# Israeli Defense Minister Urges Netanyahu to Rule Out Governance over Gaza Post-War



Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has publicly urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to rule out Israeli governance over Gaza and to specify clear post-war plans. Speaking at Israel's military headquarters in Tel Aviv on December 18, 2023, Gallant stated that Gaza's future should involve Palestinian entities supported by international actors, establishing a governing structure to replace Hamas.

Gallant, a consistent opponent of Israeli control over post-war Gaza, reiterated his stance, emphasizing that military occupation would lead to significant bloodshed and economic consequences. He called for Netanyahu to announce that Israel would not establish either civilian or military rule in the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu responded via a video statement, asserting that neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority would govern Gaza, stressing that Hamas must be completely removed before any new civilian administration could be considered. This marks a stark division within the Israeli government over future Gaza governance.

The debate coincides with international and US calls for Israel to present a concrete post-war plan to prevent chaos in Gaza. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasized the importance of avoiding anarchy and pressed Israel to clarify its future governance strategy.

Gallant's comments have ignited a political debate within Israel. While right-wing lawmakers criticized his remarks, others including Minister Benny Gantz supported Gallant’s perspective. This internal and external pressure on Israeli leadership underscores the complexities surrounding the region's future governance.