

## Debbie's take on the current state of the war in Israel

Israel will not end the war until Hamas is no longer a threat to Israeli's people or land. They can't. They've gone on too many years worrying about the rocket attacks or random aggression incidents around the country, all in the name of peace for Palestinians. There's so much more to the story but what would you do with constant aggression picking away at who & what you love and then an all-out unprovoked ferocious attack that killed hundreds of your youth citizens? You would fight back!

Here's their plan:

\*PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU FULL WRITTEN (LONG) STATEMENT:\*

“Tonight I want to speak to you about total victory.

Our security and the prospects of peace in the Middle East depend on one thing: total victory over Hamas.

At the start of the war, I outlined 3 goals: destroy Hamas, free the hostages, and ensure that Gaza doesn't pose a threat to Israel in the future.

Achieving these goals will ensure Israel's security and pave the way for additional historic peace agreements with our Arab neighbors.

But peace and security require total victory over Hamas.

We cannot accept anything else.

Can you imagine what will happen if we don't have total victory?

Hamas leaders have already pledged they'll repeat the October 7th massacre over and over and over again.

No nation can accept that; we certainly won't.

Without total victory Iran and its terror proxies—Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis and others—will be emboldened to subvert moderate states in the Middle East; they'll threaten the entire free world.

Only total victory will prevent that.

And total victory is within our reach.

Israel's military achievements are truly unprecedented. As John Spencer, head of urban warfare at West Point, noted: It took the United States and its allies nine months to defeat ISIS in Mosul.

Mosul is a single city, smaller than Gaza, it doesn't have any terror tunnels, and it had only five thousand terrorists. Yet in four months the IDF has killed, wounded or captured over twenty thousand terrorists, more than half of Hamas's fighting force.

We have shattered 18 out of 24 Hamas battalions and we're mopping up the remaining terrorists with ongoing raids.

Our soldiers are systematically destroying the massive underground terror tunnels. Hamas believed this was an impregnable network.

Yet our brave soldiers are now physically inside these tunnels. They're demolishing rocket factories, weapons stockpiles, command and control centers, and what Hamas thought were unreachable safe houses.

Now, I have to tell you, we were repeatedly told by many in the international community that all this simply couldn't be done.

They said that a ground offensive would not be effective, that we couldn't enter Gaza city because it would be an abominable death trap that we couldn't go into the hospitals that served as Hamas headquarters without inflicting massive civilian casualties, and that we couldn't enter the underground terror tunnels, because nobody could.

Yet our brave soldiers proved them all wrong on all counts.

Many argued that Israel's military campaign would scuttle our ability to release the hostages. They were wrong on this one too. Military pressure led to the release of 110 hostages, and only continued military pressure will bring home the remaining hostages.

Our soldiers are now in Khan Yunis, Hamas's main stronghold.

They'll soon go into Rafah, Hamas's last bastion.

They will do so, as they have done up to now, by providing the civilian population safe passage to safe zones, and they'll do so in spite of Hamas' evil attempts to stop the civilians from leaving at gunpoint.

Total victory over Hamas will not take years. It will take months.

Victory is within reach.

When people talk about "the day after," let's be clear about one thing. It's the day after all of Hamas is destroyed. Not half of Hamas, not  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Hamas; all of Hamas.

Once Hamas is destroyed, we need to verify that Gaza is demilitarized, that we stamp out any attempt at the resurgence of terror.

History has shown that only Israel can do this by having overriding security control over Gaza.

What does that mean?

It means that Israel will be in Gaza or act in Gaza at any place and any time that is necessary to ensure that terror doesn't rear its ugly head again.

Gaza must have a civilian administration staffed with those who do not support terrorism, fund terrorism or indoctrinate their children with terrorism and the goal of destroying Israel.

In fact, we should seek the very opposite--that school children in Gaza will be educated towards peace, that they'll be educated towards coexistence.

Now, grant you, this will take time, but we've seen it happen in other parts of the world and in the Gulf states themselves.

We would welcome the participation of moderate Arab states in creating a different and better future for Gaza."

This would also require that UNRWA—which perpetuates the Palestinian refugee problem, whose schools indoctrinate Palestinian children with genocide and terror, and from whose ranks sprang a dozen terrorist murderers who participated in the October 7th massacre—this UNRWA must be replaced by responsible aid agencies.

We're at a pivot of history where the region can go either in the direction of light or in the direction of darkness.

We won't allow Iran's forces of darkness to win.

Our security and the future of the Middle East require total victory.

Total victory over Hamas can bring us additional gifts of peace.

Our doctrine of peace through strength has already brought us the Abraham Accords, and total victory will help us bring more historical peace agreements.

Hamas is the obstacle blocking a better and more peaceful Middle East, and it's threatening Israel's security.

The pressure of the world should be on destroying Hamas as quickly as possible and not on preventing Israel from doing so.

All those who yearn for peace should support our quest for total victory.

Total victory for our security.

Total victory for peace in the region.

Total victory to secure our common future.

[Listen to Prime Minister Netanyahu's statement on February 8<sup>th</sup> here:](#)

[Netanyahu: Israel won't accept 'delusional demands,' victory 'within reach' - Israel365 News](#)



Prime Minister of Israel

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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu:

"Tonight I want to speak to you about total victory. Our security and the prospects of peace in the Middle East depend on one thing: total victory over Hamas."

So what's next? Hamas has 3 main bastions of strength in the Gaza Strip – Gaza City (taken by Israel), Khan Yunis (almost fully taken by Israel), and Rafah.



Many of the “Western” nations are claiming that Israel cannot show force in Rafah, the last remaining Hamas stronghold because refugees were allowed safe passage there from the north when the fighting began. What is Israel to do? If they don’t overtake Hamas in Rafah, they can’t eliminate Hamas. If they do, they risk civilian life though many refugees are fleeing north again to the now-safer zones. About half of these Palestinians voted for Hamas to rule Gaza in the last election in 2006 which allowed Hamas to continue their power reign.

Read Egypt’s recent statement about this below:

**\*EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS STATEMENT ON ISRAELI MILITARY OPERATION IN RAFAH\***

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt issues a statement denouncing the Israeli military operation in Rafah.

"We emphasize our opposition to the statements of Israeli officials regarding military action in Rafah."

"We warn against the danger of the catastrophe intensifying in the Gaza Strip as a result."

"We demand to increase international efforts to prevent action in Rafah."

"We continue our talks with all parties in order to reach a ceasefire and a prisoner exchange deal."

"We call on the international bodies to increase the pressure on Israel."

This Twitter/X member summed up the issue here (where “you” means Hamas):

@CherylWroteIt

Rafah was a safe zone when Israel came into central Gaza. 1.4 million lives were saved because we gave you warning and safe passage in the middle of a war for the people to evacuate towards Rafah.

And what did you guys choose to do? Did you release the hostages and end the war? Nope. You chose to take the hostages to... Rafah. That's why we rescued two of them just 11 hours ago, in Rafah.

So Rafah is no longer a safe zone because YOU chose to make it a conflict zone. YOU moved the hostages straight to where 1.4 million people were gathered. YOU chose to allow (Hamas leader) Sinwar and co to hide among 1.4 million people in Rafah. So YOU are responsible for the fate of those 1.4 million people. YOU put them in harms way. And YOU will have to live with it.

There is also the issue with Hezbollah in Lebanon. In summary, Hezbollah refuses to participate in a ceasefire until Israel stops fighting Hamas but that clearly isn't going to happen. There was a big attack on Safed in north Israel on the 13<sup>th</sup> which may spin off into other areas. I like the informal commentary on this topic here which also includes some intel about the Houthis. [Hezbollah Fires Rockets At Israel - Will Israel Finally Invade? - YouTube](#)

We certainly don't want to see any more people die but I support Israel's goal of permanent peace while providing a home for the Palestinians. It appears that Israel's plan may reach both goals in the near future.

## Future State

1. Many Israeli's believe that the Israeli Army (IDF) failed to adequately protect Israel from Hamas, namely the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack. Despite agreements that prevented Israel from entering the Gaza Strip, how could they not know how resources going to Gaza (entering either from Israel, Egypt, or the Mediterranean) were being used? Did they not see that there was little new construction above ground yet materials coming in had to be used somewhere, right? Israel can enter the West Bank, a Palestinian territory (I've been there countless times and our groups go through also) and there aren't tunnels or weapons arsenals there. When the war is over and Hamas is defeated, the IDF will be held accountable by Israeli citizens.
2. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been on trial in Israel since May 2020 for indictments of breach of trust, accepting bribes, and fraud. His trial was put on hold due to the war with Hamas but it will certainly resume when the war ends. Netanyahu does not have incentive to end this war quickly when it will likely signal the end of his leadership. That is not to say that he doesn't care about loss of lives or hostages but he is taking his time to reach the end of the war to also save himself.
3. It appears that Israel does not wish to reclaim the Gaza Strip as part of its land holdings. It's too early to say what will become of that area but the Palestinians need a home,

Gaza Strip is home to many Palestians now, and the PLO seems to have interest in leading the Gaza area for Palestinians with support of Egypt and several other countries.

More to follow as the war continues...