

Report reveals Israel insists on keeping troops in southern Gaza in blow to ceasefire talks



An Israeli military vehicle moves along the Morag corridor located between Gaza's

southernmost city of Rafah and its second-largest city, Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip on June 8, 2025. (Photo by AP)

Doha, July 10 (RHC)-- The Israeli regime has been insisting, during the ceasefire talks with Hamas, on keeping troops in the Gaza Strip, derailing the negotiations aimed at ending the genocidal war.

Israeli negotiators taking part in the indirect ceasefire talks in Qatar say the Tel Aviv regime insists on maintaining its military presence in the east-west Israeli-designated Morag corridor along the southern part of Gaza, the Associated Press reported, citing an Israeli official.

The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement in Gaza said in a statement late on Wednesday that the Israeli pullout from Gaza was one of several remaining sticking points in the resumed talks.

Hamas agreed to release 10 Israeli captives, expressing hope that the step would facilitate progress towards a comprehensive ceasefire deal enabling termination of the Israeli regime's October 2023-present genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

However, according to a White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly, Tel Aviv's desire to keep its forces in Gaza was among the ceasefire's sticking points discussed Tuesday by senior officials from the US, Israel, and Qatar.

"We want to have peace ... And I think we're close to doing it," US President Donald Trump claimed on Wednesday in response to a question about the officials' meeting on a Gaza ceasefire.

The unnamed Israeli official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Tel Aviv regime's insistence on keeping its forces stationed along the Morag corridor is key for the implementation of the U.S.-Israeli plot to drive hundreds of thousands of Palestinians south toward a narrow swathe of land along the border with Egypt, into what has been described as a so-called "humanitarian city."

The United Nations says it's "firmly against" any deal that calls for the forced displacement of the Palestinians in Gaza.

Critics of the U.S.-Israeli plot to move hundreds of thousands and eventually all of the Palestinians to the south of Gaza bordering Egypt say it paves the way for the expulsion of Palestinians from the territory and for the Tel Aviv regime to gain control over it, a priority for Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right ruling coalition.

Israeli sources, citing the Israeli minister in charge of military affairs Israel Katz, reported that the forced relocation of the Gaza people to the so-called "humanitarian city" is part of Tel Aviv's "emigration plan, which will happen."

Palestinian sources and humanitarian organizations say the Israeli regime is planning to transfer the Palestinians in Gaza to "concentration camps" inside and outside the territory before they are relocated elsewhere.

[SOURCE: PRESS TV and NEWS AGENCIES]



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