



Egypt on edge as Israel's war presses more than a million Palestinians up against its border

By Nadeen Ebrahim and Sarah El Sirgany, CNN / Published: February 13, 2024

Egypt is boosting its security presence at its border with the Gaza Strip, wary of a spillover of Israel's war on Hamas onto its territory should the Israeli military begin its ground assault on the enclave's southernmost city, Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population is sheltering just steps away from the frontier.

[...]

"The present crisis presents potential dangers not seen in previous incidents," said **Ofir Winter, senior researcher at Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** in Tel Aviv and lecturer at the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

While Egypt and Israel have had rough patches since the treaty was signed, Winter told CNN, this is the worst period in Israeli-Egyptian ties since decade-long ruler Abdel Fattah el-Sisi came to power.

[...]

Deployment of Israeli troops in the Philadelphi Corridor without prior agreement between both countries would be a breach of the peace treaty, the Egyptian official told CNN, adding that the government had not approved such a deployment. Winter said that if Israel undertakes military operations in Rafah involving more than the four infantry battalions as allowed under the agreement, Egypt may assert a breach of the agreement.

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