# Former Israeli ambassador alleges Netanyahu prolongs Gaza conflict for political gain



Former Israeli Ambassador Alon Pinkas has raised serious concerns about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ongoing military actions in Gaza, arguing that he is deliberately prolonging the conflict to secure his political future. This assertion comes alongside an escalation in violence, including the recent announcement of Hamas leader Mohammed Sinwar's death in an Israeli airstrike, which Pinkas contends is unlikely to alter the war's dynamics.

Pinkas emphasized that Netanyahu’s relentless focus on military targets serves as a distraction from his significant political failures, particularly the catastrophic security lapses surrounding the events of October 7. He remarked, "This is a man who bragged and boasted... well, that all came crashing down." The backlash from those incidents has left Netanyahu grappling with a fragile coalition government that is overly dependent on far-right and ultra-Orthodox factions. Any peace negotiations could rock this tenuous stability, revealing the political risks involved in continuing the conflict.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki echoed these sentiments, asserting that Netanyahu's strategy prioritizes power preservation over genuine efforts for peace. He accused the Israeli government of using starvation as a weapon against nearly 600,000 Palestinian civilians inching towards famine, underscoring the dire humanitarian toll of this protracted struggle. Al-Maliki expressed frustration that international pressure for a ceasefire has been inadequate, further empowering what he deems Netanyahu's reckless governance.

This critique aligns with U.S. President Joe Biden’s recent observations, which subtly portrayed Netanyahu's methods as driven by political interests rather than real security solutions. Biden cautioned that an indefinite conflict, spurred by the quest for "total victory," would only deplete Israel's resources and increase its global isolation. Such commentary reinforces a growing consensus that the humanitarian crises in Gaza are being eclipsed by political self-interest.

Additionally, media reports from within Israel reveal a broadening discontent with Netanyahu’s leadership. An anonymous Israeli official noted that Netanyahu seems to be stalling for time, fully aware that his military objectives may remain unfulfilled. Such procrastination could protect him from facing criticism regarding his administration’s security and military strategies.

As Israel appears to be marching down its current path—with little hope for resuming peace talks—questions abound regarding the potential aftermath of this ongoing conflict. Rising public dissatisfaction over the situation and a clear demand for resolution amplify the precariousness of Netanyahu’s strategy. Pinkas underscored a prevalent feeling among the Israeli public that this protracted war primarily serves Netanyahu's political agenda, casting significant doubt on any genuine intention to pursue a peaceful resolution.

The ramifications of this military strategy are far-reaching, as Israel faces both external calls for a ceasefire and internal pressures for accountability and strategic clarity. The synergy of political expediency and military action raises critical questions about the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations, with peace becoming an increasingly elusive goal amid the ongoing violence.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14761785/Benjamin-Netanyahu-deliberately-prolonging-war-Gaza-political-gain-former-Israeli-Ambassador-Alon-Pinkas-Apocalypse-podcast.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/netanyahu-is-prolonging-gaza-war-to-stay-in-power-palestinian-minister/3163887> - Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of prolonging the Gaza conflict to maintain his political position. Al-Maliki stated that Netanyahu is not interested in a ceasefire and aims to extend the war to stay in power. He also criticised Israel for using starvation as a weapon of war, with nearly 600,000 Palestinians on the brink of famine. Al-Maliki expressed disappointment with the international community for not exerting enough pressure on Netanyahu to agree to a ceasefire.
3. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-791835> - Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of prolonging the Gaza conflict to maintain his political position. Al-Maliki stated that Netanyahu is not interested in a ceasefire and aims to extend the war to stay in power. He also criticised Israel for using starvation as a weapon of war, with approximately 600,000 Palestinians on the brink of starvation. Al-Maliki expressed disappointment with the international community for not exerting enough pressure on Netanyahu to agree to a ceasefire.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/aug/14/netanyahu-israel-gaza-ceasefire> - The article discusses Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's alleged strategy of prolonging the Gaza war to avoid early elections, which his Likud party is likely to lose, and to evade multiple investigations into his government's security failures leading up to the October attacks. The author argues that Netanyahu's personal and political incentives may be contributing to the continuation of the conflict, despite the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and international calls for a ceasefire.
5. <https://www.samaa.tv/2087315966-netanyahu-prolonging-gaza-conflict-political-gains-says-biden> - U.S. President Joe Biden suggested that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may be prolonging the Gaza conflict for political gains. Biden criticised Netanyahu's approach, stating that indefinite war in pursuit of an undefined notion of 'total victory' would drain Israel's resources and further isolate the country internationally. The article also highlights Netanyahu's domestic challenges, including widespread protests over judicial overhaul plans and ongoing corruption charges.
6. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/netanyahu-prolongs-war-on-gaza-to-evade-responsibility-israeli-media/3113893> - Israeli media reports suggest that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is prolonging the Gaza conflict to avoid facing questions about it and to prevent the collapse of his ruling coalition. An anonymous Israeli official stated that Netanyahu is stalling for time, knowing there is a reasonable chance that the goals of the war will not be reached. The official also noted that Netanyahu is avoiding discussions about the next day of the war to prevent conflict with his ruling coalition.
7. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/how-widening-israels-war-saved-benjamin-netanyahu> - The article examines how Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to widen Israel's military operations in Gaza may have bolstered his political standing. It discusses the public's perception of Netanyahu's handling of the Gaza issue and the internal political dynamics that have influenced his decisions. The piece also touches on the broader implications of the conflict for Israeli politics and society.