



By: TA | AP Brief

Israel objects to US announcement of leaders who will help oversee next steps in Gaza



Israel's government is objecting to the **White House announcement** of leaders who will play a role in **overseeing next steps in Gaza** as the ceasefire moves into its challenging **second phase**.

The rare criticism from Israel of its close ally in Washington said the Gaza executive committee "was not coordinated with Israel and is contrary to its policy," without details.

Saturday's statement also said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told the foreign ministry to contact Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

The committee announced by the White House on Friday includes no Israeli official but has an Israeli businessman, billionaire Yakir Gabay.

Other members announced so far include two of U.S. President Donald Trump's closest confidants, a former British prime minister, a U.S. general and representatives of several Middle Eastern governments.

The White House has said the executive committee will carry out the vision of a Trump-led "**Board of Peace**," whose members have not yet been named.

The White House also announced the members of a new Palestinian committee to run Gaza's day to day affairs, with oversight from the executive committee. The Palestinian committee met for the first time on Thursday in Cairo.

The executive committee's members include Rubio, Trump envoy Steve Witkoff, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Apollo Global Management CEO Marc Rowan, World Bank President Ajay Banga and Trump's Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gabriel.

Committee members also include a diplomat from Qatar, an intelligence chief from Egypt and Turkey's foreign minister — all countries have been ceasefire mediators — as well as a Cabinet minister for the United Arab Emirates.

Turkey has a strained relationship with Israel but good relations with Hamas and could play an important role in persuading the group to yield power and disarm.

Hamas will dissolve its government

Hamas has said it will dissolve its government in Gaza once the new Palestinian committee takes office, but it has shown no sign that it will dismantle its military wing or security forces.

Netanyahu's office didn't respond Saturday to questions about its objections regarding the executive committee.

Minutes after its statement, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir in a statement backed Netanyahu and urged him to order the military to prepare to return to war.

The countries that kept Hamas alive cannot be the ones that replace it – Bezalel Smotrich

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, another far-right Netanyahu ally, said on social media that "the countries that kept Hamas alive cannot be the ones that replace it."

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Gaza's second-largest militant group after Hamas, in a statement Saturday also expressed dissatisfaction with the makeup of the Gaza executive committee and claimed it reflected Israeli "specifications."

The Trump administration on Wednesday said the **U.S.-drafted ceasefire plan** for Gaza was now moving into its second phase, which includes the new Palestinian committee in Gaza, deployment of an international security force, disarmament of Hamas and reconstruction of the war-battered territory.

The last hostage, Ran Gvili in Gaza, was killed

during the attack that sparked the war.

On Saturday his parents, Talik and Itzik Gvili, said in a statement they were “deeply concerned by moves toward the rehabilitation of Gaza” while Hamas had not fulfilled its obligation to return everyone.

The ceasefire in the deadliest war ever fought between Israel and Hamas took effect on Oct. 10.