



By: TA | AP Insight

Israel does not want Turkish troops in post-war Gaza



While Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced "all kinds of support to Gaza", Israel stated that it will not allow the participation of Turkish troops as part of international forces in Gaza.

Those involved in concluding the ceasefire in Gaza still need to clarify the mandate of the future peacekeeping forces.

Israel will not allow Turkish troops to take part in an international force the United States has proposed to oversee the **ceasefire agreement** in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, Israel's top diplomat said Monday.

The **20-point deal** brokered by U.S. President Donald Trump earlier this month calls for a force to monitor the ceasefire but does not mention which countries would provide troops.

It says the U.S. would "work with Arab and international partners to develop a temporary International Stabilization Force" to deploy in Gaza. The force would train and provide support to "vetted Palestinian police forces" and will "consult with Jordan and Egypt who have extensive experience in this field."

The **ceasefire agreement** calls for Israeli troops to gradually withdraw from more areas of Gaza as the international force "establishes control and stability" and as Hamas militants disarm.

Questions about the force

Countries that are considering taking part also want more clarity on the force's mandate. Officials from some Arab and Muslim nations have said the focus must be on peacekeeping in Gaza, not acting as an enforcer of peace between Israel and Hamas.

"What is the mandate of security forces inside of Gaza? And we hope that it is peacekeeping, because if it's peace enforcing, nobody will want to touch that," **King Abdullah II** of Jordan said in an interview with the BBC.

Speaking to journalists during a visit to Hungary, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said Israel opposes the participation of Turkish troops in Gaza because of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan 's longstanding **hostility to Israel**. Saar said Israel has communicated its stance to U.S. officials.

Countries that want or are ready to send armed forces should be at least fair to Israel - Gideon Saar

"Countries that want or are ready to send armed forces should be at least fair to Israel," Saar said. He did not elaborate.

U.S. officials have said there would be no American boots on the ground in Gaza. Around 200 U.S. troops are now in Israel working alongside its military and other countries' delegations at a coordination center, planning Gaza's stabilization and reconstruction.

During visits to Israel last week, U.S. Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio said multiple countries would be interested in joining the international force for Gaza.

The U.S. was working to secure a U.N. mandate or other international authorization for it, Rubio said.

Turkish interest

At a summit in Egypt two weeks ago, Erdogan was one of four leaders to sign a document outlining Trump's vision for Gaza and regional peace.

The others were Trump, Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi.



Israel will determine which forces are unacceptable to us - Benjamin Netanyahu

during a government meeting. “This is, of course, acceptable to the United States as well, as its most senior representatives have expressed in recent days.”

Erdogan last week said Turkey was “ready to provide all kinds of support to Gaza.”

Officials from Turkey's Defense Ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said the country was preparing for whatever role it might be asked to play, whether it's peacekeeping or humanitarian assistance.

Turkey also has close ties with Hamas. Turkey once had strong diplomatic relations with Israel, though they have been at an all-time low over the war in Gaza, sparked by the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on Israel.

Erdogan has criticized Israel, and particularly Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, since the start of the war, which has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians.

He has accused Israel of genocide — which Israel strongly denies — and has compared Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler.

Hamas political officials regularly visit Turkey, and Israel previously accused Turkey of allowing Hamas to plan attacks from its territory, which Turkey has denied, as well as carry out recruitment and fundraising.

Turkey doesn't consider Hamas to be a terror organization and frames its relations with the group as part of its broader support for the Palestinians.

“Israel will determine which forces are unacceptable to us,” Netanyahu said Sunday