

Inarguably, there is an inherent interest for the Palestinian Resistance in protecting the lives of the Israelis, simply to exchange them with Palestinian hostages held in Israeli jails. On the other hand, the Netanyahu coalition cabinet has a political motive to reduce the value of Israeli prisoners in the hands of the Palestinians, and their death could be an option.

The Israeli public protesting in the streets today, individually and collectively, is responsible for nurturing Netanyahu's unrealistic war objectives. The findings in a Pew Research poll conducted last March and April revealed that 67% of Israelis supported Netanyahu's "war goals". In fact, a staggering 86% believed Gazans should not have self-governance, not even the Palestinian Authority. Less than half of Israelis supported prisoner exchange, and 60% opposed halting the war for any such exchange.

In December 2023, support for Netanyahu's war goals was even higher, between 76 and 84 percent. It's significant to mention that the support for the war among Israeli Jews mirrored that of Jewish Americans. In the US, 62% of American Jews approved of Israel's war conduct, compared to 38% of the general American population.

These statistics reflect a broader issue of deep-seated Israeli Jewish dehumanization of Palestinians; A bigotry germinated in the political Zionist culture, where in the Israeli religious and cultural plurality, most Jews perceive themselves to be more equal than non-Jews. Before anyone from the professional victim pack cries out October 7, this predominant attitude among Israeli Jews is neither an anomaly nor a new phenomenon.

In a poll eight years ago in 2016, an undisputed majority of Jewish Israelis (79%) believed that Jews are entitled to "preferential treatment" over non-Jews. When asked if Palestinians should



Bulldozer carries the bodies of Palestinians killed in the north of the Gaza Strip and turned over by the Israeli military during a mass funeral in Rafah on December 26, 2023. ● AP

be deported from their homes, the majority of Israelis agreed.

Imagine, the American Jewish leadership protestation if 40% (1/2 of the Israeli percentage) of white or Christian Americans supported a preference over the other. In the meantime, progressive Americans can ruminate on their reaction if a similar percentage of Americans favored expelling Native Americans from their homes.

Palestinians need not imagine, for this is what they face under the American-financed Israeli-Jewish apartheid.

It is this Israeli public mindset that drove Netanyahu and his racist ministers to take a chance to recover the

Israeli prisoners by force, calculating that success would yield significant political rewards from the same public who is protesting today. In case of failure, the retrieval of bodies reduces the value of the exchange for the Palestinian Resistance. In other words, the Netanyahu coalition favors playing victim over dead Israelis rather than releasing Palestinian hostages from Israeli jails.

Currently, there are approximately 97 Israeli captives held in Gaza, with 33 confirmed dead, most due to Israel's indiscriminate bombings. Additionally, Netanyahu has "successfully" recovered the bodies of 37 dead settlers

in the past eleven months. In spite of this blunder, Netanyahu capitalized on the innate anti-Palestinian Israeli Jewish bigotry to maintain strong support among Israelis, and American Jews for the war of genocide in Gaza.

This time, however, the same public who supported Netanyahu's "war goals," amassed in the streets of Tel Aviv, blaming him for choosing to save his cabinet coalition at the expense of Israeli prisoners. Even US President Joe Biden broke his public silence, blaming Netanyahu for not doing enough to reach a deal.

Biden's latest remarks contradicted his own government officials who falsely

absolved the Israeli prime minister regarding the cease-fire negotiation. Last week, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken claimed Netanyahu had accepted the so-called "bridging proposal," while CIA Deputy Director David Cohen blamed the Palestinian Resistance for the breakdown in cease-fire talks.

To contextualize the extent of the influence of the Israeli firsters within the Biden administration, consider recent developments in Israel. During last week's Israeli cabinet meeting, the minister of war stormed out, accusing Netanyahu of endangering the lives of Israeli prisoners. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of Israelis filled the streets, protesting Netanyahu's mercurial position on the cease-fire plan. This is while American officials and Israeli firsters, including Zionists like Blinken and Cohen, lie blatantly about Netanyahu's acceptance of a cease-fire plan when in reality, he added 11th-hour demands derailing the plan that was already agreed to by Palestinians.

Western appeasement of Israel, based on the flawed belief that this would give them leverage over Israeli leaders, is rooted in a corrupt philosophy promoted by Israeli firsters, Sayanim. Israeli firsters in the West use their positions to sanctify Israeli Jewish life while they demonize Palestinian life. In the media, the Sayanim excuse Israeli atrocities against Palestinians, and as cabinet officials, they sanitize Israeli malevolence by forging cabinet expert's reports, helping Israel escape accountability and avoid global scrutiny.

Surrounded by Sayanim, Joe Biden has been beguiled by Israeli firsters throughout his political career. This is one of the many reasons the "sanctified" six Israeli Jews count more than the lives of the 41,000 "dehumanized" Palestinians.

The article first appeared on CounterPunch.

Netanyahu nixes July deal to release 3 captives recently found dead



By Sharon Zhang
Reporter

PERSPECTIVE

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu killed a cease-fire deal in July that would have seen the release of three of the six captives whose bodies were recovered by the Israeli military last week, a new report reveals. Experts and people familiar with the negotiations are saying Netanyahu has been purposely sabotaging cease-fire negotiations for months.

According to Israeli paper Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel and Hamas negotiators were close to reaching a deal in July when, at the last minute, Netanyahu introduced a number of demands that would be non-starters for other parties to the negotiations. The demands included Israeli control over the Philadelphi corridor — a strip of Palestinian land encompassing the entirety of Gaza's border with Egypt. This would effectively give Israel control over the entirety of the Gaza border.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands before a map of the Gaza Strip during a news conference in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) on September 2, 2024. ● OHAD ZWIGENBERG/POOL

This set of proposals was called the "Netanyahu Outline," Yedioth Ahronoth reported, as translated by CNN. The demand that the Israeli military permanently occupy the Philadelphi corridor in particular changed the very nature of the deal, which, according to the paper, was supposed to include a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza.

The captives "died because [Netanyahu] insisted" on his demands, an Israeli familiar with the negotiations told CNN. "The moment he insisted to stay in Rafah, to stay in the Philadelphi corridor, it was very clear that it was an obstacle." Netanyahu does not carry sole responsibility for the continuation of the genocide; even some of Netanyahu's biggest critics within Israel are still vehemently in favor of Israel's slaughter. The US, meanwhile, has been participating in the cease-fire negotiations but is still supplying all of the weaponry and diplomatic support that Israel needs to continue its extermination campaign.

But a growing chorus of experts and inside sources say that Netanyahu is deliberately sidelining the lives of captives being held in Gaza in order to continue Israel's genocide — as he continues to use the captives as an excuse to kill civilians en masse.

In recent weeks, Netanyahu has honed in on the Philadelphi corridor in negotiations, and on Monday, hosted a press conference specifically highlighting occupation of the corridor as a sticking point for Israel. Hamas and Egypt are staunchly opposed to the proposal.

Israeli cabinet insiders say that Netanyahu is only using the corridor as a tool to achieve his real goal: delaying and killing cease-fire deals.

"Benjamin Netanyahu decided some weeks ago that he does not want a deal, and when it became possible, he got nervous and did all he could to torpedo it. He figured out that by using the Philadelphi corridor, he could also draw the sane right to his side, and win some points with this group," a source in Netanyahu's coalition told Haaretz.

"The media fell for this spin and is consumed all day long with the question of yes or no to the Philadelphi, when the real question is really the fate of the hostages versus the fate of the coalition," the source said.

That Netanyahu is opposed to striking any cease-fire deal has long been clear to Palestinians and others skeptical of the US officials' motivations for participating in negotiations. For months,



Hamas negotiators have sought to ensure that any deal would actually result in a cease-fire, but Israeli negotiators have been insistent that Israeli forces be allowed to continue their assault as long as they see fit.

Increasingly, however, Israeli sources have been pinning blame on Netanyahu in particular for his sabotage of the talks, saying that he is thinking mostly of his own political standing. Former Israeli negotiator Gershon Baskin also singled out Netanyahu — while acknowledging that the US plays a major role in prolonging the genocide — in an interview with Democracy

A protester wears a mask depicting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with red hands as Israelis rally against the cabinet and to show support for Israeli captives in Gaza, in Tel Aviv on September 1, 2024. ● FLORION GOGA/REUTERS

Now! this week. "It's very clear that Netanyahu doesn't want to end the war, as one of his top negotiators told me on Saturday," said Baskin. "[The Philadelphi corridor] is a made-up issue by Netanyahu to create a new — I don't know what we want to call it — a new excuse for Israel to remain in Gaza."

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