

## No expectations of a swift deal for Gaza after Lebanon ceasefire

By Crispian Balmer and Nidal Al-Mughrabi / November 27, 2024

JERUSALEM/CAIRO, Nov 27 (Reuters) - Following a deal to end more than a year of fighting between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah, attention has swung back to the battered Gaza Strip, but any hopes of a rapid end to the war there look likely to be dashed.

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However, Ofer Shelah, a senior researcher at Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) think tank, said this delinking might ultimately make it harder to end the bloodshed in Gaza.

"There'll be no real pressure now on Israel over Gaza," Shelah told Reuters.

He added that it might not serve Netanyahu's purposes to make peace with Hamas any time soon because it could tear apart his government, which is packed with war hawks - some of whom have denounced the Lebanon deal and want to take over Gaza.

"I think it's in his political interest for the war to go on because the end of the war in Gaza could really threaten this coalition," said Shelah.

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