

500 Days of War: Netanyahu, Rubio Agree Hamas Must Be 'Eradicated,' Iran Can't Get Nukes

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday. Their meeting follows a heart-wrenching Saturday when the Hamas terror group released three more hostages to their families. Monday also marks 500 days since the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks.

After their meeting, Rubio and Netanyahu agreed that Hamas must be destroyed.

"Hamas cannot continue as a military or government force," Rubio stated. "And frankly, as long as it stands as a force that can govern or as a force that can administer, or as a force that can threaten by use of violence, peace becomes impossible. They must be eliminated. It must be eradicated."

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Netanyahu once again backed President Donald Trump's plan to help all Gazans leave their war-torn, devastated region while others rebuild it under U.S. control. He believes many Palestinians want to leave but Hamas won't let them.

"Everybody says this is the largest open-air prison in the world. Not because of us," Netanyahu declared. "We tried to get the population to leave—to get them out of harm's way. And Hamas—with rifles, with gunfire—try to prevent them from leaving."

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Trump's Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff recently visited Gaza and saw why people can't reasonably live in much of it now.

"It's completely devastated," Witkoff observed. "And that begs the question: should people be allowed in there in those dangerous conditions? Thank God we've had no incidents. But, there's 30,000 unexploded shells throughout Gaza, and the buildings are all down. It's utter destruction."

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Netanyahu also indicated this weekend he and the Trump administration see eye to eye on the threat from Iran.

"Israel and America stand shoulder to shoulder in countering the threat of Iran," he claimed. "We agree that the ayatollahs must not have nuclear weapons."

"Them getting a bomb is devastating to the region," Witkoff said. "It'll force every other country in that region to get a bomb, too. We'll have a nuclear arms race, and that simply can't happen."

Rubio concurred, saying, "Behind everything that threatens peace and stability for the millions of people who call this region home is Iran. And by Iran, I mean the ayatollahs. By Iran, I mean its regime, a regime who, by the way, its people don't support. The people of Iran are victims of that regime."

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