# International Court Orders Israel to Halt Rafah Offensive



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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled on Friday, ordering Israel to immediately cease its military operations in Rafah, Gaza, where over a million Palestinians have sought refuge. The offensive, which started on May 7, has displaced over 800,000 people and inflicted significant damage on Palestinian life, according to the court.

The judges also mandated the opening of the Rafah crossing for the "unhindered" provision of aid. Israeli officials indicated they would not comply with the ruling, which is binding but difficult to enforce. The ICJ’s decision adds to Israel’s international isolation, with the United Nations Security Council also urging a temporary halt to the fighting, with little effect.

On Monday, the International Criminal Court's (ICC) chief prosecutor sought arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, alongside three senior Hamas members, on charges of war crimes.

The Rafah incursion follows an attack by Hamas on October 7, which resulted in the deaths of approximately 1,200 people in southern Israel and the capture of 240 hostages. The conflict has led to the deaths of over 35,800 Palestinians and injuries to 80,000 more in the seven-month operation.

Israeli officials, including Benny Gantz, maintain that the military campaign in Rafah will continue to ensure the return of hostages and national security, despite the ICJ’s orders. The court has also called for the release of over 100 hostages still held by Hamas and other groups, as well as the entry of international investigators into Gaza.

Amidst the ongoing conflict, peace activists in Israel have clashed with right-wing protesters over aid convoys bound for Gaza, highlighting the deep divisions within Israeli society.