



# IPS INSIGHTS

Perspectives On the Issues Shaping Policy

## Relinquishing Power: A Bold Move by Hamas

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In its latest announcement, Hamas has agreed to relinquish the governance of Gaza and transfer authority to a non-partisan technocratic committee, after governing the enclave for two decades. The announcement may appear to be an administrative decision on the surface, but it underpins political implications which could be far more profound than anticipated.

In any conflict, it is a moral and legal norm for all the parties to respect provisions of a peace process. Likewise, it is the responsibility of a mediator to play a non-partisan role and oversee the just implementation of the agreed-upon measures to end hostilities. In the case of Gaza, however, Hamas appears to be the only party who has been respecting the text of the US-brokered, 20-points peace plan. Israel, on the other hand, has continued to treat Palestinians inhumanely, directing indiscriminate assault against women and children. In fact, in violation to the peace plan, nearly 70 percent of Gaza Strip is under the operational control of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).<sup>2</sup> To this, the principal mediator – the USA – has been silent and letting Israel continue with its genocidal campaign.

Hence, the move by Hamas to let go of its governance over Gaza is aimed at putting onus of ending hostilities on Israel and the USA. If one understands the situation from statements of the group, it can be

concluded that the decision is an attempt to neutralize the very argument that Israel has used for years to justify its blockade, military operations, and obstruction of reconstruction efforts in Gaza. This has been reiterated by Hamas spokesperson, Hazem Qassem, who noted that Hamas has taken this step so that the occupying forces would no longer have any pretext to continue their aggression and war.

Therefore, Hamas undertook this decision while considering the humanitarian situation of people of Gaza and as an effort to projecting itself as the only party honouring the peace plan. In addition to this, given limitation of its resources, the move by Hamas also aims at raising moral price for Israel and the USA, i.e. the higher the non-compliance with the peace plan, the higher the price for its violators. Regarding this, Mohammad Al-Farra, head of Government Emergency Committee of Gaza, submitted his resignation and announced the dissolution of the administrative structure to facilitate an orderly transfer of authority to the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG).

Despite these advancements shown by Hamas, the position of Israel remains devoid of any progress on its part. Instead, Israel is bent upon consolidating its control over Gaza by actively preparing for new Jewish settlements in northern Gaza.<sup>3</sup> Given this volatile situation, if the technocratic

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<sup>2</sup> Amir Bohbot, "IDF expands control to approx. 70% of Gaza Strip as Southern Command prepares for next steps," The Jerusalem Post, June 23, 2026, <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/defense-news/article-900215>

<sup>3</sup> Simon Speakman Cordall, "Could Israel really build settlements in Gaza?" Al Jazeera, July 4, 2026, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/7/4/could-israel-really-build-settlements-in-gaza>

administration of Gaza is still prevented from entering the territory, reconstruction would remain delayed. Similarly, if the military occupation goes same as before, the international community will likely to ask with greater intensity whether Hamas was truly the obstacle or the impediment lies elsewhere.

Nevertheless, neither has Hamas abandoned its political role nor has announced any

withdrawal from its military position by relinquishing the governmental authority. So, the development should not be seen as a defeat or capitulation, but as a calculated diplomatic strategy which is aimed at facilitating reconstruction, restoring civilian governance, and challenging the justification for the Israeli occupation at the international level. Finally, the ball is now in the court of Israel and its international backers.

