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## Gazans express hope for lasting peace amid truce talks



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As international and regional mediation efforts intensify to secure a lasting ceasefire in Gaza, many residents of the besieged region are cautiously hopeful that current diplomatic negotiations will bring about sustainable peace.

Mohammed Abu Hajar, a 50-year-old Gaza City resident, shared his thoughts on the importance of peace for rebuilding lives shattered by conflict. “Before the war, I worked in a small

photography studio. Now, nothing is left but rubble and destroyed equipment,” said Abu Hajar, a father of seven. For him, peace means not just the end of violence but the restoration of fundamental services, such as education, healthcare, and daily security.

Similarly, Sameh al-Rafati, a 45-year-old father of six, who has been living in a UN-run shelter after an airstrike destroyed his home, expressed the deep yearning for lasting peace. “We are tired of losing everything repeatedly. We need peace that allows us to return home and rebuild,” said al-Rafati. The destruction, combined with the exhaustion of the people, has intensified the desire for stability.

Both men emphasized the need for peace that is based on justice and international law, rather than temporary ceasefires. “A real peace must ensure dignity for Palestinians,” said Abu Hajar. The people of Gaza, they argued, want leaders who understand their struggles and can deliver on promises for long-term relief.

Diplomatic efforts involving Egypt, Qatar, and the United States are ongoing, as the region seeks to broker a permanent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Despite the challenges, including key disagreements, both sides appear willing to engage in peace talks to end the suffering in Gaza.