

LIVE BLOG: Sixth Prisoner Exchange Completed | Netanyahu Faces Backlash – Day 498

February 15, 2025 Blog, News, Slider



Three Israeli detainees were released in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners. (Photo: via QNN)

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By Palestine Chronicle



Staff

Three Israeli detainees were released Saturday morning from Khan Yunis, as preparations continue for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

At the moment of their release, Israeli captives called for the liberation of all detainees through the advancement of a ceasefire deal.

This blog has been discontinued. Click here for the previous blogs.

Sun, Feb 16, 4:27 AM (Palestine Time)

Freed After 23 Years in Israeli Prisons: 'I Returned to a Generation I Don't Know'

AL-JAZEERA: Palestinian prisoner Ibrahim Sarahneh (57 years old), recently released from Israeli occupation prisons, said he returned to a reality vastly different from the one he left over two decades ago, with an entire generation having grown up in his absence.

He spoke about the harsh conditions of his detention, especially after October 7, 2023, noting that “the first 22 years of imprisonment were one thing, but what came after October 7 was something else entirely,” referring to the intensified treatment in Israeli prisons during the genocide in Gaza.

Sarahneh was arrested in 2002 and sentenced to 6 life terms plus 45 years. He was released as part of the sixth batch of prisoners, which included the freeing of 369 detainees.

Sun, Feb 16, 4:25 AM (Palestine Time)

Prisoners' Club: Occupation Forces Freed Detainees into Threatening Shirts, Calls it Terrorism

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: The Palestinian Prisoners' Club stated that forcing released prisoners to wear vests bearing threatening phrases falls within the framework of "organized Israeli terrorism."

The Palestinian Club added, "As part of the organized terrorism practiced by the occupation against released prisoners and their families, the occupation system has left no tool of humiliation, abuse, and torture unused."

Sun, Feb 16, 4:25 AM (Palestine Time)

Tunisians Protest Against the Plan to Displace the Palestinian People in Gaza

ARABIC MEDIA: Dozens of Tunisians demonstrated on Saturday evening in front of the US Embassy in Tunisia, protesting against the plan proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump aimed at displacing the Palestinian people from Gaza.

Sun, Feb 16, 1:24 AM (Palestine Time)

Israel Sets Up Military Checkpoint Southeast of Bethlehem

AL-JAZEERA: Israeli occupation forces set up a military checkpoint on the road connecting the village of Harmala and the town of Tuqu', southeast of Bethlehem.

Sun, Feb 16, 1:24 AM (Palestine Time)

Thousands of Israelis Protest to Demand Completion of Ceasefire Deal

AL-JAZEERA: Thousands of Israelis protested in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem on Saturday evening, demanding the continuation of the prisoner exchange deal and the implementation of its second phase with the Palestinian resistance.

Sun, Feb 16, 1:24 AM (Palestine Time)

US Secretary of State Arrives in Tel Aviv

AL-JAZEERA: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Tel Aviv on Saturday evening, amid increasing international pressure to resume negotiations on the second phase of the prisoner exchange deal and ceasefire with Hamas.

Sun, Feb 16, 1:24 AM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Airstrike on Nabatieh, Southern Lebanon

LEBANESE NEWS AGENCY: The Israeli occupation army killed two people and injured five others in an airstrike on Nabatieh Governorate in southern Lebanon on Saturday evening, amid ongoing violations of the ceasefire agreement.

Sun, Feb 16, 1:24 AM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Army Estimates Withdrawal from Lebanon Within Days

YEDIOTH AHRONOTH: The Israeli army estimates that it will withdraw from Lebanon within days, coinciding with the deployment of the Lebanese army in border areas.

Sat, Feb 15, 10:36 PM (Palestine Time)

Marco Rubio Arrives in Tel Aviv

MEDIA REPORTS: US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, arrived in Tel Aviv today, Saturday, for his first visit to the Middle East region since taking office.

Sat, Feb 15, 10:36 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Airstrike Kills Two in Jirjoua

AL-MAYADEEN: Two killed and three injured as a result of an Israeli airstrike on a vehicle in the town of Jirjoua.

Sat, Feb 15, 10:36 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Blast Rocks Kafr Kila, Lebanon

AL-MAYADEEN: A very powerful explosion carried out by the Israeli occupation in the town of Kafr Kila.

Sat, Feb 15, 10:36 PM (Palestine Time)

Explosion Targets Israeli Forces in Jenin

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: Resistance fighters target Israeli occupation forces with an explosive device during an incursion into the town of Arraba, southwest of Jenin in the occupied West Bank.

Sat, Feb 15, 10:21 PM (Palestine Time)

Ramzy Baroud Interviews Former Turkish Prime Minister Ahmed Davutoğlu

THE PALESTINE CHRONICLE: Following his proposal for Gaza to hold a 'referendum' to join Türkiye as an autonomous region until a Palestinian state is formed, Former Turkish Prime Minister Ahmed Davutoğlu sat down with Palestinian intellectual Ramzy Baroud for an exclusive interview.

Sat, Feb 15, 8:40 PM (Palestine Time)

Israel Demands Extension of First Phase of Deal

CHANNEL 12:

Informed sources stated that Israel has requested an extension of the first phase of the deal to include an additional exchange.

The channel reported that Israel is seeking to use President Donald Trump's deadline to release the remaining six living captives within days.

Sat, Feb 15, 8:40 PM (Palestine Time)

Al-Qassam Publishes Photos of Sixth Hostage Handover

The Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Palestinian Resistance movement Hamas, published footage from the handover of the sixth batch of Israeli detainees in Gaza as part of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement.

Sat, Feb 15, 8:40 PM (Palestine Time)

Ben-Gvir to Netanyahu: Government Must Unleash Hell on Hamas

ITAMAR BEN-GVIR: Ben Gvir told Netanyahu: Stop wasting opportunities; not all hostages have been returned, and the government must unleash hell on Hamas.

Sat, Feb 15, 8:40 PM (Palestine Time)

Russia Thanks Hamas After Release of Hostage Turbonov

KREMLIN: Moscow welcomes the release of Russian citizen Turbonov and thanks Hamas leadership for this.

RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY: We are grateful to the Palestinian side and the Qatari and Egyptian mediators for their assistance in securing the release of the Russian citizen.

Sat, Feb 15, 6:06 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Ambassador to the UN: Hamas Still Rules Gaza

FOX NEWS (citing Israel's ambassador to the UN):

Hamas still rules Gaza, and we are determined to end this by the conclusion of the war.

We must consider all options regarding Gaza during today's government meeting.

We are preparing our options, and the army is ready and capable of implementing them.

Sat, Feb 15, 6:06 PM (Palestine Time)

Resistance Confirmed Good Treatment of Captives - Al-Quds Brigades

ABU HAMZA:

The resistance confirmed the good treatment of the captives in its custody, while the enemy excels in torturing our prisoners.

Forcing our prisoners to wear specific clothing and their difficult conditions reveal the enemy's brutality and inhumane treatment.

The United States, which demands the release of all enemy captives, must also demand the same from the occupation.

The United States must not ignore the horrific scenes of systematic abuse and killing of our prisoners, the rightful owners of the land and homeland.

Sat, Feb 15, 6:06 PM (Palestine Time)

Hezbollah: We Will Not Allow Lebanon to Fall into American, Israeli Hands

HEZBOLLAH DEPUTY POLITICAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN:

We will not allow the homeland to fall into American and Israeli hands.

The decision to prevent the entry of the Iranian plane is an insult to the Lebanese state and its security agencies.

If you want to submit, the resistance will not submit and will confront all dictates.

Sat, Feb 15, 6:06 PM (Palestine Time)

UK Urges Full Implementation of Gaza Ceasefire

UK FOREIGN SECRETARY:

I urge all parties to continue working together to fully implement the ceasefire in Gaza.

I urge the release of all “hostages,” ensure vital aid reaches Gaza, and work toward lasting peace.

Sat, Feb 15, 6:06 PM (Palestine Time)

Families of Israeli Detainees Call for Gathering in Tel Aviv

CHANNEL 12: The families of detainees held in Gaza are calling for a gathering in Tel Aviv to demand the immediate release of those still in captivity.

Sat, Feb 15, 6:06 PM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Media: Netanyahu to Hold Security Consultations Today

ISRAELI MEDIA:

Israeli media reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will hold consultations with security leaders today, “coinciding with the expiration of U.S. President Donald Trump’s deadline regarding the captives.”

Walla quoted an Israeli official stating that Netanyahu’s consultations will discuss the stance on Trump’s deadline.

Sat, Feb 15, 6:06 PM (Palestine Time)

40,000 Palestinians Forced to Leave Their Homes in the West Bank

UNRWA COMMISSIONER-GENERAL:

Over 40,000 Palestinians have been forced to leave their homes in the West Bank.

The agency’s financial situation is dire, and there is no clarity about the future.

No other UN agency is capable of providing the services UNRWA offers.

Sat, Feb 15, 6:06 PM (Palestine Time)

Occupation Forces Raid Town East of Nablus

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: Occupation forces raided the town of Rujeib, east of Nablus in the West Bank.

Sat, Feb 15, 3:44 PM (Palestine Time)

Freed Prisoners Arrive in Gaza

AL-JAZEERA: Freed Palestinian prisoners have arrived in Gaza after being released by Israeli occupation authorities today as part of the sixth phase of the prisoner exchange deal.

Sat, Feb 15, 3:44 PM (Palestine Time)

Islamic Jihad: We Condemn the Racist Crime Against Freed Prisoners

ISLAMIC JIHAD:

The racist and inhumane behavior reveals the true face of the occupation and reflects its deep sense of defeat.

We strongly condemn the racist crime committed by occupation forces against the freed prisoners.

Sat, Feb 15, 3:44 PM (Palestine Time)

Prison Service Commissioner Behind Dressing Palestinian Prisoners in Hebrew Shirts

HAARETZ: The decision to dress Palestinian prisoners in shirts with the phrase “We will not forget, we will not forgive” was directed by the Prison Service Commissioner.

Sat, Feb 15, 3:44 PM (Palestine Time)

Channel 12: Dressing Palestinian Prisoners in Uniforms with Phrases and Star of David is Clear Bankruptcy

CHANNEL 12: Dressing Palestinian prisoners in uniforms with phrases and the Star of David is a clear sign of bankruptcy and weakness.

Sat, Feb 15, 3:44 PM (Palestine Time)

Freed Palestinian Prisoners: Occupation Subjected Us to the Worst Forms of Torture

FREED PALESTINIAN PRISONERS: Freed Palestinian prisoners told Al-Jazeera that the Israeli occupation subjected them to the worst forms of torture, abuse, and starvation during the war.

Sat, Feb 15, 3:44 PM (Palestine Time)

Freed Prisoners with Life Sentences Arrive in Ramallah

AL JAZEERA SOURCES:

Nine freed prisoners with life sentences arrived in Ramallah.

Three freed prisoners with life sentences were transferred to Jerusalem.

Sat, Feb 15, 3:44 PM (Palestine Time)

Buses Carrying Freed Palestinian Prisoners Arrive in Ramallah

AL-JAZEERA: Buses carrying freed Palestinian prisoners have arrived in Ramallah.

Sat, Feb 15, 3:44 PM (Palestine Time)

Lebanon Opposes Extension of Israeli Occupation in the South

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Senior officials in the Trump administration stated that they are working to implement the ceasefire agreement in Lebanon.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Preparations at Ofer Prison for Release of Palestinian Prisoners

AL-JAZEERA: Preparations have begun at Ofer Prison for the release of Palestinian prisoners as part of the exchange deal.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Hamas: We Say to the World, No Migration Except to Jerusalem

HAMAS:

The presence of images of Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa, and the crowds during the handover of enemy prisoners is a renewed message to the occupation and its supporters that these are red lines.

The release of the sixth batch of enemy prisoners confirms that their release is only possible through negotiations and adherence to the agreement's obligations.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Media: Red Cross Receives the Three Captives

ISRAELI MEDIA: Israeli media confirmed that the Red Cross has received the three hostages, and they are on their way to the Israeli army.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Released Captive Sasha Turbonov: We Must Not Forget the Remaining Detainees

ALEXANDER 'SASHA' TURBONOV, RELEASED ISRAELI CAPTIVE: We must not forget the remaining detainees.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Released Captives Yair Horn: All Detainees Must Be Brought Home; They Have No More Time

YAIR HORN, RELEASED ISRAELI CAPTIVE: All detainees must be brought home; they have no more time.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Handover of Three Israeli Detainees Begins

AL-JAZEERA: The process of handing over the three Israeli detainees to the Red Cross in Khan Younis has begun.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Red Cross Teams Arrive in Khan Younis to Receive Detainees

AL-JAZEERA: Red Cross teams have arrived in Khan Younis to receive the three Israeli hostages.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Hamas Fighters Carry Weapons Taken from Soldiers on October 7

CHANNEL 13: Hamas fighters carrying weapons taken from Israeli soldiers on October 7, 2023, during the handover process of the hostages.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

We Await Occupation's Implementation of Humanitarian Protocol - Hamas

HAMAS:

The resumption of the exchange process today is in line with our commitment to mediators and the guarantees we received to ensure the occupation's compliance with the agreement.

We await the occupation's implementation of the humanitarian protocol based on mediators' promises and guarantees.

The occupation has no alternatives to release its remaining hostages other than fully implementing the ceasefire agreement.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Al-Qassam Source: Handover of Hostages to Be Done in Vehicle Seized on Oct. 7

AL-QASSAM BRIGADES:

The handover of the three Israeli hostages will be conducted using a vehicle captured on October 7, 2023.

Al-Qassam presented hostage Sagi Dekel with a gold piece as a gift for his daughter, who was born four months after his capture.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Army: Ready to Receive Captives at Re'im near Gaza Border

ISRAELI ARMY: The Israeli army is ready to receive the detainees at a single point near Re'im, close to the Gaza border, in about an hour.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

55% of Israelis Support Releasing All Hostages at Any Cost

KAN:

55% of Israelis support releasing all hostages at any cost.

36% of Israelis believe that returning to war will lead to the elimination of Hamas.

Sat, Feb 15, 11:10 AM (Palestine Time)

Israeli Forces Raid Yamoun West of Jenin

PALESTINIAN MEDIA: Local Palestinian platforms shared footage documenting the Israeli occupation forces' raid on Yamoun, west of Jenin, early this Saturday