

August 8, 2014

Gaza cease-fire takes hold ahead of talks with Israelis in Cairo

Over the coming days, Egyptian mediators plan to shuttle between Palestinian and Israeli delegations to try to work out an agreement. Israel on Tuesday withdrew its remaining ground forces from Gaza just ahead of the 72-hour truce's start time. Hamas still has at least several thousand rockets despite firing 3,300 and losing an additional 3,000 to Israeli attacks. There was little sense of triumph in Israel on Tuesday, and not only because many are still mourning 64 dead Israeli soldiers and three civilians. The cease-fire was greeted with scorn by hardline members of Israel's cabinet who want the [Israeli] government to put Gaza under an international mandate. "This situation of limbo—no war, no peace—is the worst scenario for Israel," Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said in an interview. "We can't survive having another conflict every two or three years." Labor Party leader Isaac Herzog said he, too, fears that the apparent end of this conflict could merely set the stage for the next [conflict].