

Israel-US Plan for Gaza Envisions “Fragmenting Gaza and Isolating It from the World”. Mike Whitney

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Unit 601 of the IDF’s Combat Engineering Corps is clearing a vast swath of land across central Gaza splitting the 25-mile-long territory into two parts.

The so-called Netzarim corridor (Highway 749)—which crosses Gaza from east to west—will provide faster transport for IDF troops operating in the area and will also function as vital part of Israel’s security cordon separating the north from the south. There is no doubt that military outposts will be established along the corridor as well as in locations along the western coast.

The aim of these actions is to protect the development of new settlements that will be built north of the corridor.

In short, the Israeli government is using its war on Hamas to divert attention from its real objective which is the expansion of the Jewish state on Palestinian land.



Not surprisingly, Israel's activities in the north have resulted in mass evacuations that have intensified the suffering of the traumatized population. According to the *Palestinian Chronicle*:

The United Nations announced on Tuesday that Israel issued three fresh evacuation orders for over 19 neighborhoods in the north of Gaza and Deir Al-Balah, bringing the number of massive evacuation orders to 16 in August alone, which leaves only 11 percent of the Gaza Strip untouched by the evacuation orders.

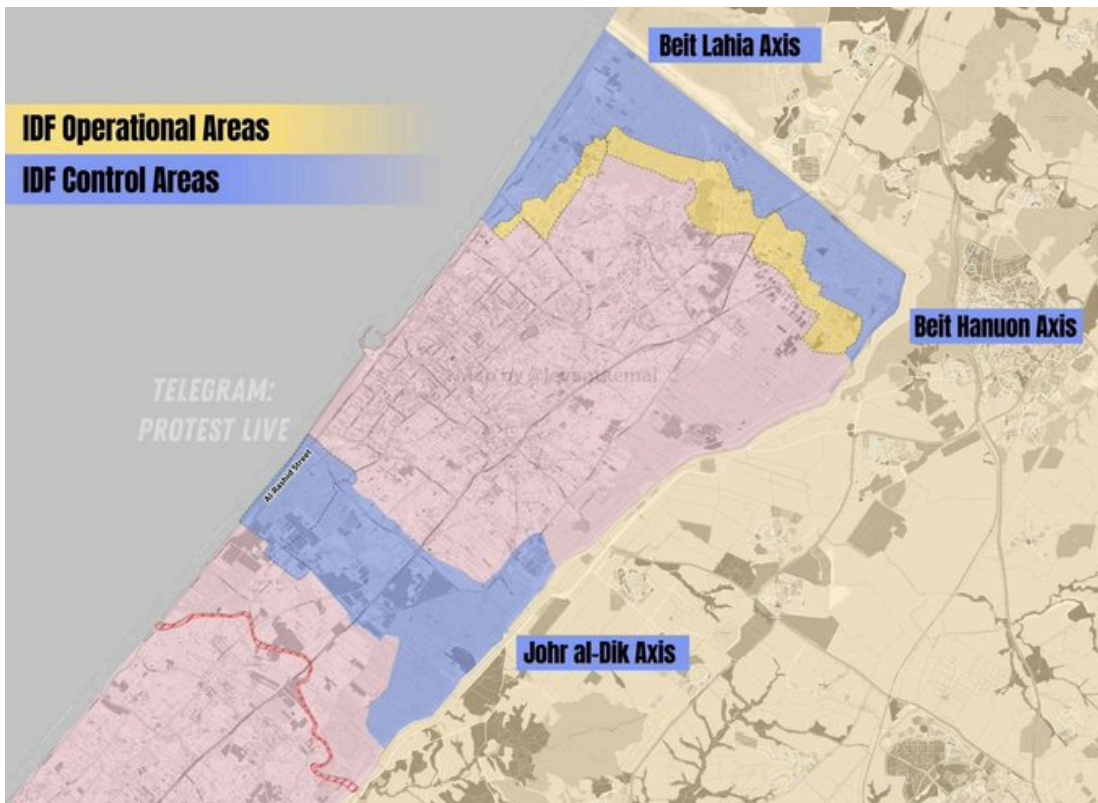
[Only 11% of Gaza Spared - 16 Israeli Evacuation Orders in August Alone](#), *Palestinian Chronicle*

As we noted earlier, the Palestinians are being driven from the north to make room for new settlements that will be built sometime in the near future. The Netzarim corridor serves as a critical buffer zone separating these new colonies from potential attack by Palestinian militants. Israel intends to maintain control over Gaza by putting restrictions on movement and by designating areas where Palestinians can gather. In other words, Palestinians will be refugees in their own country. This is an excerpt from an article at the *World Socialist Web Site*:

Gaza's population, which stood at over 2 million before the start of the genocide, is now crammed into an area that is just 41 square kilometers, or 11 percent of Gaza's total area, with the remaining 89 percent being placed

on evacuation orders by the Israeli Defense Forces.

The United Nations warned, "The area is lacking critical infrastructure and basic services, while aid provision is limited due to access and security issues. The severe overcrowding, with a density of 30,000 to 34,000 individuals per square kilometer has exacerbated the dire shortage of essential resources such as water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, health services, protection and shelter." [UN forced to suspend food distribution as Israel places 89 percent of Gaza under evacuation orders](#), *World Socialist Web Site*



This is Netanyahu's plan in a nutshell:

1. Shrink the Gaza concentration camp to a mere 11 percent of its original size.
2. Transfer the population to the designated location.
3. Partition the territory to allow for settlement activity and the expropriation of gas reserves off the coast.
4. Neutralize any opposition to Israeli expansion

Here's a [video from Israel's Channel 14](#) that confirms the IDF is planning to permanently occupy the Gaza Strip

□A news piece that aired on Israeli Channel 14 yesterday reveals that Israel is vigorously working not just on a security zone around the whole of Gaza Strip, but also on a completely leveled buffer zone south of Gaza City, a latitudinal highway, splitting the strip into 2 parts pic.twitter.com/s4DLO3OzY6

— B.M. (@ireallyhateyou) [February 18, 2024](#)

Surprisingly, an article posted Wednesday at *CNN* confirms our analysis and admits that Israel's postwar plans involve "cutting the strip in two" and maintaining a permanent "operational foothold in the area". And while the author does not verify our theory on settlement development, readers can draw their own conclusions. Israel would never put so much money and effort into an operation that didn't extend the borders of the Israeli state. Here's *CNN*:

A satellite image from March 6 reveals that the east-west road, which has been under construction for weeks, now stretches from the Gaza-Israeli border area across the entire roughly 6.5-kilometer-wide strip, dividing northern Gaza, including Gaza City, from the south of the enclave....

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) told *CNN* they were using the route to "establish (an) operational foothold in the area" and allow "the passage of forces as well as logistical equipment."...

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu unveiled a plan, obtained by *CNN*, to his security cabinet on February 23 for **a post-Hamas future for Gaza**, including the "complete demilitarization" of the enclave, and the overhaul of its security, civil administration and education systems. Palestinians living in Gaza fear Israel's post-war security plans will further restrict their freedom of movement... [Israeli road splitting Gaza in two has reached the Mediterranean coast, satellite imagery show, *CNN*](#)

Keep in mind, that these developments are taking place while Israeli diplomats are currently conducting ceasefire negotiations in Cairo. Why would Hamas agree to a deal with Israel when Israel is in the process of seizing more Palestinian land and tightening the occupation?

They won't, which means the bloodbath will continue for the foreseeable future. Hamas has no other choice. Here's an excerpt from a post by author Anthony Lowenstein:

... **Israel's goal in Gaza is long-term occupation and the building of small settlements, slowly building into something far more substantial.** The editor of @haaretzcom outlines the grim state of play:

"The public discourse in Israel is focused on the hostages and their fate, but Netanyahu considers them to be a media nuisance, a battering ram by his political opponents, and a distraction from the goal: **A prolonged occupation of the Gaza Strip**, or - as he has repeatedly declared since the outbreak of the war - "Israeli security control. "Control of the Philadephi route and the "security corridor" along the border allows Israel to surround Gaza's land borders and isolate it from Egypt. **Control of the Netzarim road route in practice divides northern Gaza, where few Palestinian remain with destroyed homes and infrastructures, from the southern part of the coastal enclave, overflowing with refugees from the entire Strip.**

"In practice, a long-term arrangement for "the day after" is being drawn up. **Israel will control the northern Gaza Strip and drive out the 300,000 Palestinian still there. Maj.-Gen. (res.) Giora Eiland, the war's ideologue, proposes starving them to death, or exiling them, as a lever with which to defeat Hamas.** The Israeli right envisions a Jewish settlement of the area, with vast real estate potential of convenient topography, a sea view, and proximity to central Israel.

“The 57-year experience of the occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem indicates that this is a long process that requires a lot of patience and diplomatic maneuvering capability. No large Jewish city will be built in Gaza tomorrow, but progress will be made acre by acre, mobile home by mobile home, outpost by outpost – just like in Hebron, Elon Moreh, and Gilad Farm. **“The southern Gaza Strip will be left for Hamas, which will have to care for the destitute residents under Israeli siege,** even after the international community loses interest in the story and moves on to other crises. Netanyahu believes with certainty that, after the U.S. elections, the influence of pro-Palestinian demonstrators on American politics will wane, even if Vice President Kamala Harris wins.” [Haaretz](#)

Like many other analysts, I totally misread Israel’s intentions in Gaza. After obliterating one city after another from north to south, I assumed that Netanyahu had a plan for breaching the Rafah Crossing and driving two million Palestinians into the Sinai Desert. I can see now I was wrong; that is not the plan. It might have been the original strategy, but Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi preemptively deployed a sizable part of his army to the border to prevent Israel from executing its ethnic cleansing plan. Check out the headlines:

[Egypt deploys 40 tanks to beef up border with Gaza as Rafah offensive looms](#) *Times of Israel*

Images show barbed wire, expanded fortifications on Sinai side of border, with Cairo fearing that Gazans could seek shelter from IDF operation by attempting to cross into Egypt

[Egypt deploys military convoys to Gaza border as tensions with Israel flare](#), Armoured personnel carriers have been spotted travelling to Egypt’s border with Gaza, as President Sisi implies Israel is ‘delusional’, *Middle East Eye*

[Egypt steps up security on border as Israeli offensive in Gaza nears](#), *Reuters*

[Egypt deploys tanks near Gaza ahead of Israel’s Rafah offensive](#)

Recent images reveal intensified fortifications, including barbed wire and expanded barriers, along the Sinai side of the border, *i24 News*

[Why Egypt won’t allow vulnerable Palestinians across its border](#), *NPR*

So, maybe, Netanyahu scrapped his original ethnic cleansing plan in order to avoid a full-blown conflagration with Egypt? We don’t know for sure. But what we do know is that Israel’s endgame for Gaza is now in full view. The area north of the corridor will be occupied by Israeli settlers committed to the Zionist ideal while the native population will be left to languish in grinding poverty in makeshift tent cities cut off from the outside world.

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