

Biden to visit Israel at 'critical moment' for the region, says Blinken

US says it has reached agreement with Netanyahu's government on humanitarian relief for Gaza

Joe Biden will travel to Israel on Wednesday after the US said it had reached agreement with Benjamin Netanyahu's government on the provision of humanitarian relief and safe areas to the more than 2 million people in Gaza who are under fire and in urgent need of water, food and medical help.

The US president will also go to Amman for talks with Jordan's King Abdullah, the Egyptian president, Abdel Fatah al-Sisi, and the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, in an attempt to fend off an even greater humanitarian disaster and a regional war that could draw in Iran and the US.

The visit is a gamble for Biden in terms of his international reputation and his domestic standing before an election year. The US believed it had struck humanitarian agreements with Netanyahu's government over the past two days but they did not come to fruition.

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