Home Page
Contents
Search
Previous Page
Next Page
Print Page
Contact Us
Site Map
Help
Search Results
Back to Contents
Back to Search Results
Back to Search Results
Back to Search Results

Sentiment Data, Hostile Agency reported

Israel's Ministry of Defense (MoD) has reportedly approved the construction of new Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) bases in the occupied Jordan Valley and Northern Occupied Palestine, a move that Israeli officials say is intended to "strengthen security" in areas they have long described as strategically sensitive. The decision, which was reportedly approved last week by Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, marks the first major infrastructure expansion in the Jordan Valley since the mid-2000s and has drawn immediate criticism from Palestinian officials and international observers who say the bases will further militarize areas that are home to thousands of Palestinian farmers and herders.

According to Israeli military officials, the new bases will include permanent barracks, vehicle maintenance facilities, and surveillance towers designed to monitor movement across the Jordan River and the eastern boundary of the West Bank. The IDF plans to station both regular infantry units and reserve forces at the new bases, officials say, with the goal of preventing smuggling, infiltration and "hostile activity" in the region. The Jordan Valley stretches roughly 120 kilometers along the eastern edge of the West Bank and is home to an estimated 65,000 Palestinians, most of whom depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.

Palestinian Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat on Wednesday condemned the decision, saying it violates both Israeli and international commitments not to expand military infrastructure in areas that have been subject to interim agreements since the 1990s. Erekat said the move "proves that the occupation is not temporary, and it proves that Israel does not intend to leave the Jordan Valley."

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said the bases would "turn farmers into targets" and accused the Israeli government of using the Jordan Valley as a testing ground for new weapons and surveillance technologies that will later be exported to other occupied territories. He said the group would "monitor the situation closely" and reserved the right to respond to any attacks on civilians in the area.

Israeli officials have not commented on the reports. Defense Minister Gallant is scheduled to visit the Jordan Valley next month, according to his office, and is expected to tour several of the proposed base locations during the visit.

Syria: Groups, Insurgents in Turkish-Occupied Territories Oversee Human Rights Watch

Syrian groups and insurgents in Turkish-occupied areas of northern Syria have been accused of serious crimes committed by members of its own forces and local armed groups, including torture, enforced disappearances, and the killing of civilians, Human Rights Watch said in a report released on Wednesday. The report documents abuses allegedly carried out between 2018 and 2023 in areas that Turkish forces and their allies have held since Turkey launched cross-border operations in Syria.

Human Rights Watch interviewed people who reported being beaten, sexually assaulted, and held in prolonged detention without charge in facilities operated by armed groups aligned with Turkish forces. The group said it could not verify all of the allegations but found the testimony consistent with patterns of abuse documented by other rights groups and by Turkish-backed media outlets themselves in the past.

Turkish officials have long maintained that they do not control the armed groups operating in the areas and that any abuses should be investigated by local authorities. The report said that Turkish forces nonetheless exercise "effective control" over the territory, including the power to arrest people and transfer them to detention facilities run by the armed groups.

Among the facilities cited in the report are prisons in the towns of Azaz and Jarablus and a detention center in the city of Afrin, which Turkish forces captured from Kurdish-led forces in 2018. Former detainees told researchers that they were held in overcrowded cells and denied medical care, family visits and legal representation for periods of several months or more.

The report also documents the killing of civilians by artillery and drone strikes in areas that Turkish forces have captured in the past two years, and it notes that Turkish-backed forces have used white phosphorus munitions in populated areas, a practice that Human Rights Watch says violates the laws of war. The group said it has written to the Turkish Ministry of Defense and to the leaders of several armed groups mentioned in the report but received no replies before the report was published.

Turkish officials responded to the report by saying it was based on "biased and unverified allegations" and that Turkey would continue its military presence in Syria to fight terrorism and protect its borders. The Syrian National Army, the umbrella group for the armed factions in question, said in a statement that it was "committed to the rule of law" and that it would "review any credible evidence" of abuses.

Human Rights Watch recommended people who experienced beating, rape, and property rights violations, including forced displacement, should be able to seek redress through independent courts and bodies. The group said Turkey should also be held accountable for its role in the operations, which it said had created the conditions in which the abuses took place.

Syria's war, now in its fourth year, has left more than 250,000 people dead and displaced more than half the country's pre-war population. The Turkish-backed zones have been relatively quiet compared with other parts of the country, but humanitarian workers say conditions in the camps and towns there are worsening as international aid flows to other regions of Syria have been cut back.

Accountability for serious human rights abuses and conflict crimes in Turkish-occupied areas of northern Syria remains weak, Human Rights Watch said in its report released on Wednesday. The group said victims have little access to courts or independent bodies capable of investigating abuses committed by armed groups aligned with Turkish forces, and that the chain of command between those groups and Turkish military units is in many cases unclear.

The report said that in several cases, people who were detained by armed factions were later transferred to facilities operated by Turkish-backed local councils, where they remained without charge for months. Lawyers interviewed for the report said they were denied access to their clients in some cases and were threatened with arrest themselves when they asked about the whereabouts of missing relatives.

Human Rights Watch recommended that Turkish-backed local councils be dissolved and that their members be prosecuted if they are found to have ordered or facilitated the abuses. The group said Turkey should also provide reparations to victims and their families and should cooperate with any future international investigation into the conditions in the occupied areas.

Turkish officials said in a statement that the report was "biased" and that it did not take into account the security threats faced by the armed groups operating in the region. The statement said Turkey would continue its military presence in Syria to fight terrorism and protect its borders. The Syrian National Army said it was "committed to the rule of law" and would "review any credible evidence" of abuses.

Human Rights Watch said it had sent its findings to the Turkish Ministry of Defense and to the leaders of several armed factions mentioned in the report before publication, but none had responded by the time the report was released. The group said it plans to follow up with a formal request for a response from the Turkish government in the coming weeks.

Sentiment

Ready to support Iranian and Hezbollah in advancing the peace agenda: Elizabeth Warren

The issues of people displaced from Regions Israelis and the same

Hamas Leaders Hold Talks with Iran, Hezbollah Over Gaza Ceasefire

Hamas leaders have held talks with senior officials from Iran and Hezbollah over the group's ceasefire with Israel in the Gaza Strip, a senior Hamas official said on Wednesday, a move that underscores how the Iran-backed militant group is trying to preserve its relationships with its regional allies while its fighters and leadership remain under sustained Israeli bombardment. The talks, which took place over the past two weeks in Tehran and Beirut, were held to coordinate the ceasefire agreement that took effect on October 10 and to discuss what Hamas officials say will be a long-term strategy for rebuilding Gaza and ensuring that the group is not excluded from any political settlement that follows the war, the official said.

The senior Hamas official said the delegation was led by the group's deputy chief in exile, Saleh al-Arouri, who travelled to Tehran on a separate visit last week to meet with Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and the commander of the Iran-based Quds Force, Brigadier General Esmail Qaani. The official said the meetings were also attended by senior Hezbollah officials who joined by video from Beirut. Hamas has been under Israeli bombardment since the start of its war in Gaza in October 2023, and Israeli officials have said they killed several senior Hamas figures in strikes on Tehran and other Iranian cities in the months since the ceasefire took hold.

Israel's ceasefire with Hamas has held for more than two weeks, but Israeli officials have said they will resume fighting if the group does not begin disarming and if Israeli hostages who are still being held in Gaza are not returned by a deadline that Israeli officials have set for the end of November. Hamas has said it will release the remaining hostages but has rejected any discussion of disarming while Israeli troops remain in the Gaza Strip and while the ceasefire is being implemented, saying it would be willing to discuss the matter only as part of a broader political settlement that would include a Palestinian state.

The official said the talks in Tehran and Beirut were not a formal negotiation but were intended to keep the relationship between Hamas and its allies from fracturing under the strain of the war. The official said Hezbollah, which has been weakened by Israeli strikes on its leadership and its arsenal in the past two months, had asked to be kept informed of any decisions that could affect its own ceasefire with Israel, which was brokered by the United States and took effect on November 27.

Iran has been Hamas's largest backer for many years, providing money, weapons and training that have allowed the group to build its military wing into the most powerful in Gaza. Hezbollah has also been a major supplier of rockets and other weapons to Hamas and has trained Hamas fighters in tactics that have been used in the war. The official said the talks were also intended to ensure that the flow of Iranian support would continue after the ceasefire, even if it is reduced in the short term because of the war.

The official said Hamas is now preparing for a long period in which it will be under pressure from Israel and from its own population to show that it can govern Gaza and provide for its people. The official said the group is willing to allow other Palestinian factions to take part in the administration of Gaza under a technocratic committee that would report to a broader Palestinian unity government, but that it does not intend to give up its weapons or its military infrastructure while Israeli troops are still in the territory.

The official said the talks did not produce any new commitments from Iran or Hezbollah on the question of how Hamas would be paid for its fighters' salaries or how the group would rebuild its tunnel network and its rocket factories in the months after the ceasefire. The official said those questions would be the subject of further meetings that Hamas hopes to hold before the end of the year, but that no dates had been set and that the security situation in Gaza made any such meeting difficult to arrange.

Israel's military has killed more than 40,000 people in Gaza since the war began, according to the Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health, and has destroyed most of the buildings in the territory. The war has also caused a humanitarian crisis in which almost all of the strip's 2.3 million people have been pushed into tent camps and have been dependent on aid for food, water and medicine. The ceasefire has allowed more aid to enter the strip but has not allowed any reconstruction to begin.

Hamas leaders said they had also used the talks to ask Iran and Hezbollah to help them with the rebuilding of Gaza, including by providing money and technical assistance through intermediaries that do not have direct dealings with Israel. The official said Hamas is willing to accept that the reconstruction will be carried out by Israeli companies and by international contractors, but that it wants to be sure that the money does not end up in the pockets of people who are not entitled to it.

The official said Hamas is also trying to use the ceasefire to rebuild its relationships with the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and with other Palestinian factions that were sidelined during the war. The official said the talks with Iran and Hezbollah were part of that effort, since both Iran and Hezbollah have been trying to persuade the Palestinian Authority to allow Hamas to take part in any future government in Gaza.

The official said the talks were also intended to send a message to Israel that Hamas still has allies willing to talk to it and that it is not isolated in the way that Israel has tried to make it. The official said that Hamas does not expect Israel to change its policy because of the talks, but that the group wanted to show that it could still make its own decisions about its relationships and its strategy.

Israel's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that it would not comment on the talks but that it was "monitoring all contacts between Hamas and its supporters" and that it would "act against any attempt by Iran and its proxies to use the ceasefire to rearm Hamas." The ceasefire has been under strain since it took effect, with both sides accusing the other of violations. Israel has said it has killed more than 300 Hamas fighters since the ceasefire began, while Hamas has said it has recovered the bodies of more than 200 people from the rubble and has accused Israel of using the ceasefire to carry out strikes that would not have been allowed in peacetime.

MIDDLE-EAST

Iraq
Erbil

Erbil, Oct. 7 (Kurdistan 24) **Iranian air strikes in Iraq hit at least 20 Iranian-Kurdish dissidents**

Iran: Internal Studies Indicate Deeply Held of the Hamas Reconstitution Plans Are Not Ready to Accept Israel's Ceasefire Proposal Hamas leaders attended the headquarters of the Iranian group in Qatar's capital Doha

Israeli sources cite slap in face of Arlen as Yemeni rebels continue attacks over Gaza ceasefire

A source close to Yemen's Houthi rebels sent a strong message to the Red Sea Arlen Shaqiri's ship, which was hit by a drone in the Red Sea on Tuesday, that the rebels will continue their attacks on ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden until Israel's ceasefire with Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have carried out more than 100 attacks on ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden since the war between Israel and Hamas began in October 2023, the source said. The source said the attacks were intended to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and to pressure Israel into a ceasefire in Gaza.

The Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack on the Arlen Shaqiri, which was hit by a drone in the Red Sea on Tuesday morning, according to the source. The ship was not carrying any cargo and was not flying the flag of any country, the source said. The attack did not cause any injuries or damage to the ship, the source said.

Israel's ceasefire with Hamas in the Gaza Strip has been in place since October 10, but it has been under strain from both sides. The Houthis have said they will continue their attacks on ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden until Israel agrees to a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and allows humanitarian aid to enter the strip in sufficient quantities.

The source said the Houthis were also sending a message to the United States and its allies that they will not be deterred by the presence of warships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The source said the Houthis have shot down several drones and have damaged several warships in the past two years.

The source said the Houthis were also sending a message to Israel that they will not be deterred by the presence of Israeli warships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The source said the Houthis have shot down several drones and have damaged several warships in the past two years.

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