# ICJ instructs Israel to halt military operations in Gaza amid international outcry



The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has instructed Israel to stop its military operations in Rafah, Gaza. This ruling came on Friday amidst growing international criticism of Israel's actions against Hamas. The decision follows a request by South Africa, alleging Israel's actions amount to genocide.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under increasing pressure from both international allies and domestic protests, with thousands demanding the return of hostages taken by Hamas. Israeli spokesperson Avi Hyman indicated that Israel would not comply with the ICJ order, citing the nation's right to defend itself.

The court's ruling underscores the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, describing conditions as "disastrous." Despite the ICJ's authority, its lack of enforcement mechanisms means Israel, like Russia with a 2022 ruling on Ukraine, is unlikely to adhere to the order.

Separately, nearly 80 Conservative MPs are stepping down ahead of the UK's General Election on July 4, 2024, a post-war record. Notable MPs such as Housing Secretary Michael Gove and former ministers Greg Clark, Sir John Redwood, and Craig Mackinlay have announced they will not seek re-election. This mass exodus is seen as a response to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's decision to call an early summer election, which has caused disquiet within the Tory ranks.