

# Diplomats Tell New York Times Israel Privately Pushed to Expel Gazans to Egypt

Israel has been accused of waging a genocidal war as multiple plans to ethnically cleanse Gaza have surfaced.

By [Jessica Corbett](#)

Global Research, November 07, 2023

[Common Dreams](#) 5 November 2023

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Law and Justice](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name.

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

\*\*\*

*A month into Israel's war on Hamas, Sunday [reporting](#) from The New York Times is bolstering fears of Israelis using the devastating war to [ethnically cleanse](#) the besieged Gaza Strip of Palestinians.*

According to the *Times*:

Israel has quietly tried to build international support in recent weeks for the transfer of several hundred thousand civilians from Gaza to Egypt for the duration of its war in the territory, according to six senior foreign diplomats.

Israeli leaders and diplomats have privately proposed the idea to several foreign governments, framing it as a humanitarian initiative that would allow civilians to temporarily escape the perils of Gaza for refugee camps in the Sinai Desert, just across the border in neighboring Egypt.

The proposal has been rejected by not only Palestinians but also "most of Israel's interlocutors—who include the United States and Britain—because of the risk that such a mass displacement could become permanent," the newspaper noted.

Spokespeople for both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi declined to comment, though the latter [delivered](#) a mid-October speech in which he forcefully opposed any relocation.

Another piece of evidence that Israel is looking to ethnically cleanse Palestinians by the 100Ks. Really solid reporting from [@PatrickKingsley](#) <https://t.co/XPSakD2IC9> [pic.twitter.com/a3timGBYWg](https://pic.twitter.com/a3timGBYWg)

At least two separate Israeli [plans](#) to permanently expel Palestinians from Gaza to Egypt have circulated during the war. One, reported by the Israeli business daily *Calcalist*, came from Israel's intelligence minister, Gila Gamliel. Another, reported by *Middle East Eye*, was authored by Amir Weitmann, who chairs the Libertarian faction of Netanyahu's Likud party, and published by the Israeli think tank Misgav Institute for National Security & Zionist Strategy.

Recent comments from Israeli leaders have also stoked fears of “a second Nakba,” or catastrophe—a reference to when more than 750,000 Arabs were ethnically cleansed from Palestine in 1947-48 during the creation of the modern state of Israel. For example, Ariel Kallner, a Likud lawmaker, last month [called for](#) a “Nakba that will overshadow the Nakba of '48.”

Ameed Abed, a 35-year-old resident of Jabaliya—part of northern Gaza, from which the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have told civilians to evacuate to the south—suggested in a phone interview with the *Times* that forced relocation to Egypt would be another Nakba: “As a Palestinian, I won't renew the Nakba again... We will not leave our homes.”

Allegations of genocide and war crimes have mounted since Israel declared war on Hamas in retaliation for the Palestinian militant group leading an attack on October 7. Netanyahu has been [accused](#) of an “explicit call to genocide” due to a Biblical reference during an address last weekend in which he also described Israel's invasion of Gaza as a “holy mission.”

The prime minister on Sunday indefinitely suspended Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu for publicly suggesting that dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza was on the table. Israel is one of the world's nine nuclear-armed nations.

As *Politico* [detailed](#):

A member of the ultra-nationalist Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power) party, Eliyahu earlier on Sunday claimed [in a radio interview](#) that since there were “no noncombatants in Gaza,” using an atomic weapon on the Palestinian enclave was “one of the possibilities.”

Eliyahu later sought to [rectify his statement](#), saying it was “clear to all sensible people” that his reference to nuclear weapons had been “metaphorical.”

Netanyahu [said](#) that “Minister Amichai Eliyahu's statements are not based in reality. Israel and the IDF are operating in accordance with the highest standards of international law to avoid harming innocents. We will continue to do so until our victory.”

According to officials in Israel, over [1,500 Israelis](#) have been killed in the past month and Palestinian militants still have around [240 hostages](#). The Gaza Health Ministry said Saturday that the Israeli assault has killed more than [9,400 Palestinians](#), including 3,900 children. Another [144 Palestinians](#) have been killed in the West Bank, where Israeli settler violence has surged.

Some Israeli settlers in recent weeks have [tried](#) to scare Palestinians into fleeing the West Bank with displays of dolls covered in blood or a substance meant to mimic it and leaflets

with messages like, “Run to Jordan before we kill our enemies and expel you from our Holy Land, promised to us by God.”

[From Common Dreams: Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.]

\*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

*Jessica Corbett is a senior editor and staff writer for Common Dreams.*

Featured image is from [The Grayzone](#)

The original source of this article is [Common Dreams](#)  
Copyright © [Jessica Corbett](#), [Common Dreams](#), 2023

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Jessica Corbett](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)  
[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)