

US Pulls Diplomats from Qatar after Israel-Hamas Talks Collapse

At the end of a frustrating week in the Middle East, talks collapsed between Hamas and Israel, France called for a Palestinian state and humanitarian aid is piled up on Gaza's doorstep.

At the same time, the United States is cutting short Gaza ceasefire talks and bringing its negotiating team home from Qatar after what it calls a disappointing response from Hamas.

State Department Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Piggot announced on behalf of envoy Steve Witkoff, "We have decided to bring our team home from Doha for consultations at the latest response from Hamas, which clearly shows a lack of desire to reach a ceasefire in Gaza."

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Piggot added, "While the mediators have made a great effort, Hamas does not appear to be coordinated or acting in good faith. We will now consider alternative options to bring the hostages home and try to create a more stable environment for the people of Gaza. It is a shame that Hamas has acted in this selfish way. We are resolute and seeking an end to this conflict and a permanent peace in Gaza."

That announcement came just hours after French President Emmanuel Macron said France would recognize Palestine as a state. He plans to formalize the decision at the U.N. General Assembly in September.



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Israel slammed the move, calling it dangerous and diplomatically irresponsible.

At the same time, Israeli officials are reacting strongly to what they're calling a blatant act of antisemitism in Spain, after more than 50 French Jewish teens were removed from a Vueling Airlines flight in Valencia for allegedly singing in Hebrew. The airline claimed they were being disruptive, but Israel called Vueling's action one of the most serious antisemitic incidents in recent memory.

To push back against growing international criticism over humanitarian conditions in Gaza, Israel's military gave CBN News a tour of the Gaza side of the Kerem Shalom crossing, where officials showed aid totaling a week's worth of food for everyone in Gaza – all awaiting distribution by the United Nations.

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Col. Abdullah Halaby, head of the Israeli Coordination Administration for Gaza, told us, "We have here approximately 1,000 trucks – humanitarian aid – that entered the Gaza side, awaiting collection and distribution to the people of Gaza by the international community and by the organization that we are working with from the international community."

Colonel Halaby contends that Hamas is using hunger as a weapon in the court of public opinion, intentionally starving its people.

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"They're sending people to interfere and order inside the

sites,” he said. “And they are doing that in order to build a picture of a crisis of chaos, of problems in humanitarian aid. It’s false, as I mentioned before.”

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