

Israel-Hamas War

Top Israeli Official Set for Talks in Washington

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Follow live news updates on the Israel-Hamas war.

Here's what we know:

Ron Dermer, a member of Israel's war cabinet, is expected to meet with two Biden administration officials on Tuesday amid differences with the U.S. over the war in Gaza.

- Dermer is to meet with the secretary of state and Biden's national security adviser.
- The U.N. appoints a Dutch official to supervise Gaza aid, as called for by the Security Council.

- Israel's military outlines gains in northern Gaza and new campaigns in the south and center.
- Satellite imagery shows Israel's advance into central Gaza.
- A U.N. official sees peril looming for southern Gaza's last big functioning hospital.
- Another video shows Gazan detainees stripped to their underwear.
- Israel moves to limit visas for U.N. employees.

Dermer is to meet with the secretary of state and Biden's national security adviser.



Ron Dermer, a former Israeli ambassador to the United States, is part of Israel's five-member war cabinet. Abir Sultan/EPA, via Shutterstock

Ron Dermer, a close adviser to Israel's prime minister and a member of the country's war cabinet, is scheduled to meet with Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and the national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, in Washington on Tuesday afternoon, according to a spokeswoman for the National Security Council.

The meetings come amid differences between the United States and Israel over the scope and timetable of Israel's war against Hamas and plans for the future control of

Gaza.

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The U.N. appoints a Dutch official to supervise Gaza aid, as called for by the Security Council. [🔗](#)



Sigrid Kaag, the Dutch finance minister and a deputy prime minister, at The Hague in July. The United Nations appointed her as a special envoy to Gaza on Tuesday. Robin Utrecht/ANP, via Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

The United Nations appointed a Dutch politician and seasoned diplomat on Tuesday to oversee aid cargo entering Gaza, filling a crucial role called for in a Security Council resolution adopted last week.

In a statement, the U.N. secretary general, António Guterres, said he had selected Sigrid Kaag, the Dutch finance minister and a deputy prime minister, to be the senior humanitarian and reconstruction coordinator for Gaza. The Security Council resolution called for the coordinator to be responsible for “consulting all relevant parties” on aid shipments and for “facilitating, coordinating, monitoring and verifying” that aid cargo entering Gaza is humanitarian in nature.

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Israel's military outlines gains in northern Gaza and new campaigns in the south and center. [↗](#)



Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi, the Israeli military chief of staff. "There are no magic solutions or shortcuts in the fundamental dismantling of a terrorist organization," he said on Tuesday. Atef Safadi/EPA, via Shutterstock

Israel expects the war in Gaza to continue for "many more months," according to the military chief of staff, as Israeli officials signaled that they would press on with their assault despite international calls for a cease-fire.

The chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi, said on Tuesday that Israeli forces were focusing their efforts in southern Gaza after making progress against Hamas in the north. But he added that while Israel had killed "many terrorists and Hamas commanders," destroyed parts of the militant group's underground infrastructure and captured weapons, it was likely that some Hamas fighters remained in the northern part of the enclave.

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Satellite imagery shows Israel's advance into central Gaza. [↗](#)



A line of vehicles snake through a dirt path cut through the trees in central Gaza. Planet Labs

The Israeli military crossed into central Gaza between Dec. 24 and 26, new satellite images obtained and analyzed by The New York Times showed, giving a fuller picture of the latest front in Israel's war to eradicate Hamas from the embattled enclave.

By Tuesday, Israeli forces had reached the outskirts of Al Bureij, a densely built-up neighborhood in the center of the Gaza Strip, about one mile from the border with Israel.

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The Houthis attack another ship in the Red Sea, as Israel and Hezbollah trade fire. [🔗](#)



An Israeli navy missile boat in the Red Sea off the coast of the port city of Eilat, in southern Israel, on Tuesday. Alberto Pizzoli/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

The Israel-Hamas war continued to stoke regional tensions on Tuesday, as Israel and Hezbollah traded fire along the Israel-Lebanon border and global shipping in the Red Sea remained scrambled by attacks from Yemen's Houthi militia.

The militia, which has been attacking commercial ships in the busy waterway to put pressure on Israel to end its siege on the Gaza Strip, said it had fired missiles at a container ship owned by the shipping giant Mediterranean Shipping on Tuesday after "the crew ignored warning messages and repeated firing messages."

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A U.N. official sees peril looming for southern Gaza's last big functioning hospital. [🔗](#)



Injured Palestinians receiving medical care at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, on Tuesday. Ahmad Hasaballah/Getty Images

The largest hospital in the southern Gaza Strip still managing to function could be imperiled if bombardment and fighting come closer, a senior U.N. official warned on Tuesday.

The fighting may make it impossible for either patients or medical workers to get to Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis, said Dr. Rik Peepkorn, the representative of the U.N. World Health Organization for Gaza and the West Bank.

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Another video shows Gazan detainees stripped to their underwear. [🔗](#)

More video footage has emerged showing dozens of Palestinians in Gaza lined up and stripped to their underwear as armed Israeli soldiers look on, in footage reminiscent of images of Palestinian detainees in Gaza that generated outrage earlier this month.

In the new video, men — and at least three young boys — wearing only their underwear are seen lined up in front of a row of soldiers in the grassy field at Yarmouk

Stadium in Gaza City, their hands on their heads. The video shows Israeli soldiers supervising as dozens of men kneel on the grass, hands apparently tied behind their backs. Others walk in a line, their hands up, carrying pieces of paper.

The video also shows several women and children gathered together on the field, as well as several Israeli military vehicles, including bulldozers, tanks and trucks.

The New York Times verified the video, which was uploaded on Sunday by an Israeli photographer who said on his social media pages that he had embedded with a unit of the Israeli military, the Nahal Brigade's 932nd battalion. It was likely filmed around mid-December.

The video, which spread quickly on Palestinian media and social media, mirrored previous footage and photos of Palestinian detainees stripped to their underwear in northern Gaza that prompted accusations that Israel was violating international law in its detention of Palestinians.

The Israeli military argued at the time that it had needed to round up the men en masse to determine if they were Hamas fighters, and it needed to strip them to their underwear to make sure they were not armed.

Earlier this month, the military said it was arresting military-age men found in northern Gaza. But, in addition to the boys among the stripped men, the video also shows several gray-haired men, one of whom appears to be leaning on two other men for support as he walks.

A spokesman for Israel's military, Nir Dinar, declined to comment on the video because it had not been released by the military. In general, Mr. Dinar said in a statement, the Israeli military treats detainees in accordance with international law, adding that detainees are often made to hand over clothing to be searched for weapons or explosives.

"Detainees are given back their clothes when it's possible to do so," he said, without giving a specific time frame, and detainees were released if found not to be participating in "terrorist activities."

— Vivian Yee, Arijeta Lajka and Christoph Koettl

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Israel moves to limit visas for U.N. employees. 



Palestinians, taking shelter in a United Nations-run school, received aid distributed by the United Nations in Khan Younis, in southern Gaza, in October. Mohammed Salem/Reuters

Israel said on Tuesday that it would stop automatically issuing visas to United Nations employees, an escalation of tensions between the two over the war in Gaza.

Instead, Israel will consider each visa on a “case-by-case” basis, Eylon Levy, a government spokesman, said at a news conference.

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Israel's National Library Reopens After Delay Caused by Hamas Attacks [🔗](#)



Israel's National Library canceled the opening ceremony for its new building after the Oct. 7 attacks, but opened its doors anyway. Kenzo Tribouillard/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Before Oct. 7, Hana Cooper downloaded everything from daily news reports to rabbinic blog posts, saving them for posterity in the Israeli National Library's archive of the Israeli internet and the broader Jewish online world.

But within days of the Hamas-led attacks, Ms. Cooper began spending her time archiving violent images of the assault, many of them posted by the attackers themselves on digital platforms like Telegram.

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