

Israeli military has 'green light' to launch ground invasion of Gaza as US weapons arrive, country's economy minister says

The Israeli military appeared to be on the brink of launching a ground invasion of the Gaza Strip nearly two weeks after Hamas terrorists invaded southern Israel.

The country's Economy Minister Nir Barkat told ABC News Thursday that the Israeli Defense Forces has a "green light" to begin an offensive - just in time for the arrival of hefty military arms from the US.

"We shall do all efforts to bring our hostages, to bring our hostages [back] alive," he insisted while acknowledging that the "first and last priority" is destroying Hamas.

Hamas has claimed that it is holding about 203 Israeli hostages within the network of tunnels it built underneath Gaza - which Barkat vowed will become the "world's biggest cemetery."

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