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ANALYSIS

Analysts point to a mix of factors behind the failure of the US president's plan for Gaza's future—from fierce pushback by Gazans and global powers to the glaring gap between Trump's proposal and on-the-ground realities. The scheme to forcibly relocate Gaza's residents to Egypt or Jordan, floated by Donald Trump ahead of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent Washington visit, has not only run into widespread international and regional opposition but also faces steep identity-related, cultural, and social hurdles. Trump's expansionist ambitions—which include eyeing Greenland, musing about seizing the Panama Canal, and joking about annexing Canada as the "51st state"—further highlight the US administration's imperialist overreach, repackaged in modern rhetoric and tactics.

Why do they say Gaza is 'stuck in Trump's throat'?



The photos were grabbed from a video posted by US President Donald Trump on his Truth Social account late on Tuesday, which appears to have been created with generative AI, promoting the transformation of Gaza into a Gulf state-like resort featuring a golden statue of himself.

Egypt and Jordan won't—and can't—take in two million Palestinians

With over six million Palestinians already displaced worldwide, adding to this number would compound an already dire refugee crisis. Since Trump's plan was floated, Egypt and Jordan—the proposed "hosts" for this forced exodus—have pushed back hard. Cairo and Amman have stated that they will not accept this plan, warning it would bring about severe civil and security risks, drain their economies. It is also uncertain whether Trump's promises regarding compensation will be fulfilled. Trump claims he'll "hand over billions" to Egypt and Jordan within a year for taking in Palestinians. But the fallout from absorbing two million displaced Gazans would stretch far beyond Trump's four-year term, and reversing such a massive relocation would be near impossible. While the businessman president of the United States is reducing the country's financial commitments from Ukraine to East Asia and the Americas, it remains unclear how much one can rely on Trump's promise, or rather his billion-dollar bribe. Jordan and Egypt are two Arab countries facing numerous economic challenges. Both countries are primarily consumers, and their major financial resources are limited to sectors such as transit and tourism. Although Trump has promised financial aid, given his recent track record of renegeing on promises made to allies, accepting two million new residents who require housing and various civic services seems more like a nightmare than a "forced offer." The King of Jordan, who also traveled to Washington to consult with Trump, opposed hosting Palestinian refugees and stated, "What we can do for now is to accept 2,000 sick children from Gaza, and we are waiting for Arab countries to present their comprehensive plan for Gaza's future." Egypt's Foreign Minister, Badr Abdelatty, during a meeting with his American counterpart, Marco Rubio, expressed Cairo's firm opposition to Trump's plan, stating that Egypt's positions on the Palestinian issue are steadfast, and with the presence of Palestinians in Gaza, the reconstruction process of the strip should be expedited. In other words, in response

to Trump's plan, the Egyptians' stance has been to expedite the reconstruction of Gaza. Recently, an Egyptian official clarified that the plan to rebuild the Gaza Strip consists of three phases, with a six-month interval between each phase, and the strip will be divided into three sections, with each country taking responsibility for one area for reconstruction. According to this announcement, the third phase of the Gaza Strip's reconstruction may take three to five, or even up to ten years.

An Arab alternative to Trump's plan

In addition, other Arab countries such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, which also have good relations with the US, have opposed this decision and deemed it unfeasible; countries that Trump has probably counted on their money to implement this plan. The Saudi Council of Ministers has categorically rejected the Israeli-American plan to displace the people of Gaza and emphasized that "The radical and occupying mentality does not comprehend the meaning and concept of Palestinian land for the Palestinian people and their bond with this homeland." According to The Guardian, the recent diplomatic moves of Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, in meeting and talking with the leaders of other Arab countries, are aimed at replacing Trump's plan, known as the "Riviera of the Middle East," with an Arab plan in which countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt would take charge of the reconstruction and administration of Gaza.

Western countries also refuse to cooperate

Trump's plan for the forced displacement of Palestinians is so delusional and dangerous that it has even raised the voices of Western countries, including Washington's close allies. Spain, UK, France, Germany, and many other Western countries have declared their opposition to this raw and ridiculous plan. French President Emmanuel Macron has called for "respect" for Palestinians and their Arab neighbors, batting away the US president's idea of a mass displacement of Gazans from their homeland. "You cannot say to 2 million people, 'okay, now guess what? You

will move,'" Macron told CNN in an exclusive interview. "The right answer is not a real estate operation, this is a political operation," he said. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has also rejected the controversial plan, saying, "The resettlement of the (Palestinian) population is not acceptable and violates international law". Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has firmly opposed the proposal, declaring that Spain will not allow such a plan to be implemented. The British Prime Ministry has also rejected Trump's plan and, in contrast, stressed the need for the people of Gaza to return to their land and its complete reconstruction.

Ethnic cleansing flouts basic human rights

While the United States claims to uphold human rights ideals, Trump's idea of displacing the people of Gaza from their homeland not only contradicts international law but has also been deemed by all human rights organizations and institutions as a violation of basic human rights. The right to self-determination, freedom of residence, and non-forced displacement are fundamental human rights principles recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international documents. Human rights analysts say that the forced displacement of the people of Gaza is tantamount to "ethnic cleansing" and is a continuation of the Zionist regime's crimes in Gaza. Human rights organizations have also strongly condemned this plan and labeled it as a "crime against humanity."

What analysts are saying?

CNN, in a report on the obstacles to this plan, has quoted the former deputy national intelligence director Beth Sanner, as saying, "Most of the two million people living in Gaza won't want to leave, raising the question of whether they could be forcefully removed – which is prohibited under international law. Sanner, who served under both Trump and Biden administrations, told CNN, "That means that somebody, maybe the United States," would have to step in – because "no Arab army is going to be carting people against their will out of their homeland". Meanwhile, an analyst of the independent nonprofit news source, The Conversation, says that Trump, by intervening in

Gaza, would blow away international law and the legacy of the international order after World War II, which Washington, at least until recently, defended in its rhetoric. Tamer Morris, an international law expert at the University of Sydney in Australia, also states that the US can only gain control with the sovereign consent of the people of this land. Israel does not have the right to cede this to the US. Morris has called this US action a dangerous procedure in international law and human rights. The BBC World Service website, calling Trump's idea astonishing, has written that no US president, even in their wildest imaginations, has ever thought that resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would require seizing a part of Palestinian land and expelling its population; it is clear that doing this by force would be a blatant violation of international law. Trump's statements that he views Gaza as a real estate project and that Palestinians will never have the right to return to their land have even raised the voices of some Israelis. Guy Elster, a Zionist journalist, has described the plan as "complete ethnic cleansing and imperialism." He has emphasized, "The world will not kneel to this bullying and will stop this madness." Haaretz newspaper, pointing out that Trump's plan endangers Israel's normalization agreements with Arab countries, wrote, "The proper place for the Trump transfer plan is the dustbin of history." Apart from the political and human rights obstacles and challenges, it is unclear how the US plans to remove the people of Gaza from their land, as the people of Gaza are not willing to

abandon their land and hand it over to the US, Israel, or anyone else. The people of Gaza are willing to live in their ruins but will not leave their land. The Economic Times, referring to this issue, has written that Palestinians consider Gaza an inseparable part of their national land and dream of forming an independent country alongside Gaza. Despite the threat of expulsion, the idea of staying in their motherland has been at the heart of the Palestinians' struggle and identity for decades, and this was evident in the recent return of Gaza refugees to their ruins after the cease-fire agreement.

Bottom line

Given that the people of Gaza will certainly not be willing to leave, the alternative solution is to double down on blockading Gaza, starving its civilians into submission. While such cruelty is tragically plausible from the US and the Zionist regime, past failures suggest even this would backfire. Trump's relocation scheme is not only morally indefensible but also dead on arrival due to logistical, economic, and security nightmares. Global and regional backlash, Palestinian resistance, and the sheer impracticality of displacing millions confirm the plan would only fan the flames of instability. As observers say that this isn't a solution—it's a lifeline for an Israeli regime desperate to save face after failing to crush Hamas. Israel is looking for a way out of defeat, and Trump, with this imaginary plan, is trying to give artificial respiration to this regime.

The article was first published on the Persian-language Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

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Freed Palestinian prisoners wave from a bus as they arrive in the Gaza Strip after being released from an Israeli prison following a cease-fire agreement between Hamas and Israel in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, Feb. 27, 2025. ● ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

