



## What seven more months of war would mean for Palestinians, Israelis and the world

By Abbas Al Lawati and Nadeen Ebrahim, CNN Updated: Sat June 1, 2024

Editor's Note: A version of this story appears in CNN's Meanwhile in the Middle East newsletter, a three-times-a-week look inside the region's biggest stories. Sign up here.

CNN —

Israel has warned that its war in Gaza could extend until the end of the year. National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi stated on Wednesday that the country anticipates “seven more months of fighting” to achieve its objective of destroying Hamas, a goal that remains unmet after more than seven months of conflict.

[...]

“It’s a grueling grind forward,” said **Assaf Orion, a senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** in Tel Aviv and former head of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) strategic planning division. “We see the day-in, day-out toll of that kind of fighting... On top of that, there is of course the political, diplomatic, informational and reputational issues, in which Israel is paying growing costs for the ongoing fight.”

[...]

“It is a deep conundrum,” Orion of INSS said. For Israel, it is difficult to balance between the need to make sure Hamas will never again be able to launch another attack, with the duty to release the remaining hostages and other costs Israel is paying, he said. “And currently Hamas doesn’t seem to be ready to release them.”

[...]

Troops, ammunition, funding and the supply of arms are ultimately not endless, especially for a small country, Orion said. While the war in Gaza has been fought at varying intensity since October 7, it is nonetheless “exacting a very high cost on Israel.”

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