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## Israel Plans to Reopen Rafah Crossing Next Week



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JERUSALEM: Israel's cabinet is expected to discuss reopening the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt early next week, according to a senior Israeli official. The announcement follows the interim Gaza administration's declaration that the crossing will resume operations for Palestinians in both directions.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the discussion will be linked to ongoing efforts to recover the body of Ran Gvili, believed to be the last hostage still held in Gaza. “A special effort is underway to recover the late Ran Gvili, making full use of all available information,” the official said.

Ali Abdel Hamid Shaath, head of the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, confirmed the crossing would open next week, calling it a sign “that Gaza is no longer closed to the future.”

While Egypt directly operates the crossing, Israel maintains indirect control through security coordination and political leverage. The Rafah crossing has been largely closed since May 2024, when Israeli forces took control of the Palestinian side. It was previously a key entry point for humanitarian aid and a main exit for Palestinians.

Israel has stated that the crossing would reopen fully once Hamas returns all hostages. The expected cabinet discussion signals potential progress in coordination between Israeli authorities and the interim Gaza administration.