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Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

# Qatar says Israeli PM blocking truce efforts

NETANYAHU'S NEGATIVE REMARKS ON GULF STATE LEAKED

JERUSALEM

Qatar yesterday said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was obstructing mediation efforts in the Gaza war after a leaked recording allegedly captured him calling the Gulf state “problematic”.

“We are appalled by the alleged remarks attributed to the Israeli Prime Minister in various media reports about Qatar’s mediation role,” Qatar’s foreign ministry spokesperson, Majed Al Ansari, said on social media platform X.

“If the reported remarks are found to be true, the Israeli PM would only be obstructing and undermining the mediation process, for reasons that appear to serve his political career instead of prioritising saving innocent lives, including Israeli hostages,” he wrote.

In a leaked recording from a meeting with hostage families that aired on Israel’s Channel 12 news on Tuesday, Netanyahu called Qatar “problematic.” “You haven’t seen me thank Qatar, have you noticed? I haven’t thanked Qatar. Why? Because Qatar, to me, is no different in essence from the UN, from the Red Cross and in a way it’s even more problematic. However, I’m willing to use any mediator now who can help



Reuters

A Palestinian girl carrying a child walks through debris at the site of Israeli strikes on a mosque and houses in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

20 killed as Israeli fire strikes people waiting for humanitarian aid

me bring them (the hostages) home.”

Strikes target crowd

Gaza’s Health Ministry said Israeli fire struck a crowd of people waiting for humanitarian aid at a roundabout in Gaza City yesterday, killing at least 20 and wounding 150. The Is-

raeli military says it was looking into the reports.

Israeli tanks also battered areas around two hospitals in Gaza’s main southern city Khan Younis yesterday, forcing displaced people into a new desperate scramble for safety.

Meanwhile, the death toll from a strike the day before on a crowded shelter in Gaza rose to 12, with over 75 wounded, according to Thomas White, a senior official with the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA.

—Agencies

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