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**Israel seeks Six-week extension of Gaza ceasefire, Hamas
rejects**



Published on February 28, 2025

Document Date: Sat, Mar 15 2025 04:38:41 am

Category: ,English,Middle East - ,Snippets

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CAIRO – An Israeli delegation in Cairo is negotiating to extend the first phase of the Gaza ceasefire by an additional 42 days, according to Egyptian security sources.

Hamas has rejected the proposal, insisting on moving directly to the second phase of the agreement, which includes steps toward a permanent end to the war. The first phase is set to expire on Saturday, and it remains unclear what will happen if an agreement is not reached. Egypt and Qatar, with U.S. support, continue to mediate the talks.

In a statement, Hamas urged the international community to pressure Israel to proceed with the second phase without delay. Two Israeli officials confirmed that Israel seeks to prolong the truce by securing the release of three hostages per week in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

With the deadline approaching, diplomatic efforts continue to prevent a potential escalation in the conflict.