



Gaza Peace Plan: Myth or Paradigm Shift

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Abstract

The October 2025 Gaza Peace Plan provides for a paradigm shift in Palestine-Israel conflict started in 1967. The conflict has seen over 55 years with many efforts for the normalcy of relations but no substantial plan could bring about peace and stability in the region. The Oslo Accords was an effort to take measure for the resolution of dispute, followed by the United Nations' General Assembly granting the status of de facto Palestinian State in 2012 making it as an observer state. The recent efforts seem to provide for the establishment of peace in Palestine encompassing four phases towards a long lasting peace. Still nothing can be said with guarantee whether peace can be established or this would be just building castle in the air but time is yet to decide the validity and applicability of its practical manifestation. This article aims at analyzing the recent Gaza Peace Plan in the context of finding a viable solution to the issue of Palestine and resultant peace.

Key Words: Gaza, Peace, Plan, Myth, Paradigm, Security.

Introduction

US President Donald Trump announced the Gaza Peace Plan on 13 October, 2025 saying that the implementation of Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal has reached advanced stages as he met with global leaders in Egypt (Middleeast, 2025) . The peace plan is more than what amounts to ceasefire and fails to address the core issue of Palestinian statehood that is what the Hamas is fighting for. A true peace plan should have the four basic outcomes: the end of Israel's genocide, disarmament of Hamas, membership of Palestinians in the United Nations and the normalization of diplomatic ties with Israel and Palestine throughout the world (Middleeast, 2025). The plan would to be successful and practical if practical steps are taken to incorporate these four steps that would lead towards the establishment of peace and stability in the region. Though some countries have backed the 'declaration for enduring peace and prosperity' but no country has shown willingness to sign the peace plan.

The United Nations Independent International Commission of inquiry on the occupied Palestinian Territory has stated in its report that the Israel has committed genocide against the Palestinians (Rights, 2025). The commission is of the view that all the states should abide by the international law and support each other's sovereignty. It also envisages Israel and other states to end the genocide and penalize those involved in this crime against other states (Rights,



2025). Disarmament of Hamas is another uphill task since it would exacerbate the relations between the contending states. About 70% of Palestinians though polls have expressed their view opposing the disarmament of Hamas, even if that means a return to Israeli attacks, poll conducted by the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR) from 22nd October to 25th October 2025 (Mathews, 2025).

About 80% of the respondents opposed the disarmament of the Hamas in the occupied West Bank as the group's armed wing wants to keep their weapons for security and defense. It is important to mention that West Bank is governed by the Palestinian Authority and is dominated by Hamas, secular rival group, Fatah (Mathews, 2025). The people of Gaza, that have endured two years of Israeli assaults, and in what the UN, world leaders and experts of human rights have called genocide, a simple majority of Palestinians, about 55% oppose the disarmament of Hamas. Sample size of the poll was taken as 1,200 people out of whom 760 were interviewed in the occupied West Bank and 440 in Gaza. Recognition of the Palestinian state into the United Nations would be another important step towards the establishment of peace and security in the Gaza region. Some states including France and the United Kingdom has shown willingness to extend their support for the recognition of Palestine (Nichols, 2025).

Peace can be possible when only the ceasefire takes place in the affected area, followed by the normalcy of relations and the efforts to address the grievances of the Palestinian people. Though the Palestinian Authority, representing its people in the UN as the State of Palestine yet it has no vote in the 193- member General Assembly of the UN (Nichols, 2025). The General Assembly of the United Nations approved the sanction of a de facto recognition of Palestinian State in November 2012 by upgrading its 'observer status' at the UN to "non-member state from entity" (Nichols, 2025). This was given through voting system where 138 votes were cast in its favor, 9 against while 41 abstentions. It is also a matter of concern that 13 years have elapsed but freedom struggle of the people of Palestine are still in progress with no status of an independent and sovereign state.

About 58 years have elapsed since the occupation of the Palestinian stated by the Israel but still no resolution of the dispute has been agreed upon by the contending parties. The Balfour Declaration was issued for the establishment of Jewish homeland in Palestine, the conflict between Israel and Palestine exists. The Oslo Accords, signed in 1993 provided for the social change, leading towards the establishment of a Palestinian state and resolution of the dispute in true spirit (Nichols, 2025). Mutual recognition by the two groups; Israel's recognition of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Palestinians' recognition of the Israeli state led to the normalization of relations between Palestine and Israel (Nichols, 2025). Normalization of relations was established by the PLO-run Palestine Authority as envisaged by the Oslo Accords. Efforts were made from time to time to find out a viable solution to the issue pondering over options for the recognition of each other as states but all efforts are still not fruitful.

Palestine-Israel War

The Palestine-Israel conflict dates back to more than a 100-years period time, with the crises building from the UN 1947 initial UN partition plan to the 1973 Yom Kippur War, to the recent Israel-Hamas war that sparked in 2023 (Salem,



2025). Despite many efforts taken towards the bringing of peace and stability in the region including the Camp David Accords, the Oslo Accords of 1992, and the 2020 Abraham Accords, conflict still persists. (Salem, 2025). The Palestine-Israel conflict has been one of the deadliest conflicts in the recent history that has caused great loss to the people of Palestine. The recent war started on October 7, 2023 when 1,200 Israelis and foreigners were killed as a result of the war, followed by more than 67, 000 Palestinians killed since the war broke out (Hedy Amir, 2025). A number of Israelis have also been captured in the recent war and have been released as a result of the peace deal. a

The recent Gaza Peace Plan signed between Israel and Palestine in the presence of US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shahbaz Sharif is of great significance for the Arab world (Ferragamo, 2025). The peace plan is a result of Israel's parliament approving the ceasefire with Hamas, on 9 October, 2025. The historic event came on October 8, 2025 when the Israeli government and Hamas agreed on the first part of the peace plan proposed by the US President, Donald Trump resulting in cessation of hostilities on October 10, 2025. The event was attended by more than twenty countries in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt paving the way for the ceasefire in Gaza though neither Israel nor Hamas made their representation on the occasion (Ferragamo, 2025). The absence of both Israel and Palestine in event puts a question mark on the applicability of the peace plan because these two are the contending parties whereby the former is suppressing the freedom struggle of the later is trying its best to retaliate with limited resources of warfare technology.

The recent war between the two countries started on October 7, 2023 when Hamas attacked the Israel from Gaza resulting in the killing of about 1,200 people and 251 being taken as hostages. Israel retaliated with a severe military offensive killing more than sixty-seven thousand Palestinians besides injuries and displacement of thousands of Palestinians. Efforts were taken twice to reach a viable ceasefire in November 2023 and March 2025 respectively but all in vain (Ferragamo, 2025). Even the recent peace plan is fraught with ambiguities and hurdles in the way of its implementation but international support has will play an active role in bringing peace and normalcy in the region. Mutual trust and role of the neighboring countries coupled with the regional and international community will make an invaluable input in making peace possible and workable.

The plan may face tough conditions for Hamas and the Israel since contentious issues remain a matter of concern for the two contending parties. Trump's peace plan highlights the suspension of all military operations, including aerial and artillery bombardment and battles lines remain frozen. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has shown agreement to a ceasefire measure leaving it in control of 53% of the enclave. White House has made it clear that the future withdrawal of around 40% of the Palestinian region and 15% of the Gaza Territory is a task of utmost significance. The main theme of the peace plan is the security perimeter of Gaza until it is made secure from all resurgent threats in all respects. The White House's keen interest in the matter may make it practical and implementable since the withdrawal of 40 % Israeli force from the Palestinian region and 15% from Gaza would be the most significant steps towards the establishment of a long-lasting peace.

Hamas has released the twenty hostages and who amongst those taken into custody in October 2023, were released back to Israel as a result of the peace initiate. Of the 251 hostages taken into custody by the Hamas, 147 has either



been released or exchanged in deals (Ferragamo, 2025). In response to the release of prisoners, Israel has begun the release of 250 Palestinian prisoners who have been sentenced to life imprisonment in Israel, and 1,700 detainees from Gaza. In furtherance of the peace efforts, the US has taken practical steps for full financial support to the Gaza, without interference, meaning thereby six hundred trucks of aid per day. The basic purpose of the aid, being the rehabilitation of hospitals, infrastructure and other essentials required for the removal of rubble and open roads (Ferragamo, 2025).

Gaza territory has faced many problems since the conflict grew worsened resulting in the continuation of humanitarian crises. The World Health Organization (WHO) states the Gaza hospitals at a breaking point of 94% being damaged or completely destroyed with a very short supply of medication and medical facilities (Ferragamo, 2025). The UN-backed Global Hunger Monitor, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification System is of the opinion that man-made famine has struck Gaza and there is a greater need for the food, financial assistance and other commodities of life. The UN opines that progress on aid is still underway in the Gaza Strip with supplies of cooking oil flowed in for the first time.

Future of Security in the Gaza Strip

Palestinians and the Israeli have shown agreement to the ceasefire marks the beginning of a new era in the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian territory (Middleeast, 2025). In order to maintain peace and security in the area, an International Stabilization Force (ISF) comprising the United States, the Arabs and international partners, will be responsible for the peace and security in the territory. The ISF is also supposed to play its role in providing training and support to the Palestinian police forces and security personnel. After the withdrawal of the Israeli forces, the territory of Gaza will be handed over to the ISF for maintaining law and order situation in the area. The combined force comprising the US, the Arab and the international partners will further add to the cause of peace and stability in the region. Both the Arab World and the international community should play a vital role towards the implementation of peace plan and security in the Palestinian territory. It is only through the international community and mediators that peace will be established in the region while at the same time making it sure that no contending party is violating the terms and conditions of the peace plan.

Gaza will also pass through a transition phase where it will be governed by a 'temporary transitional governance of technocrats, known as the apolitical Palestinian Committee' operating under an international board headed by the US President. The only other member of the board, publically announced is the former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, having a central but still undefined role in the committee (Middleeast, 2025). The basic purpose and function of the 'Board of Peace' is setting the framework and monitoring funds for the redevelopment of the Gaza. The Palestinian Authority, which is the governing authority of the West Bank, is tasked with the reform program of preparing peace for governance of the strip. Responsibility for the demilitarization of an independent group, is supposed to oversee the demilitarization of the Gaza. The independent group is will deal with the placing of weapons permanently beyond use and an internationally funded "buy-back" program leading towards the destruction of all military, terror, and offensive infrastructure.



Economic Reforms Structure

A team of experts is tasked to convene and come out with an economic development plan aimed at rebuilding and energizing the Gaza. A special economic zone is also underway to be established with the purpose of preferential tariff and access rates for negotiation with the participating countries. The peace plan did not address the amounts of sources for funding meant for the reconstruction of Gaza Strip but the World Bank estimates the cost to be more than \$ 50 billion (Middleeast, 2025). The plan further mentions the thoughtful investment proposals and exciting development ideas for creating job opportunities, for the people of Gaza. After the territory has been reformed, the Palestinian authority will take over power and governance in the area. The plan also envisages that regional partners have to guarantee that Hamas and its factions will not use force or threats that may jeopardize the peace and stability of the region.

To change the mindsets and narratives of the Palestinians and the Israelis an 'interfaith dialogues process' will be initiated, who have been at daggers drawn since long. The United States aims at establishing a dialogue between Israel and Palestine for agreeing on a political horizon for peaceful and prosperous coexistence (Middleeast, 2025).

Implications of Gaza Peace plan

The peace plan as presented by Donald Trump was presented before the Arab and Muslim countries deflecting attention from the global momentum for the statehood of Palestine (Fares, 2025). The plan is designed to allow Israel to continue its annexation of the West Bank and the ongoing bombardment of Gaza and restrictions of emergency relief under the guise of security (Fares, 2025). Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, stated explicitly in September 2025 while eradicating the possibility of a Palestinian State. Some experts are of the view that Trump and his associates may have been advancing Netanyahu's agenda (Fares, 2025). The recent peace plan may be seen like Oslo Accords, the Camp David Summit, and other peace process treating the issue of Palestine as a distant aspiration rather than a viable solution to the conflict. If US President, Trump is really interested in bringing peace and normalcy to the Palestinian region, he has to be very pragmatic towards the disarmament of both the parties and would compel them to a practical negotiating table. But it is also important to note that United States spent \$21.7 billion military aid to Israel since October, 2023.

The Gaza peace plan has also implications for the Israel due to its practical applicability. The first challenge is to make it work as the Israel took two years in fighting against the Israel but still it could not succeed in achieving its desired results (Rabinovich, 2025). Another challenge may come from the Jerusalem that has to work in close collaboration with the regional and international community while building a stable authority in Gaza and move forward with remedial measures for the dangers of war (Rabinovich, 2025). Even the government of Netanyahu may be facing pressure from the two extremist right-wing parties to pursue a militant line. In the aftermath of the peace plan, allowing the international media to Gaza, may create fresh criticism of Israel and may bring about a drastic change in the world's perception about Israel and the Israel.

The High Level International Conference for the peaceful settlement of the two



state solutions by the United Nations aims at building momentum for collective and individual state actions in support of both a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and Palestinian self-determination (Hussain, 2025). The main issue will lie in the recognition of the Israel as a state while nearly 160 states now recognize Palestine, including four of the five permanent members of the Security Council. Some states have imposed various restrictions and economic sanctions on the transfers of arms to Israel. The imposition of restrictions and economic sanctions on Israel and the recognition of Palestine as a state by 160 states is a sign of good omen for the state of Palestine.

Beside absence of peace and stability in the Palestinian territory, dearth of food, water, medical, nutrition, and shelter supplies and the restoration of infrastructure are needed on urgent basis so as to avoid the loss of people and health issues (RESCUE, 2025). In order to overcome this issue, the barriers and crossings must be removed and opened so as to avoid the exacerbation of the famine further and help out the people at large. It is also pertinent to mention here that after two years of war, the entire infrastructure is shattered and is in rambling position. The ceasefire agreement followed by the Gaza peace plan marks the beginning of a new era for the Palestine to rebuild and reconstruct but that may take many years to accomplish the process in a smooth way.

Discussion and Conclusion

Gaza Peace Plan of 13th October, 2025 marks the beginning of a new era for the people of Palestine and Israel. The peace plan may seem easy to put into practice but is fraught with many issues and challenges for the people of Palestine and Israel. Mutual trust, cooperation, role of the regional and international community coupled with the role of the parties who were witnesses to the plan may play their part in bringing peace and normalcy in the region. The most challenging task in bringing peace and practical implementation of the plan would be the disarmament of Hamas and restraining Israel from attacking and suppressing the people of Palestine to fight for the cause of freedom. The mediators should devise strategies for the practical implementation of the plan and should work upon the establishment of 'International Stabilization Force' enrolling security personnel from the Arab World, the European Community and the neighboring countries for maintaining security and stability the region.

A true peace plan can be workable only if it embodies the four basic tenets required for a long lasting peace and stability in the area. The first important thing is that it must bring an end to Israel's genocide in the Palestinian territory, which can be possible only if the Israel builds an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding of the rights of self-determination by the Palestinian authority. Establishing an atmosphere of trust and mutual consensus with the people of Palestine can lead towards peace and security in the region. The second most important thing would be the disarmament of Hamas as that is the only combating group in the Palestinian authority, which has been fighting for the cause of liberty and self-determination since long. Disarming the Hamas would be a little bit difficult since this would require surrey from the Israel that they would not use force and weapons to suppress the Palestinian people and secondly, convincing the Hamas that their disarmament can lead towards peace and stability in the region, which in itself, would be somewhat difficult. The third thing is to extend UN-membership to the Palestinian Authority, though many efforts were taken at the Camp David Accords and the Oslo Accords to



grant it UN-membership but nothing substantial came out. In the Oslo Accords in 2012, the Palestinian Authority was given the de facto membership as observer but it did not have nor does it have any vote in the UN General Assembly. The fourth most thing would be to reach at diplomatic ties and relations between the two contending parties by creating an atmosphere of mutual trust catering for the national interest of each other. This would be very cumbersome in so far as the mutual consensus is concerned since this would require guarantee and surety on part of both the contending parties. Respecting each other's interest in the region may lead towards the establishment of the two states, bestowing upon either of them to get membership of the UN General Assembly vis-a-vis their separate identity in the comity of nations. But in case, the Palestinian Authority may lose their de jure control over some of the territories and may fall to the hands of the Israel but even that can serve the element of bringing peace, stability and security in the Palestinian and Israeli territory.

After implementing the peace plan, a period of transition may commence where the Palestinian territory will be government by 'temporary transitional governance of technocrats, known as the apolitical Palestinian Committee', operating under the international board to be headed by the President of the United States. The only other member of the board is the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, whose role is still undefined. It is a matter of concern that the peace plan provides for the creation of a transitional governance of technocrats but still no proper mechanism and strategy has been devised for the constitution of the board, number of members, function and powers and responsibility of the board in maintaining security and peace in the Palestinian region. It would have been very better had the members of the board been notified with its proper constitution and functions for the resolution of the issue once for all.

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