

Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) Report

Netanyahu–Trump Discussion on Forced Transfer of Palestinians from Gaza

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Abstract

This OSINT report analyzes the July 7, 2025 White House discussion between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald J. Trump regarding a proposed forced transfer of Palestinians from Gaza to neighboring countries. Drawing on open-source media, legal texts, and existing International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ) proceedings, it assesses the plan’s legality, geopolitical risks, and strategic implications. The report concludes with recommendations for real-time monitoring, legal action, and advocacy.

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1 Executive Summary

- On July 7, 2025, Netanyahu and President Trump discussed relocating displaced Gazans to Egypt and other states as a “voluntary migration” plan that amounts to forced transfer under international law.¹
- Forced displacement of an occupied population is prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) and constitutes a war crime/crime against humanity under the Rome Statute (Art. 7).²
- Netanyahu already faces an ICC arrest warrant (Nov. 21, 2024) for war crimes including starvation of civilians; new forced-transfer plans could trigger additional indictments under Articles 8(2)(b)(viii) and 7.³
- Relocation on a mass scale risks a humanitarian catastrophe, regional destabilization, and further diplomatic isolation for Israel—and political/legal repercussions for the U.S. administration.⁴
- Recommended actions include: tracking ICJ provisional measures, documenting any displacement orders, preparing legal briefs for UN/EU/AU sessions, and running public–private advocacy campaigns.

2 Background

2.1 Political Context

Benjamin Netanyahu returned as Israel’s Prime Minister in December 2022, leading a hard-line coalition. On January 20, 2025, Donald J. Trump began his second, non-

¹Al Jazeera, “Netanyahu, Trump discuss forced transfer of Palestinians out of Gaza,” *Al Jazeera*, July 8, 2025, <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2025/7/8/netanyahu-trump-discuss-forced-transfer-of-palestinians-out-of-gaza>.

²Geneva Convention IV (1949), Articles 49–50; Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Article 7(1)(d).

³ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I, “Situation in the State of Palestine: ICC issues arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant,” November 21, 2024, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news>.

⁴ICJ, “Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (South Africa v. Israel),” Dec. 29, 2023, <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/192>.

consecutive term as U.S. President, with Vice President J.D. Vance.⁵

2.2 Existing Legal Proceedings

- **ICC Arrest Warrant:** Netanyahu and Defense Minister Gallant are subject to an ICC warrant for war crimes, notably starvation of civilians as a method of warfare.⁶
- **ICJ Genocide Case:** South Africa’s application alleges Israel’s actions in Gaza constitute genocide; provisional measures were ordered December 29, 2023.⁷

3 Forced Transfer Discussion

3.1 Al Jazeera Report

Al Jazeera reported that during their July 7 meeting, Netanyahu and President Trump “reiterated plans” for the relocation of Palestinian civilians displaced by the Gaza conflict, characterizing it as “voluntary migration.” Analysis of transport logistics and funding discussions indicate it would be coerced and executed by the Israeli Defense Forces and allied security contractors.⁸

3.2 International Law Analysis

- **Fourth Geneva Convention (1949)** prohibits “individual or mass forcible transfers” of an occupied population (Art. 49).⁹
- **Rome Statute of the ICC** classifies forcible transfer as:
 - A war crime when committed as part of a plan or policy (Art. 8(2)(b)(viii)).
 - A crime against humanity when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians (Art. 7(1)(d)).

⁵“Second presidency of Donald Trump,” *Wikipedia*, accessed July 9, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_presidency_of_Donald_Trump.

⁶ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I, “Situation in the State of Palestine . . .,” Nov. 21, 2024.

⁷ICJ Press Release, “South Africa institutes proceedings against Israel,” Dec. 29, 2023.

⁸Al Jazeera, July 8, 2025.

⁹Geneva Convention IV, Art. 49.

- **U.S. Legal Implications:** Although the U.S. is not party to the Rome Statute, universal jurisdiction may apply in third-party national courts. U.S. domestic statutes (e.g., the War Crimes Act) also could be triggered by executive complicity.

4 Regional and Geopolitical Implications

4.1 Humanitarian Impact

A sudden mass displacement of Gazans (estimated 300,000–500,000 individuals) would overwhelm Egypt’s Sinai infrastructure, trigger refugee flows into Jordan and Europe, and exacerbate famine and disease risks.¹⁰

4.2 Diplomatic Fallout

- **European Union:** Potential arms embargoes and financial sanctions against Israel.
- **African Union:** Increased support for ICJ measures; possible suspension of diplomatic relations.
- **NATO:** Internal U.S. political divisions may strain alliance cohesion, as Defense and State Department publicly opposed mass removals.

5 Strategic Risk Assessment

Threat	Impact	Likelihood
Mass forced displacement	Humanitarian catastrophe; ethnic cleansing designation	Medium–High
Additional ICC indictments	Diplomatic/legal isolation; travel bans	High
Regional destabilization	Escalation in Sinai, Lebanon; new conflict fronts	High
Alliance friction	Erosion of U.S. credibility; NATO tensions	Medium

¹⁰UN OCHA Gaza reporting, June 2025.

6 Recommendations

1. **Monitor ICJ and ICC:** Track docket entries for new provisional measures or warrants related to forced displacement.
2. **Document Evidence:** Collect open-source transport orders, contractor contracts, and public statements to build a chain of custody.
3. **Legal Briefings:** Prepare memos for UN Human Rights Council, EU Foreign Affairs Council, and African Union Peace and Security Council.
4. **Advocacy Campaign:** Coordinate NGOs and media outlets to spotlight legal violations in real time and preempt disinformation.

References

- [1] Al Jazeera, “Netanyahu, Trump discuss forced transfer of Palestinians out of Gaza,” July 8, 2025. <https://www.aljazeera.com/amp/news/2025/7/8/netanyahu-trump-discuss-forced-transfer-of-palestinians-out-of-gaza>
- [2] International Criminal Court, “Situation in the State of Palestine: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I issues arrest warrants against Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant,” November 21, 2024. <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news>
- [3] International Court of Justice, “Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel),” December 29, 2023. <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/192>
- [4] Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, August 12, 1949.
- [5] Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, July 17, 1998.
- [6] “Second presidency of Donald Trump,” *Wikipedia*, accessed July 9, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_presidency_of_Donald_Trump