

## Gaza Ceasefire Offers Hope but Faces Major Challenges Ahead



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CAIRO – A sense of cautious optimism followed the recent Sharm el-Sheikh Peace Summit as Gaza entered a rare moment of calm under the newly implemented ceasefire agreement. The truce, widely seen as a hard-won milestone, has drawn international attention and inspired hopes for an enduring peace in the Middle East.

While celebrations mark a pause in violence, regional leaders and observers acknowledge that significant challenges remain. Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye, and the United States have all urged strict adherence to the deal, emphasizing that violations could jeopardize fragile stability. The Houthis, meanwhile, declared readiness to respond should the truce be broken, underscoring lingering regional tensions.

The two-year-long conflict has left Gaza in ruins—over 67,000 people killed, more than one million displaced, and nearly 90 percent of infrastructure destroyed, causing an estimated 70 billion dollars in economic losses. Israel, too, faces political division, rising isolation, and heavy military costs.

Analysts say the ceasefire must pave the way toward a broader political solution. The long-discussed two-state framework remains the most viable path to peace, though recent U.S.-led and regional initiatives have yet to outline concrete implementation steps.

Experts also warn that Gaza's post-conflict governance poses new risks if international oversight, Palestinian self-rule, and reconstruction efforts falter. Immediate priorities include ensuring humanitarian aid, rebuilding essential services, and securing sustained funding for recovery.

Diplomats stress that lasting peace must rest on mutual recognition, justice, and respect. External powers, they argue, should support dialogue rather than division. As negotiations for the next

phase of the ceasefire advance, the world watches closely—hoping this fragile truce becomes the foundation for lasting peace and regional stability.