

Israel's Dangerous Escalation in Gaza

by [Assaf Orion \(/experts/assaf-orion\)](#)

Jun 3, 2025

Also published in Foreign Affairs

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Assaf Orion \(/experts/assaf-orion\)](#)

Brig. Gen. Assaf Orion (Res.) is The Washington Institute's Rueven International Fellow, a senior research fellow at INSS, and former head of the IDF Strategic Planning Division.



Articles & Testimony

The IDF's former head of strategic planning describes how politics and ideology are sidelining national security and creating a forever war.

Over the past few weeks, Israel's 20-month-old military campaign in the Gaza Strip has reached another crux point. On March 18, the IDF restarted the offensive with ambitious new goals that included targeting Hamas's remaining civil bureaucracy as well as its fighters and ratcheting up pressure on the organization by halting the entrance of humanitarian aid—which Hamas has weaponized to control the Gazan population and rebuild its military. Then, on May 4, the Israeli cabinet approved a more far-reaching plan that envisions not only totally defeating Hamas, but also seizing and holding the entire Strip in what could amount to indefinite military control. Although this recent operation has only begun, it has already highlighted the dangers of the war's relentless expansion and put Israel under extraordinary political, social, economic, and moral pressure...

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

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Reducing the U.S. Presence in Syria Too Quickly Could Help the Islamic State

Jun 4, 2025



Ido Levy

(/policy-analysis/reducing-us-presence-syria-too-quickly-could-help-islamic-state)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Nuclear Talks and Iran's Missile Program: Addressing the Overlooked Arsenal

Jun 3, 2025



Farzin Nadimi

(/policy-analysis/nuclear-talks-and-irans-missile-program-addressing-overlooked-arsenal)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Profile: Harakat al-Abdal

Jun 2, 2025



Sary Mumayiz,
Michael Knights

(/policy-analysis/profile-harakat-al-abdal)

TOPICS

Peace Process (/policy-analysis/peace-process)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

Israel (/policy-analysis/israel)

Palestinians (/policy-analysis/palestinians)

