



Israel says it defeated Hamas in a key city, now aims for Gaza's southern border

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Israeli troops enter a Hamas tunnel underneath a cemetery in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis on Jan. 27. Israel said Thursday that it had defeated Hamas in the city, the main battleground in recent days.

Israel's defense minister said the military has defeated Hamas in the southern city of Khan Younis and will be making a push to the nearby town on Gaza's southern border with Egypt.

[...]

The Hamas leadership is seeking a permanent cease-fire and the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Gaza. Under such a scenario, Hamas would try to portray this as a win, said **Yohanan Tzoreff, a former Israeli military officer who's now at Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies.**

"When we're talking about organizations like Hamas, the idea is how to prevent victory by the other side," said Tzoreff. "It doesn't matter if you've lost 20,000 or 30,000 or 100,000 people. The most important issue is to stay in your territory, not to be crushed."

He believes Hamas will claim victory as long as its leadership can remain in Gaza and say it survived a war with Israel, the strongest military in the Middle East.

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