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By Yaacov Lipszyc | December 3, 2024

Although the announcement of a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah garnered international favor, particularly with the United States and Europe, for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government, it has stirred a cauldron of controversy on the domestic front. The center-right factions that form the bedrock of Netanyahu's electoral support are raising a chorus of discontent, while security analysts insists a ceasefire is currently the only viable option.

Among the most vocal critics are the tens of thousands of evacuees from communities near the Lebanese border, who had been holding out for a different kind of resolution.

[...]

"The ceasefire isn't just beneficial — it's necessary," says **Ofer Shelah, a former MK and current director of the Israel National Security Policy research program at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** in Tel Aviv, speaking to *Mishpacha*. "What matters most is stopping the fighting, not what's written in the agreement. The specifics of the document are secondary. It's not a legal contract that people will litigate over for years. The important thing — and this is something we've learned from past agreements — is what happens after it's signed."

Shelah insists the ceasefire is necessary now because the current round of fighting has effectively played out. "In essence, the agreement signals that both sides want the current situation to end, mainly because neither sees any benefit in continuing," he says. "The reality is that both sides have concluded it's in their best interest to stop fighting. Now we enter a new phase, and in that context, the agreement's written terms are irrelevant. For instance, Israel conducted an operation in Lebanon even after the agreement was signed."

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