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Gaza reality far from illusions PM is selling Trump

Israeli intelligence believes that 300,000 people will refuse to leave Gaza City

Amos Harel

Reports abound about high-level political consultations, a negotiating team about to depart for a new exotic destination, or new proposals that mediators might convey in the talks to strike a hostage deal. They are unimportant because, as far as is known, the negotiations are still bogged down.

The only channel that counts is the line between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump. And, as Chaim Levinson observed in Haaretz on Wednesday, Netanyahu succeeded in his

plan to recruit Trump to his side. The president is buying the prime minister's explanations to the effect that Hamas can be defeated in a swift military thrust to conquer Gaza City. That's why Trump isn't pressing Netanyahu to agree to a deal.

Hamas' gave on August 18 a positive reply to the mediators, with minor reservations. Netanyahu has been fudging since then. No Israeli response to the proposal has been offered, and it's unlikely that one will be forthcoming. The news reports are intended

as diversionary moves, easing the pressure emanating from the huge demonstrations that the Hostages and Missing Families Forum has organized.

However, Trump assumes that Netanyahu is serious, and that the military will soon be making impressive military gains. Hence, apparently, the president said this week that he expected the war to conclude within two or three weeks. His emissary, Steve Witkoff, presented a more cautious forecast: by year's end. Trump then backtracked, sort of.

The situation on the ground remains far from

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A protest at the site of the Nova massacre calling for a cease-fire and an agreement to bring back the hostages held in Gaza.

Maya Levin/AP

Ben-Gvir vows to set limits on right to protest

Josh Breiner and Chen Maanit

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir recently requested approval from Attorney General Gali Baharav-Miara for a "policy document" he drafted on protests which is aimed at significantly restricting the right to demonstrate. Ben-Gvir oversees the country's police force.

The proposal drew opposition from Police Commissioner Danny Levy, who wrote in response that the decision of how to handle demonstrators who block roads should be left to district police chiefs. District police chiefs sided with Levy on Thursday, stating they, too, oppose Ben-Gvir's proposal.

In the document, which Ben-Gvir submitted to Baharav-Miara at the end of June, he asks the police not to allow protesters to block roads during demonstrations, including "access routes to hospitals, emergency routes, routes to Ben-Gurion Airport, and main roads – national, regional or highways."

After the document was made public on Thursday, Ben-Gvir said that Baharav-Miara hasn't responded to him on the issue, and threatened that "if her answer is not received within five days, the policy will go into effect."

This directive would coincide with the mass demonstrations planned for next Wednesday near the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem, aimed at urging a Gaza cease-fire and hostage deal.

In practice, the order would prevent

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Egypt, Qatar criticize Israel for rejecting cease-fire in Gaza

Jack Khoury and Nir Hasson

The foreign ministers of Egypt and Qatar, the mediators of the Israel-Hamas negotiations, issued a joint media statement Thursday, criticizing Israel's rejection of the mediators' proposal for a cease-fire with Hamas.

This comes a day after the Israel Defense Forces issued a warning to residents of Gaza City on X ahead of Israel's planned operation to take control of the city.

The Arabic-language

spokesman, Col. Avichay Adraee, said the evacuation was "inevitable" and urged people to leave the city before the military operation.

"The Egyptian-Qatari mediation efforts are encountering resistance and delay from Israel regarding the cease-fire proposal," Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelattay said. "The Palestinian displacement project will not happen under any pretext," he added.

Qatari top diplomat Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani echoed his words,

When a Kahanist is in power

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calling on the international community to "press Israel to stop the war."

An Israeli delegation arrived in Egypt earlier this week in an attempt to renew talks between Israel and Hamas, but no progress in the talks has been announced as of yet.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced that he will promote an alternate proposal for a cease-fire, which will include the return of all the hostages.

Meanwhile, Qatar and Egypt, which mediate Gaza cease-fire negotiations, have been pressuring Israel to agree to the proposal approved by Hamas. However, they estimate they're unlikely to prevent the capture of Gaza City, Palestinian sources involved in the talks

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A billboard in Tehran showing an Iranian mythological hero battling a dragon symbolizing the United States.

Fatemeh Bahrami / Anadolu via Reuters

Blinded by 'blood libels,' PM won't praise West's action on Iran

Amir Tibon

If there's one thing that has been a constant feature of Israeli foreign policy, it's support for governments around the world taking tough action against Iran. Whenever a foreign government would place sanctions on Tehran or downgrade its relations with the Islamic Republic, Israel would offer words of congratulations, often from the mouth

and social media accounts of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself.

But this week, four Western countries took important decisions against Iran – and Israel barely mentioned their action. First was Australia, which expelled the Iranian ambassador after determining that Iran was involved in antisemitic crimes that

took place on Australian soil, including the torching of a synagogue. It was the first time Australia had expelled an ambassador of any country since World War II.

Next came the joint decision of France, the U.K. and Germany to start the process of reinstating "snap-back sanctions" on Tehran, in response to its violations of the 2015 nuclear agreement, which aimed to prevent

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IDF targets Houthi leaders in strikes on Yemen

Yaniv Kubovich and Rawan Suleiman

The Israel Defense Forces launched strikes at Houthi-held Sanaa in Yemen on Thursday, hours after the army intercepted two drones launched from Yemen. The Israeli strikes targeted a meeting of top Houthi officials, Qatari news outlet Al Araby said.

An Israeli source told Saudi outlet al-Hadath that the Israeli navy and air force took part in the attack. Lebanese outlet Al Mayadeen reported that more than 10 airstrikes targeted the capital while Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi was giving a speech nearby.

The airstrikes are the latest in a recent escalation of the Israel-Houthi conflict. Earlier Thursday, Israel intercepted two drones launched from Yemen, the military said. Defense Minister Israel Katz said following the attack that "whoever raises a hand on Israel will lose their hand."

The first drone was

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the medium and the message

מוזיאון ישראל, ירושלים
the israel museum, jerusalem
متحف إسرائيل، أورشليم القدس



Henri Matisse, from 'Jazz' (detail, 1947), gift of Stella Ischtach, New York, to American Friends of the Israel Museum. Photo © the Israel Museum, Jerusalem

six centuries of printmaking

a new exhibition celebrating the museum's 60th anniversary

featuring more than 200 prints from the museum's collection by artists such as Dürer and Rembrandt, Matisse and Picasso, Andy Warhol, Kiki Smith, and Louise Bourgeois, this large-scale exhibition traces

the evolution of printmaking through the centuries, highlighting its dramatic role in expanding the reach of visual art and circulating the times' social and political ideas.