

# Netanyahu: Let Me be Clear — Israel Has No Intention of Displacing Gaza’s Population

PM says IDF will also not permanently occupy the Strip; Likud MK: Netanyahu told me he’d like Gaza voluntary migration but is under US pressure

By [Sam Sokol](#) and [The Times of Israel](#)

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**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** said Wednesday night Israel “has no intention of permanently occupying Gaza or displacing its civilian population,” rebuffing hard-right ministers’ calls to rebuild Israeli settlements in the territory and encourage Palestinian emigration.

The premier’s English-language video posted to social media came on the eve of the International Court of Justice in The Hague hearing a highly charged case accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza.

“I want to make a few points absolutely clear,” Netanyahu said. “Israel has no intention of permanently occupying Gaza or displacing its civilian population. Israel is fighting Hamas terrorists, not the Palestinian population, and we are doing so in full compliance with international law.”

“Our goal is to rid Gaza of Hamas terrorists and free our hostages. Once this is achieved, Gaza can be demilitarized and deradicalized, thereby creating a possibility for a better future for Israel and Palestinians alike.”

At the same time, a senior Likud member insisted Wednesday that Netanyahu had previously expressed support for the idea of the voluntary resettlement of Palestinians outside Gaza, but took it off the table in the face of pushback from the US.

“The prime minister told me two weeks ago in this room that it’s a good idea,” MK Danny

Danon told The Times of Israel, seemingly confirming [an earlier report](#) that the prime minister had informed a Likud faction meeting that he was working to facilitate voluntary migration.

"I want to make a few points absolutely clear:  
Israel has no intention of permanently occupying Gaza or displacing its civilian population.  
Israel is fighting Hamas terrorists, not the Palestinian population, and we are doing so in full compliance with international law. [pic.twitter.com/amxFaMnSOP](https://pic.twitter.com/amxFaMnSOP)

— Prime Minister of Israel (@IsraeliPM) [January 10, 2024](#)

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*Featured image: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a message on Israel's war with Hamas, January 10, 2024. (Video screenshot)*

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