

Dissolving Hamas' military, forming sovereign Palestinian state would bring 'change' - expert

Hamas proposes a five-year cease-fire and political transition if a Palestinian state is established. The move signals a shift from armed combat, including dissolving its military wing.

By Nathan Klabin / The Media Line / Apr. 26, 2024

Hamas, through a senior official, stated its readiness to enter a cease-fire of five years or more with Israel and transition into a political entity if an independent Palestinian state is established along pre-1967 borders. The official, Khalil al-Hayya, considered Sinwar's right hand, expressed these views during a recent interview amidst stalled cease-fire negotiations.

[...]

Chuck Freilich, former deputy national security adviser and senior fellow in INSS, told *The Media Line*, "Hamas is aware of its imminent demise if the IDF enters Rafah. Making remarkable statements, such as the one made by Al-Hayya, gives them more time and feeds into the narrative believed by their supporters worldwide. Still, Israeli leaders should pursue this dialogue in the future if we have a different government."

"If this statement made by Al-Hayya is serious, then they should be open to dialogue after the Israeli conducts its plans to go into Rafah. It's doubtful that Israel would entertain such dialogue, as it remains committed to dismantling Hamas. After Hamas is removed from Rafah, then the Palestinians should announce an initiative with their top leaders or with a formal declaration," concluded **Chuck Freilich**.

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