

ICC Issues Arrest Warrant for Netanyahu, Gallant

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday, along with his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and Hamas officials. The warrants turn Netanyahu and Gallant into internationally wanted suspects.

Netanyahu is condemning the ICC's arrest warrant, saying Israel "rejects with disgust the absurd and false actions."

In a statement released by his office, he said: "There is nothing more just than the war that Israel has been waging in Gaza."

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The warrants accuse Netanyahu and Gallant of war crimes and crimes against humanity over the war in Gaza, and accuse Hamas for the October attacks that triggered Israel's offensive in the Palestinian territory. The ICC decision would put Netanyahu at risk of arrest if he traveled to certain countries.

The warrants come as Israel fights wars with Hamas on its southern border and Hezbollah on its northern border to finally put a stop to the terrorism, including ongoing rocket and drone attacks on Israeli civilians.

Biden Admin Pushes Another Ceasefire Deal

U.S. mediator Amos Hochstein arrived in Israel late Wednesday in the latest attempt to negotiate a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel. Yet, some believe the deal would protect Hezbollah and its sponsor, Iran.

Hochstein concluded talks with Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. The U.S. envoy concluded, "The meeting today built, on the meeting (Tuesday) and made additional progress." He indicated he would go to Israel to try to "bring this to a close."

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However, a prominent sticking point in recent days has been the insistence that Israel can't have the freedom to respond to Hezbollah violations of the agreement. "It is not allowed for the Israeli to violate and kill and enter whenever it wants," said the group's leader, Naim Kassem.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar countered that the Jewish nation must have that right. "We will need to keep the freedom to act if there will be violations," Sa'ar noted.

Sa'ar added that Israel must prevent Hezbollah from ever again threatening northern Israel. "We will have to enforce that they won't be able to again build their force in Lebanon – they won't be able to bring again ammunition, missiles."

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