

Netanyahu: Egypt and Jordan key

by UPI

TEL AVIV, Israel - Israeli conservative opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Egypt and Jordan can play key roles in weakening Hamas.

Netanyahu, leader of the Likud party, told CNN that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah faction would need the help of moderate Arab countries in resolving the conflict in the Middle East, Ynetnews reported.

"I think, ultimately, to resolve the Palestinian problem we'll have to have a regional component. We'll have to have Egypt help in Gaza once the Hamas rule is terminated and we'll have to have Jordan help with the West Bank," Netanyahu told CNN.

Netanyahu, who was prime minister from 1996 to 1999, cautioned against a complete Israeli pullout from the West Bank, saying similar withdrawals have empowered radical groups.

"Well, I think it's actually a sneak preview of what happens when Israel unilaterally walks out of a territory. That's how Hamas politically won," he told CNN. "So we've just created an Iranian base at our doorsteps and the same happened before that in Lebanon where we unilaterally walked out (of) there without peace or security arrangements."

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