

# Netanyahu Hopeful in Advance of Trump DC Meeting

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is in Washington for a high-stakes White House meeting with President Donald Trump. The two are expected to discuss a possible hostage and ceasefire deal in Gaza, the growing threat from Iran and its proxies, and expanding the Abraham Accords.

Netanyahu previewed his goals, noting, "During the conversation with President Trump, I will first thank him for his very strong mobilization in favor of Israel. We have never had such a friend in the White House, and our joint mobilisation has brought a great victory over our common enemy, Iran."

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Over the weekend, Israel sent a team to Doha, where negotiators are working to hammer out a 60-day ceasefire and hostage exchange. President Trump says he expects a deal with Hamas this week.

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But Netanyahu blasted the latest terms from Hamas as unacceptable, and he insists any agreement must guarantee the elimination of Hamas as a military force.

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"There are 20 hostages that are alive, 30 dead. I am determined – we are determined – to return them all; and this means one thing: the elimination of Hamas' military and

governmental power. Hamas will not be there in Gaza.”

The Israeli leader is also expected to ask for a green light to strike Iranian nuclear facilities if Israel detects suspicious activity. Israeli media report he’ll push the White House to support stronger action against Iran and its regional proxies, including the Houthis in Yemen, who resumed attacks on Israel and shipping over the weekend.

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Overnight, Israel launched extensive airstrikes on Houthi-controlled ports, radar sites, and a power station in Yemen.

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