

Gaza (Gush Katif) before Disengagement (2005)

In August 2005, Israel withdrew civilians and military bases from the Gaza Strip, removing 21 Jewish communities from the enclave of Gush Katif, expelling 7000 citizens, many protesting non-violently.



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The Gaza Disengagement was part of Israel's unilateral plan to disengage from the Strip. Implemented under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the move aimed to reduce friction between Israelis and Arabs without waiting for a negotiated agreement. The 21 Jewish communities in Gush Katif, home to thriving agricultural settlements, were dismantled, their residents expelled by the IDF.

The Disengagement exposed the deep emotional and ideological divide within Israeli society. Despite hopes that the Disengagement would reduce violence, Gaza fell under Hamas control in 2006, leading to frequent rocket attacks and military escalations, setting the stage for October 7, 2023 and what followed.