

As Israel aims for more ‘focused’ operations in Gaza, key questions remain for endgame

“I think there is a danger this could end up being just another big round” of fighting, **Chuck Freilich**, a former Israeli deputy national security advisor, told Breaking Defense.

By Seth J. Frantzman / February 08, 2024

JERUSALEM — Israel’s former Defense Minister Benny Gantz said earlier this week that Israeli operations in Gaza will become more “focused” in the future, following months of aerial bombardment and aggressive urban fighting.

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Chuck Freilich, also former Israeli deputy national security advisor and senior fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies, told Breaking Defense, “I think there is a danger this could end up being just another big round.” Freilich was referring to similar campaigns waged by Israel in 2009, 2014 and other conflicts in Gaza, which failed to root out Hamas.

The militant group, Freilich said, is “trying to survive the Israeli response [to Oct. 7] and fight the next round. It’s part of the Iranian-backed strategy of long-term attrition [against Israel] until destruction.”

“Militarily we have to win this one,” he said.

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