

# LIVE BLOG: Buses Explode in Tel Aviv | Mini Arab-Summit in Riyadh – Day 503

February 20, 2025 Blog, News, Slider



Palestinian resistance groups handed over the bodies of four Israeli captives to the Red Cross in Khan Yunis. (Photo: video grab)

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**By Palestine Chronicle**



**Staff**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has received the bodies of four Israeli captives. Hamas accused the Israeli government of deliberately killing them.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu initially planned to attend the reception ceremony for the captives' bodies but later withdrew.

**[Click here for the previous blogs.](#)**

Thu, Feb 20, 11:12 PM (Palestine Time)

**Netanyahu Holds Emergency Consultations following Discovery of Explosive Devices**

CHANNEL 12: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is holding emergency security consultations within hours after explosive devices were discovered.

Thu, Feb 20, 11:12 PM (Palestine Time)

**Channel 12: Two Additional Unexploded Devices Found in Other Locations**

CHANNEL 12:

Two more unexploded devices were found in separate locations.

The Israeli Broadcasting Authority reported suspicions of two unexploded devices in Bat Yam, leading to the suspension of light rail services after a suspect was spotted.

Thu, Feb 20, 11:12 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Israeli Police: Explosions in 3 Buses in Southern Tel Aviv**

ISRAELI POLICE SPOKESPERSON:

The Israeli police spokesperson confirmed explosions in three buses in Bat Yam, south of Tel Aviv.

Israeli media reported that police are conducting search operations for suspects involved in planting the explosive devices on the buses.

Thu, Feb 20, 9:29 PM (Palestine Time)

## **KAN: Sources: Washington Wants Progress in Phase Two Negotiations This Month**

ISRAELI BROADCASTING AUTHORITY: U.S. sources revealed that the Trump administration aims to see progress in the second phase of negotiations during the current month.

Thu, Feb 20, 9:29 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Israeli President: We Want Hamas Rule in Gaza to End**

CNN:

The Israeli president stated:

We must reach and complete the second phase of the ceasefire agreement and return the hostages.

We must ensure Hamas cannot rule Gaza after the war ends.

Thu, Feb 20, 9:29 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Witkoff Clarifies Trump's Plan for Gaza**

REUTERS:

Citing Trump's Middle East envoy, Steven Witkoff:

Trump's plan for Gaza relates to Palestinians' desire to live there or settle in a better place.

The plan aims to change everyone's mindset and do what's best for the Palestinian people.

The plan is not about displacing Palestinians.

Significant progress is being made in talks on the second phase, with hopes for positive outcomes.

Israel has a red line: Hamas cannot continue to control Gaza, making a solution difficult.

The second phase of the deal is expected to end the war in Gaza.

The second phase of the ceasefire agreement is more challenging but has a chance of success.

Thu, Feb 20, 6:58 PM (Palestine Time)

### **Israeli Forces Renew Incursions in West Bank Areas**

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: Israeli forces recently raided several towns in the Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate, including Turmus Ayya, Kobar, Burham, Birzeit, and Deir Abu Mashaal.

Thu, Feb 20, 6:58 PM (Palestine Time)

### **Channel 14: Netanyahu Plans to Resume War in Gaza**

CHANNEL 14

An Israeli political source revealed that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intends to escalate military operations in Gaza and resume the war after the conclusion of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement.

According to the source, Netanyahu's government is considering extending the first phase for up to two weeks to secure the release of more captives, particularly the living ones, even if it requires releasing additional Palestinian prisoners.

Thu, Feb 20, 4:56 PM (Palestine Time)

### **US-Israeli Meeting to Discuss Second Phase of Deal**

AXIOS: An Israeli official reported that Minister Dermer will meet in Washington with Steve Witkoff, U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy, to discuss the second phase of the deal involving Israeli detainees in Gaza.

Thu, Feb 20, 4:56 PM (Palestine Time)

### **Israeli Vehicle Rams Palestinian Car in Tulkarm**

PALESTINIAN SOURCES: Palestinian sources reported that an Israeli military vehicle rammed a Palestinian car in central Tulkarm. Medical sources told Al Jazeera that two people were injured in the incident.

Thu, Feb 20, 3:39 PM (Palestine Time)

### **Israeli FM: We Aim to Completely Disarm Gaza**

CHANNEL 14: Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar emphasized Israel's commitment to achieving all war objectives, including the complete disarmament of Gaza.

Thu, Feb 20, 3:39 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Gaza Government: Red Cross' Handling of Israeli Bodies Reflects Double Standards**

GAZA GOVERNMENT MEDIA: The Gaza government media office criticized the Red Cross for its dual approach in handling the bodies of Israeli captives compared to Palestinian remains.

Thu, Feb 20, 3:39 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Young Palestinian Killed by Occupation Forces in Shejaiya**

AL JAZEERA: A young man was martyred after being shot by Israeli occupation forces while inspecting his home in Shujaiya, Gaza.

Thu, Feb 20, 3:39 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Occupation Leaves Destruction in Tulkarm after Withdrawal**

AL JAZEERA: Israeli forces left widespread destruction in the eastern neighborhood of Tulkarm following their withdrawal.

Thu, Feb 20, 3:39 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Settlers Storm Archaeological Site in Sebastia**

AL JAZEERA: Settlers, under the protection of Israeli soldiers, stormed the archaeological site in Sebastia, northwest of Nablus in the West Bank.

Thu, Feb 20, 3:39 PM (Palestine Time)

## **Qassam Fighter Wields Weapon Taken from Israeli Soldiers on Oct. 7**

SOCIAL MEDIA: Activists circulated footage showing a Qassam Brigade fighter holding an Israeli weapon seized from soldiers during the October 7, 2023, attack.

Thu, Feb 20, 11:21 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Netanyahu Held Responsible for Prisoners' Deaths by Knesset Member**

AL-JAZEERA: Knesset member Merav Cohen questioned, "How many Israeli prisoners will be killed due to Netanyahu's political considerations?"

Thu, Feb 20, 11:21 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Herzog: We Regret Failing to Rescue the Prisoners**

AL-JAZEERA: Israeli President Isaac Herzog commented on the handover of the 4 Israeli prisoners' bodies, stating, "We regret that we did not fulfill our duty and failed to reach the prisoners on that painful day to bring them home safely."

Thu, Feb 20, 11:21 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Bodies to Be Transferred to Forensic Institute**

NETANYAHU'S OFFICE: The Israeli Prime Minister's Office announced that the four bodies will be transferred to the forensic institute for examination, after which the families will be notified.

<https://www.palestinechronicle.com/wp-admin/post.php?post=130544&action=edit&classic-editor#>

## **Israeli Army Receives Coffins of Four Prisoners from Red Cross**

ISRAELI ARMY: The Israeli army confirmed receiving the coffins of the four prisoners from the Red Cross. The Red Cross had retrieved the bodies earlier at the Martyrs' Cemetery in Bani Suheila, Khan Younis.

Thu, Feb 20, 11:21 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Red Cross Vehicles Depart Khan Yunis**

AL-JAZEERA: Red Cross vehicles left Khan Younis after receiving the bodies of 4 Israeli prisoners.

Thu, Feb 20, 10:32 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Red Cross Receives Bodies of 4 Israeli Captives**

AL-JAZEERA: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has received the bodies of four Israeli captives.

Thu, Feb 20, 10:32 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Red Cross Vehicles Arrive at Handover Site**

AL-JAZEERA: Red Cross vehicles have arrived at the location designated for the handover of the four Israeli captives' bodies.

Thu, Feb 20, 10:32 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Hamas: We Preserved the Lives of Captives and Treated Them Humanely**

HAMAS:

Hamis stated that its military wing, Al-Qassam Brigades, and the resistance ensured the dignity of the deceased during the handover process, contrasting this with the Israeli occupation's disregard for their lives while they were alive.

Hamis emphasized that it preserved the lives of the captives and treated them humanely, but the Israeli army killed them along with their fellow captives.

The movement accused the Israeli government of obstructing prisoner exchange deals and holding responsibility for the deaths.

Hamis also criticized Prime Minister Netanyahu for using the captives' deaths to evade accountability.

Thu, Feb 20, 10:32 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Israeli Army Radio: Captives Held East of Khan Younis**

ISRAELI ARMY RADIO: The four deceased captives were reportedly held east of Khan Younis, an area where the Israeli army operated for approximately four months.

Thu, Feb 20, 10:32 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Red Cross Arrives in Khan Younis to Facilitate Handover**

CHANNEL 24: The Red Cross has arrived in Khan Younis to prepare for the handover of the captives' bodies.

Thu, Feb 20, 10:32 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Netanyahu Withdraws from Attending Captives' Body Reception**

CHANNEL 12: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu initially planned to attend the reception ceremony for the captives' bodies but later withdrew.

Thu, Feb 20, 10:32 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Video of Preparations for Handover of 4 Israeli Captives' Bodies**

On the 33rd day of the Gaza ceasefire, preparations are underway in Gaza for the handover of the bodies of four Israeli captives.

Thu, Feb 20, 10:32 AM (Palestine Time)

## **Israel Blows up House of Slain Ammar Odeh in West Bank**

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: Local and news pages published footage documenting the Israeli occupation's demolition of the home of martyr Ammar Odeh's family in Salfit, West Bank. The Israeli occupation accuses Odeh of carrying out the "Holon operation" inside Israel, which resulted in the deaths of two settlers and serious injuries to three others on August 3 last year.