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## Why Is Israel Intensifying Operations In North Gaza?

By Chloe Rouveryrolles-Bazire and Louis Baudoin-Laarman / October 8, 2024

The Israeli military has once again stepped up its air and ground operations in Gaza's ravaged north, with troops even encircling the key city of Jabaliya and some surrounding areas.

The stated goal is to destroy the operational capabilities Hamas is trying to rebuild there, and for that the military has ordered residents to evacuate the area.

[...]

**Ofer Shelah, a programme director at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies**, said that from the Israeli standpoint there are two choices for post-war Gaza.

"Either we move with a coalition, a Middle East coalition backed by the United States.. or we deteriorate.. into a situation where Israel is in control of northern Gaza and probably all of the Gaza Strip" he told AFP.

Though the Israeli army previously operated in the north of the Gaza Strip, its main focus in recent months had been the south of the territory.

This allowed Hamas to rebuild its military capabilities in the north, which the army says it is now targeting.

"Now we have to go back because Hamas is getting stronger there, but it's like, you know, emptying a barrel that's open on the other end," **Shelah** said.

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