcoming UN conference. These moves indicate a significant shift in UK foreign policy toward Israel under Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s Labour government, amidst growing humanitarian concerns over Israel’s actions in Gaza and the West Bank. Over 53,500 people have been killed in Gaza, and violence in the West Bank has also escalated sharply.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/b3c5e1cd33112b9c1aa236e1cfaf51cc> - In response to Israel's renewed offensive in Gaza after a two-month ceasefire, leaders from Britain, France, and Canada have issued strong condemnations, describing Israel's actions as 'abhorrent' and 'monstrous' due to the high civilian death toll and severe humanitarian crisis. Despite this forceful rhetoric, actual punitive measures have been limited. The U.K. has suspended trade talks and imposed some sanctions on West Bank settlers and organizations, but Canada and France have yet to introduce new measures. The leaders are balancing international law, domestic political concerns, and maintaining relations with both Jewish and Muslim communities. The criticism emerges amid shifting global perspectives, particularly with U.S. policy appearing to harden under President Trump. While further steps such as EU-wide trade suspensions or sanctions on Israeli officials are being considered, reactions remain largely symbolic, highlighting Western struggles to influence Israeli policy effectively. Calls from some former leaders and analysts urge more concrete actions in the face of potential war crimes.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/our-children-are-dying-slowly-says-father-searching-food-gaza-2025-05-21/> - In war-torn Gaza, Mahmoud al-Haw, a father of four, struggles daily to find food for his family amid a deepening humanitarian crisis. With the Israeli blockade halting food, medical, and fuel supplies since March, residents like Haw spend hours in long queues at soup kitchens, often returning home empty-handed. His family survives on scarce portions of lentil soup, with one plate shared among six people. The ongoing Israeli military campaign, launched in response to Hamas’ October 2023 attack, has killed over 53,000 Gazans, according to Palestinian health authorities. Hospitals are overwhelmed, food is nearly non-existent, and aid deliveries remain stalled despite recent promises. International concern is mounting, with countries like France, Germany, and Britain criticizing the humanitarian situation, and even U.S. support for Israel showing signs of strain. Israel maintains the blockade aims to prevent aid from reaching Hamas, which it accuses of seizing supplies — a claim Hamas denies. Meanwhile, Gazans like Haw continue to suffer, with children going hungry and essential needs unmet. Haw's plea highlights the dire conditions: 'Our children are dying slowly.'
5. <https://understandingwar.org/backgrounder/iran-update-october-17-2023> - IDF airstrikes into the Gaza Strip have killed several senior Hamas officials since the war began on October 7. Three senior IDF officers told the New York Times that the goal of Israeli operations is to 'wipe out the top political and military hierarchy of Hamas.' Multiple separate IDF airstrikes into the Gaza Strip killed Hamas’ Shura Council chief, the al Qassem Brigades Central Brigade commander, and at least two relatives of Hamas Political Bureau Chairman Ismail Haniyeh on October 17. Israel has conducted at least 10 airstrikes against senior Hamas, PIJ, and other militia officials since October 8.
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Yahya_Sinwar> - On 16 October 2024, during their operations in the Gaza war, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar. His killing was the result of a routine patrol and a chance encounter in the southern Gazan city of Rafah. He had been one of Israel's most wanted men after the 7 October Hamas-led attack on Israel. An Israeli pathologist reported that the body showed various injuries from different causes, and that Sinwar died from being shot to the head, causing severe traumatic brain injury. Hamas also acknowledged his death on 18 October. In the subsequently released footage made by the Israeli drone, seen by many, Sinwar is seen wounded as he throws a stick at the drone. Some in Israel characterized the imagery as showing defeat, while Sinwar's supporters interpreted his conduct as emblematic of defiance. Critics questioned Israel's choice to release the footage in the first place, based on concerns that it contributes to Sinwar's post-mortem heroization. Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the killing of Sinwar 'settled the score', but warned the war would continue with full force until Israel's hostages were returned. U.S. president Joe Biden stated 'This is a good day for Israel, for the United States, and for the world', comparing Sinwar's death to the killing of Osama bin Laden and emphasizing that it presents an opportunity for a 'day after' in Gaza without Hamas. In Hamas's statement confirming Sinwar's death, Basem Naim said: 'Hamas becomes stronger and more popular with each elimination of its leaders. It hurts to lose people, especially unique leaders like Yahya Sinwar, but we are sure we will win in the end.'
7. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_war> - The Gaza war has been fought between Israel and Hamas-led Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip and Israel since 7 October 2023. It is the 15th war of the Gaza-Israel conflict, and it continues the Middle Eastern crisis. The first day was the deadliest in Israel's history, and the war is the deadliest for Palestinians in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On 7 October 2023, Hamas-led militant groups launched a surprise attack on Israel, in which 1,195 Israelis and foreign nationals, including 815 civilians, were killed, and 251 taken hostage with the stated goal of forcing Israel to release Palestinian prisoners. After clearing militants from its territory, Israel launched an intensive bombing campaign and invaded Gaza on 27 October with the stated objectives of destroying Hamas and freeing the hostages. Israeli forces launched numerous campaigns during the invasion, including the Rafah offensive from May 2024, three battles fought around Khan Yunis, and the siege of North Gaza from October 2024, and has assassinated Hamas leaders inside and outside of Gaza. A temporary ceasefire in November 2023 broke down, and a second ceasefire in January 2025 ended with a surprise attack by Israel in March 2025. Since the start of the Israeli offensive, over 52,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, over half of them women and children, and more than 110,000 Palestinians have been injured. A study in the Lancet estimated 64,260 deaths due to traumatic injuries by June 2024, while noting a larger potential death toll when 'indirect' deaths are included. Israel's tightened blockade of Gaza cut off basic necessities, causing a severe hunger crisis with a high risk of famine persisting as of 2025. By early 2025, Israel had caused unprecedented destruction in Gaza and made large parts of it uninhabitable, leveling entire cities and destroying hospitals, agricultural land, religious and cultural landmarks, educational facilities, and cemeteries. Gazan journalists, health workers, aid workers and other members of civil society have been detained, tortured and killed. Nearly all of the strip's 2.3 million Palestinian population have been forcibly displaced. Over 100,000 Israelis were internally displaced at the height of the conflict.