

Israeli minister Ben-Gvir quits Netanyahu's coalition over Gaza ceasefire



This aerial view shows displaced Palestinians checking the ruins of a home upon returning to the war-devastated Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. 19 January 2025. (Photo by AFP)

Tel Aviv, January 19 (RHC)-- Israeli minister along with his entire party have resigned from prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition over the Gaza ceasefire agreement.

Itamar Ben-Gvir and his "Jewish-power" party announced on Sunday that they are leaving the coalition "in light of the approval of the reckless agreement with the Hamas." The party called the ceasefire agreement a "capitulation to Hamas" and the renunciation of the Israeli regime's so-called achievements since the start of the war.

Although Jewish power said it will not try to bring down Netanyahu's cabinet, the departure of its ministers, especially Ben-Gvir, makes Netanyahu's coalition significantly weaker. The party said it would be willing to return to Netanyahu's coalition should the war eventually resume.

In a video posted to X, Ben-Gvir admitted that he and Bezalel Smotrich, another Israeli minister, used their political influence in order to prevent a ceasefire agreement from moving forward.

"If this irresponsible agreement is approved and implemented, the Jewish power party will not be part of the government and will leave it," he said.

Ben-Gvir also said humanitarian aid and fuel, electricity, and water must be "completely stopped" from entering the war-torn Palestinian enclave.

Ben-Gvir has been convicted of incitement to racism, destroying property, possessing a "terror" organization's propaganda material, and supporting a terrorist organization – the Israeli group Kahane Chai, which he joined when he was 16.

Israel was forced to accept a ceasefire deal with Hamas on Wednesday. The agreement has been set to take effect on Sunday 06:30 GMT.

Israel launched its brutal Gaza onslaught on October 7, 2023, after Hamas-led resistance groups carried out a historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Since October, the occupying regime has killed at least 46,788 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured nearly 110,450 others, in Gaza.

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