

Today's news: After more than 46 days of war following the horrific massacres on October 7th, Israel's Government voted to approve a limited hostage deal with Hamas, with 50 women and children who were cruelly abducted by Hamas against international law to be released over the coming days.

- The 50 hostages slated for release include 30 [children](#), 8 mothers, and 12 elderly women whose lives are considered to be at risk. The hostages will be released at a rate of 12 to 13 each day for 4 days, with the first batch likely to return to Israel tomorrow, Thursday.
- In [exchange](#), Israel will agree to a four-day extended humanitarian pause and will release 150 terrorists from a list of 300 potential prisoners, who might be released if further hostages are allowed to return home.
- The Ministry of Justice released the [names](#) of the 300 prisoners. The vast majority are males aged 18 and under - held for murder attempts, stabbings, hurling firebombs and rock-throwing. Thirteen are adult women, including those convicted of stabbings. One of the female Palestinian prisoners set to be released is [Misoun Mussa](#), who was sentenced to 15 years in prison for a 2015 stabbing attack against an Israeli soldier in Jerusalem. One of the minors is 17-year-old [Muhammad Abu Katish](#), who was convicted for stabbing and seriously injuring a yeshiva student in 2022.
- Also in the agreement, Hamas will, for the first time, allow representatives from the Red Cross to visit the hostages who will remain in captivity and supply them with medicine. In addition, more fuel can enter Gaza during the pause in the fighting.
- Israel's President Isaac Herzog [stated](#) that the deal is, "a moral and ethical duty that correctly expresses the Jewish and Israeli value of securing the freedom of those held captive, with the hope that it will be the first step in returning all the hostages home."
- U.S. President Joe Biden [shared](#), "I am extraordinarily gratified that some of these brave souls who have endured weeks of captivity and an unspeakable ordeal will be reunited with their families once this deal is fully implemented."
- The Israeli government has made it clear that despite the extended humanitarian pause, the military will continue its war against Hamas, [stating](#), "immediately after the end of the pause in fighting needed to secure the release of the hostages, fighting will resume in the Gaza Strip in order to destroy the military and organizational capabilities of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza and to create the conditions for the return of all the hostages."
- The Israeli government recognizes that this was a difficult but necessary decision. The Palestinian prisoners who will be released in the impending deal are convicted terrorists who are in prison because they tried to murder Israelis. The Israelis who will be freed are innocent civilians being held hostage by terrorists. There is no moral equivalence.

- Unfortunately, there is every reason to expect that Hamas will use the temporary pause in Israel's military campaign to regroup and re-arm. The international community must make every effort to prevent that from happening.
- We are overjoyed that some of the hostages will be brought home, including some U.S. citizens. We will not stop advocating for these hostages until all remaining 190 hostages are safely returned.
- A new [poll](#) released by Jewish Federations found that 72% of the American public support short-term humanitarian pauses to allow for the return of hostages, while only 20% of the general population support an immediate and unconditional ceasefire. Calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire is tantamount to calling for future violence and bloodshed.