

# The Dangers of an Ungovernable Gaza

by [Dana Stroul \(/experts/dana-stroul\)](#)

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Articles & Testimony

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**As the conditions for long-term lawlessness and violence begin to take root, a former Pentagon official details the urgent steps Washington and its partners should take to prepare for the postwar “golden hour.”**

In early April, the Israel Defense Forces withdrew the majority of its ground troops from the Gaza Strip, leaving just one brigade in the central part. In explaining the decision, officials pointed to their military campaign’s success in destroying 18 of Hamas’s 24 battalions. Israeli forces needed time to rest before returning to Rafah in the southernmost part of Gaza to dismantle the four Hamas battalions based there. For several weeks, daily life in Gaza was not dominated by continuous airstrikes and ground forces’ maneuvering. But neither humanitarian groups nor civilians knew where to look for basic security, for no one is running Gaza. That is why some UN officials now refer to Gaza as “Mogadishu on the Mediterranean.” In some areas, remnants of Hamas-run ministries are providing services or diverting humanitarian aid, while in others criminal networks loot and then distribute it. Elsewhere, communities and humanitarian groups are contracting with armed groups other than Hamas to provide security. Gaza is an ungoverned space with parallel and competing authority structures taking root...

[Read the full article on the Foreign Affairs website. \(https://www.foreignaffairs.com/israel/dangers-ungovernable-gaza\)](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/israel/dangers-ungovernable-gaza) ❖

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May 17, 2024



David Makovsky

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MAY 2, 2024			
Children	13,430	5,906	8,422
Women	5,000	3,285	3,213
Men	3,238	7,235	9,491
Total	30,834	17,248	33,186
MAY 16, 2024			
Children	14,000	5,640	8,960
Women	9,250	5,324	4,095
Men	8,599	7,407	1,192
Total	31,819	17,071	14,248
MAY 28, 2024			
Children	14,350	5,691	9,359
Women	9,360	5,249	4,291
Men	8,013	7,470	1,343
Total	32,823	17,790	14,893
MAY 10, 2024			
Children	14,540	6,998	7,960
Women	9,582	5,158-5,232	4,260-4,424
Men	9,544	9,269-9,333	211-275
Total	35,888	23,499	12,197

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Gabriel Epstein

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